

Ward's

Where Gardeners Grow

Bulb Cage Instructions

Things You'll Need: Gloves to protect your hands
 Wire mesh
 Wire snips
 Wire
 Pliers

1. Cut 1/2 inch wire mesh into six pieces using wire snips: Cut two 12-inch square pieces and four 12-by-6 inch pieces.
2. Abut a 12-by-6 inch piece of mesh against each side of one of the 12-inch square mesh pieces. Set the other 12-inch square piece aside for now.
3. Cut 20 3-inch lengths from heavy wire. Attach each of the 12-by-6 inch pieces to the square piece with two pieces of wire. Twist the wire tightly so they are well-secured.
4. Pull the 12-by-6 inch pieces up so they are perpendicular to the square, making the square the bottom of the cage and the 12-by-6 inch pieces the sides. Twist two pieces of wire at each corner to secure the sides to one another.
5. Place the extra square pieces of mesh on top of the cage to make the lid. Twist two pieces of wire on one long side to secure it to the cage and to act like hinges to open it.
6. Dig a planting hole in the garden bed that is large enough to sink the cage inside and at the proper depth for the type of bulbs you are planting. Set the cage inside the hole and open the lid.
7. Set the bulbs inside the cage root side down using the proper spacing: 3 inches for small bulbs and 6 inches apart for larger bulbs. Fill in the cage around the bulbs with soil until the soil is 1/4 inch from the top of the cage.
8. Close the lid and use two pieces of wire to wire it shut. Finish filling in the planting hole with soil. Roots and leaves will grow through the mesh but pests will not be able to dig up the bulbs.

Tips & Warnings

Make smaller cages if you are planting small bulbs and corms such as hyacinths. Daffodils are a bulb flower that are naturally distasteful to most animals and do not require caging.

References: Michigan State University Extension-<http://www.msue.msu.edu/portal/>
Online at: (http://www.ehow.com/how_5637695_make-flower-bulb-cages.html), by Jenny Harrington, eHow Contributor; updated: November 12, 2009