



Bulb Varieties & Planting Tips

Ward's offers many Spring-flowering bulbs for Fall planting. Bulbs bring early color before trees leaf out and the bulbs benefit from the dry soil as the tree starts drawing water in earnest through the growing season. Read on to see the options available. Those that are pest-resistant are marked 'PR'.

Bulbs Good for Naturalizing

- **Daffodils (PR)** or Narcissus. Virtually ignored by deer, voles and other rodents; Narcissus come in a variety of shapes, colors and sizes that will bloom in stages for months. When you plant a deciduous specimen tree or shrub, include a ring of daffodils or any of the following bulb varieties for a pretty early show.
- **Galanthus or Snowdrops (PR), Crocus, and Scilla (PR).** All these small bulbs show up in very early to early spring. Plant these in groups right under your grass. Cut away an area of sod and peel it back. Arrange the bulbs in the proper spacing and replace the sod. Water well. These bulbs will bloom and be dying back before your grass needs mowing in the spring.
- **Camassia** or Wild Hyacinth. A native bulb to North America, the multi-flower stems emerge in early summer and range in color from pale lilac to deep blue. Will naturalize and spread.
- **Leucojum (PR).** Known as Spring and/or Summer snowflake, the nodding white bell type flowers emerge in March (for *L. vernal*) and April (for *L. aestivum*). Height ranges from 1 to 1.5 feet.
- **Puschkinia** or Striped Squill produces 3-6 star-shaped blooms of pale blue per stem in early spring, reaching about 4-6 inches tall.
- **Muscari (PR)** or Grape hyacinths look like inverted grape bunches in deep royal blue with white edges. They naturalize easily. If blooms fail to appear, it's time to dig up and divide clumps. Grow 6 – 8 inches tall.
- **Colchicum** – Known as Fall-blooming Crocus because the pink and white, crocus-like blooms emerge now. In contrast to other bulbs, the foliage doesn't appear until spring then dies back as blooms emerge.
- **Chionodoxa (PR)** flower in multiple blooms from one bulb and emerge in March and April. Plant these in outdoor planters or around rock outcroppings and along the edges of perennial beds for a bright early show of blues, purples and pinks.

Bulbs or Tubers Available to Add or Divide in Fall

To keep the following bulbs blooming, be sure to fertilize in spring. Even then, some of these may stop blooming after a few years and need to be replaced or divided.

- **Tulips and Hyacinths (PR)** have an elegance that's hard to resist. Fertilize their locations through the growing season to keep them performing for you. Also to keep pests at bay, use repellants on Tulips at planting time or encase them in a mesh box or mesh onion bag that will frustrate those small and large rodents. Ward's has instructions for making your own mesh Bulb Cage. (see more below)
- **Garlic (PR) and Fritillaria (PR)** will also serve as pungent repellent bulbs. Plant these small and large bulbs around bulbs or plants that are regularly plagued by underground rodents. (And you'll have the garlic to harvest in August!)
- **Allium (PR) and Iris** are also available now. Allium's small to massive globes of blooms add a dramatic and unusual shape to your June garden. If creating a layered display, the allium can be planted first and deepest. When planting Iris tubers, give them some room and plant just below the soil surface.

Tips for Planting

- To plant a layered bulb garden, plant larger bulbs the deepest. Smaller bulbs usually bloom first; larger bulbs bloom the latest. Miniature Narcissus prove to be the exception; they bloom later than full size daffodils.
- For more specific bloom time information, see [Bulb Bloom Times](#), page 3.
- Daylilies can finish the planting and their long leaves will mask the die-back of the early bulbs.
- If the bulbs you wish to grow are delectable to garden pests-- like anemone, hyacinth or tulips, try planting them in clusters within a bulb cage. [Instructions to Make a Bulb Cage](#) on page 4.

Bulbs Now Available at Ward's and their Bloom Times

Bulb	Very Early Spring	Early Spring	Mid Spring	Late Spring	Early Summer	Mid Summer	Late Summer	Fall
Crocus								
Snowdrops								
Chionodoxa								
Iris Reticulata								
Scilla Siberica								
Daffodils, Early								
Double, Large-cupped								
Small-cupped, Split-corona,								
Trumpet								
Tulips , Early								
Double Early, Fosteriana,								
Greigii, Kaufmanniana,								
Single Early								
Daffodils, Midseason								
Hyacinths								
Tulips, Midseason								
Darwin,								
Triumph, Viridiflora								
Muscari								
Fritillaria								
Daffodils, Late								
Dutch Iris								
Leucojum								
Tulips, Mid-Late Spring								
Double Late,								
Fringed, Lily-flower, Parrot								
Alliums								
Iris								
Bearded, Siberian								
Camassia								
Autumn Crocus								
Colchicum								
<p>Very Early Spring= Feb-March Early Spring = March-April Mid Spring= April-May Late Spring= May-June</p>								

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