

**Thank you** for buying bulbs from the Stokes Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association. The money we raised will be spent in support of our educational mission and the horticultural programs of the County Extension Service.



Here are some tips for planting your bulbs:

**What you have received** - We have packed quality bulbs, big enough to produce flowers in the spring. A small nick or loose skin will not affect the development of the bulb.

**When to plant bulbs** - Ideally, plant your bulbs soon after you receive them in October or early November, before the last hard frost. Keep them cool (50-60°F) before planting, but do not store near ripening fruit.

**Where to plant bulbs** - Select a sunny, well-drained site. If the chosen site is not well-drained correct this before planting. Bulbs will be vigorous if they have plenty of sunlight, but not an overly dry condition during the hot summer months.

#### **How to plant bulbs**

- ✓ IF voles or squirrels are a problem consider planting your bulbs in a “cage” fashioned with chicken wire. Try interplanting susceptible bulbs like tulips among rodent proof daffodils. You may also use special volcanic gravel called PermaTill or VoleBloc as rodent protection around and below bulbs. You can find these products at LTD Farm & Garden (King), Main Street Lawn & Garden (Rural Hall), and Beautiful Earth (Francisco).
- ✓ Good drainage is essential. Turn the soil over to a depth of about 8-10 inches. Add enough compost to make it loose and crumbly. If the soil is mostly clay or sand, mix in some organic material like peat moss, compost and/or PermaTill up to 50% in volume.
- ✓ Plant bulbs to their recommended depth. For daffodils, hyacinths and tulips plant 6-8 inches deep, for crocuses, snowdrops and other small bulbs, plant 3-4 inches deep. In general, plant bulbs at a depth of 3 times the width of the bulb.
- ✓ Always plant bulbs with the pointy ends up.
- ✓ Cover bulbs with soil by surrounding the bulb with PermaTill, if needed. Cover with 1/2 of the soil removed and water thoroughly. Finish covering bulbs with the remaining soil.
- ✓ Fertilize using a slow release fertilizer in a single application in the fall. Use 1 tablespoon of Bulb Booster or Espoma Bulb-Tone® per square foot. You may repeat this process when the new foliage emerges from the ground.
- ✓ Apply 2-4 inches of mulch to keep weeds down and retain moisture.

**In the spring** - Enjoy your flowering bulbs. When they have finished blooming cut off the spent flower head. Leave the foliage, as it will help provide nutrients to what will become next season's bulbs.

**If you are interested in forcing bulbs for holiday display** - These two NCSU references will help.

Home Forcing Of Daffodils at <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/home-forcing-of-daffodils-narcissus> and  
Home Forcing Of Hyacinths at <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/home-forcing-of-hyacinths>

The sources for these flower bulb-growing tips are the NCSU Horticulture Information Leaflet 611, Hints For Fall-Planted Spring & Early Summer Flowering Bulbs and The Old Farmer's Almanac.

We have gardening information, links and events at [www.facebook.com/StokesEMGV](https://www.facebook.com/StokesEMGV) and [StokesMGV.org](https://www.StokesMGV.org). [StokesMGV.org/BulbSale](https://www.StokesMGV.org/BulbSale) has information on the Bulb Sale plus the informational handouts. There is a calendar of many local gardening seminars and events under Facebook's "Links + Calendar" and our website's Calendar page. You can contact us at [semgva.nc@gmail.com](mailto:semgva.nc@gmail.com). Happy gardening!