Planting Spring Bulbs

Spring bulbs bring loads of colour to your pots and flowerbeds in spring and summer, and can be stored and re-planted from year to year, making them a very economical choice. Many will benefit from being started early indoors (see information that follows), however all spring bulbs can also be planted directly into the garden once the weather permits.

If planting directly into the garden, dig your planting hole, add a handful of Roots n' Blooms granular fertilizer, and place bulbs into hole. Each bulb package will list planting depth, and the number of bulbs to plant per hole. If your soil is heavy, be sure to amend prior to planting with Soil Booster or Sea Soil for added moisture retention and nutrients.

Begonia

Starting your own begonias is a great way to ensure a bounty of blooms for the shady spots in your yard. Begonia tubers that you start indoors are already a 2 year old plant, resulting in much more robust plants.

• Start your begonias indoors 10-12 weeks prior to planting out - this ensures plants are large enough to plant out once frost has passed.
• Fill 4" pots with an all purpose potting mix and water well.
your tubers into the soil; the end of the tuber with a slight indent or hollow faces up. Cover lightly with soil.
• Water in carefully, and place in a warm, brightly lit spot. Once tubers have sprouted, keep soil evenly moist – take special care not to dampen foliage. Pinch off any blooms that may appear so that more energy is used for leaf growth.

Canna

A perfect bulb for starting indoors. Starting them early means by the time they are planted out, you'll have several stalks of decorative foliage. Plant Canna in 6" pots with 2" of all purpose potting mix covering the bulb. Water in well and place in a warm sunny spot. Cannas are easy to care for during the summer, and in fall can either be dug up and stored, or simply brought indoors as an easy to grow houseplant.

Dahlia

Dahlia can take some time to establish and set their flower buds, so by starting your dahlias early, you'll ensure you can enjoy the blooms in mid-late summer, at the height of the garden season. Plant the roots in 6 – 8" pots with an all purpose potting mix. Plant them so that the pointed side is up (where all the roots meet) and water in well. Even watering and constant fertilizing will ensure large bright blooms over the whole season.

Greenland Garden Centre

780-467-7557

greenlandgarden.com

gardening@greenlandgarden.com

Elephant Ears

These large bulbs (the size of a coconut) feature huge leaves that add tropical flair to the container garden. Plants can reach heights of 4 to 6 feet, but will require storage every year in order to reach their mature size.

Bulbs must be planted early indoors – use a large pot (minimum 6”) and a well drained all purpose potting mix. Plant 3 – 4” deep and water in. It is best to keep the soil on the dry side until new growth is seen. To promote faster rooting and leaf growth, place pots on a seeding heat mat. Once a few leaves emerge remove from heat mat and keep the soil on the moist side. Elephant Ears thrive in warm temperatures however they cannot withstand intense sunlight, so they will do well in an east or west exposure.

Gladiolus

One of the easiest spring bulbs to grow. They can be either started indoors a few weeks (no longer than 4 weeks) before setting out in the garden or planted directly out into the garden when the soil is dry enough to work. If starting indoors, they can be planted individually in 4” pots or 3 bulbs per 6” pot, with 1” of all purpose potting mix covering them.

Lily

Asiatic, Oriental and Tiger lilies are hardy choices for your perennial border, and unlike most spring bulbs will not require lifting in the fall. You can start lilies early indoors (no longer than 6 weeks early), or plant directly into your garden once weather permits. Plant approximately 4-6” deep in pots indoors, or the same depth in the garden (add bone meal into the planting hole).

Storing Bulbs

When autumn arrives, bulbs can be lifted from the ground or their pots, and stored indoors.

If storing bulbs, allow a frost to kill the foliage, remove from the ground or their pots and allow bulbs to dry for 3-4 days. Pull away dried up foliage, and lightly brush away all the dirt from bulbs. Place bulbs in slightly dampened peat moss in a cardboard box (or brown paper bags) and store in a dark cool place (a basement closet or slightly heated garage). The optimum storage temperature is between 5-10 degrees Celsius.

Bulbs can be started early indoors the following March/April.

Greenland Garden Centre

780-467-7557

greenlandgarden.com

gardening@greenlandgarden.com