

Planting Fall Bulbs

With so many other fall tasks to complete (raking, mulching, watering) some gardeners may overlook planting fall bulbs in order to keep their checklist to a minimum. But achieving amazing spring colour couldn't be any easier than simply **Dig. Drop. Done!** Check out our bulb planting tips below for great tips.

- Bulbs should be planted as weather cools in fall, and provided with enough time to root. For best success plant bulbs any time from September to mid October.
- All bulbs prefer a sunny location. It is okay to plant beneath deciduous trees, as they will not yet be leafed out in spring and there should be enough sunlight (6 hours direct) for the bulbs to grow.



- Soil should be tilled well before planting. Heavy clay soil should be amended with bulk compost, peat moss or a bagged compost such as sea soil.
- Bulbs may be planted alone, though groupings (i.e. 5 or 7) will create an attractive and natural effect. Dig a large hole to the required depth; bulbs should be planted twice as deep as the height of the bulb (ie. if the tulip bulb is 2" tall, plant it 4" deep).



- Place a handful of Bone Meal into the planting hole, then place bulbs as a group into the hole. Bulbs should not be touching each other. Fill hole with soil, gently tamp and water well.

Bulbs require very little work in spring, but need some extra attention after they have bloomed:

- Allow the foliage to die back completely. When the leaves are completely brown and wilted, tug on the stems gently until they come loose. To

hide withering foliage, plant bulbs amongst groundcover perennials such as catmint, lady's mantle, hostas etc. The perennial foliage will fill in and hide bulb foliage as it is withering.



Lady's Mantle hides tulip foliage after flowering.

For great images of fall bulbs and creative planting ideas visit www.digdropdone.com



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