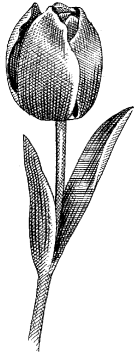


Bulbs can be planted in beds to create a mass of spring color, or in small groups to create a splash of color throughout your garden. They are also great for use in container gardening! Although bulbs are usually finished flowering when deciduous trees start to develop their foliage, they prefer sunlight, so avoid areas that have afternoon shade. Some bulbs, like Star of Bethlehem, can be grown in a woodland setting. Avoid planting bulbs under evergreens, as the light cannot get through to sustain the plants. Bulbs go dormant in late spring or early summer, so include companion plantings of annual and perennial plants in your design. They provide other flowers throughout the summer, and hide the dying foliage of the bulbs.



To create a new flowerbed for bulbs, begin by sketching out a layout and a list of the bulbs you want to plant. Define the shape of the bed with an old garden hose and spray brightly colored marking paint along the outline. (If you are planting an area that is currently lawn, spray one week before planting with Round Up® to kill the existing grass.)

Using a spade, dig along the paint line to create the edge of the bed. When the edge is finished, rototill the area to be planted to a depth of approximately 8". Cover the tilled area with 2-3" of **Merrifield Planting**

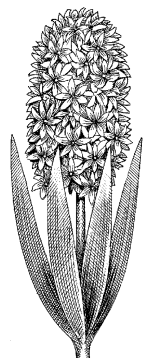
Mix. For every 100 square feet, add 1 lb. of **Merrifield Flowering Plant Food**. Thoroughly rototill a second time to mix the amendments.

Plant bulbs as soon as they are purchased. A period of cold temperatures is necessary to establish the root system prior to blooming. Plant them in clusters of 10 or more for the most impact. Do not place them directly under perennials, as the roots will inhibit the bulbs growth. Annuals can be planted in the late spring, right on top of deeply planted existing bulbs. Do not hide smaller bulbs with large plants.

Using a bulb planter or a trowel, dig a hole for the bulb at least twice the height of the bulb. For example, a 3" daffodil would be planted 6" deep. A ½" crocus would be planted 1" deep. Thoroughly water after planting.

Mulch the bed with about 2" of shredded hardwood mulch, but only lightly around the perennials. This will help to hold moisture in the soil and prevent premature thawing. As the bulbs emerge in the spring, apply Merrifield Flowering Plant Food and water thoroughly.

Bulbs with large flowers, like Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinths, etc., can be deadheaded after the flower finishes. Do not cut foliage until it yellows, and the bulb is going dormant. The bulb requires the energy generated by the foliage for next year's blooms. The perennials will mature and hide the dying foliage.



MERRIFIELD

8132 Lee Highway
Merrifield, VA 22116
703-560-6222

FAIR OAKS

12101 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22030
703-968-9600

GAINESVILLE

6895 Wellington Road
Gainesville, VA 20156
703-368-1919