



## *Bucks Country Gardens*

### **The Planting And Cultural Guide To Summer-blooming Bulbs**

This group of bulbs includes those, which bloom during the summer and fall. Most summer-blooming bulbs are planted in the spring and dug up in the fall because they are not hardy over winter. Some may be slow to sprout or damaged if planted too early outdoors and these benefit from early planting indoors in warmth followed by a planting outside at a later date (around mid-May or later.)

#### **YOUR SOIL SHOULD BE CONDITIONED TO IMPROVE TEXTURE AND NUTRIENT-CONTENT PRIOR TO PLANTING!**

Heavy soils lack the proper drainage, which may rot most bulbs or slow root development. Sandy soils may drain too quickly and they lack sufficient nutrients that your bulbs will need for growth. Soil for bulbs should be crumbly and loose, consisting of topsoil and humus, and possibly some sand (in the heavier soils.) Nutrients may be applied in the form of well-aged manure (being careful not to contact the bulb,) bone meal, or a high-phosphorous fertilizer (such as Bulb-Tone.) Mix thoroughly through the soil.

Here are some of the most popular summer-blooming bulbs and their cultural requirements. \*(Please note: Lilies are the only winter-hardy members on this list. The other varieties are dug in the fall and stored – see our information sheet “Storing Summer Bulbs”.)

#### **ACIDANTHERA**

PLANT: After danger of frost  
LOCATION: Full sun, protected from wind  
DEPTH: Cover with 3-4 inches of soil  
SOIL CONDITIONING: Loosen soil with peat moss and/or well-rotted manure. Fertilize with 5-10-5 when growth first emerges from the soil then again, 3 to 4 weeks later.

#### **ANEMONE**

PLANT: Outdoors in spring after soaking tubers in water for one to two days.  
LOCATION: Full sun, light shade  
DEPTH: Cover with 2-3 inches of soil  
SOIL CONDITIONING: Loosen soil with peat moss and/or well-rotted manure.  
Feed with slow-acting, high phosphorous fertilizer.

#### **BEGONIAS**

PLANT: Indoors (in April) in shallow trays or pots of peat moss; do not cover the top of the tuber. When growth starts, plant in individual pots of soil, covering the tuber. Plant outdoors when the night temperature is at least 50 degrees F.  
LOCATION: Light Shade  
SOIL CONDITIONING: Loosen soil with peat moss and/or well-rotted manure. Fertilize with 5-10-5 every 3 or 4 weeks.

#### **CALADIUM**

PLANT: Indoors (April or May) in pots or trays, covering tubers completely. Re-pot separately once growth has begun. Very warm temperatures are needed for growth.  
LOCATION: Tolerates sun or shade, though soil should be moist.  
SOIL CONDITIONING: Loosen soil with peat moss and/or well-rotted manure. Feed 1-2 times per month with 5-10-5 fertilizer.

**CANNA**

PLANT: Outdoors after soil has warmed (May) or indoors (April or May.)  
DEPTH: Cover with 1-2 inches of soil  
LOCATION: Full Sun moist soil  
SOIL CONDITIONING: Loosen soil with peat moss and/or well-rotted manure. Fertilize 1-2 times per month with 5-10-5.

**DAHLIA**

PLANT: Outdoors after frost DEPTH (tall varieties) Hole should be 6-8 inches deep, covering first with 2 inches of soil, allowing the stem to emerge before adding 2 more inches. Repeat until the hole is filled.  
BORDER VARIETIES: Cover with 2-4 inches of soil  
LOCATION: Full Sun  
SOIL CONDITIONING: Incorporate 0-20-20, peat moss and/or well-rotted manure into the soil prior to planting. Use 5-10-10 fertilizer once a month when established.

**FREESIA**

PLANT: In containers  
DEPTH: Barely cover the tips of the corms  
LOCATION: At least 4 hours of sunlight daily, night temperature 55-60 degrees F, day temperature 68-72 degrees F.  
SOIL CONDITIONING: Use peaty soil mix with sand or perlite, and add lime. Feed with a weak solution of high phosphorous fertilizer every 2 weeks.

**GLADIOLUS**

PLANT: After last day of frost. If continuous blooms are desired plant every 2 weeks – up to 60 days from the frost date  
DEPTH: Cover with 4-6 inches of soil  
LOCATION: Full Sun  
SOIL CONDITIONING: Heavy soils should be loosened with sand to improve drainage. AVOID MANURES. Fertilize with 5-10-5 once before blooming and once immediately after.

**IXIA**

PLANT: In Containers  
DEPTH: Barely covered  
LOCATION: At least 4 hours of sunlight daily. Night temperatures 50-55degrees F. Allow the soil to dry in the summer during their dormancy.  
SOIL CONDITIONING: Loosen heavy soils with sand. Feed with high phosphorous fertilizers (in liquid form) about every 2 weeks while leaves are green.

**LILIES**

PLANT: Spring or fall – they're HARDY!!  
DEPTH: Cover with 4-6 inches of soil  
LOCATION: Full sun, though shade during mid-day will prolong flowers  
SOIL CONDITIONING: Needs a well –drained soil. Loosen heavy soils with sand and humus (l (i.e. peat moss.) Fertilize with a slow-acting, high phosphorous-type fertilizer, once in the spring and once after bloom

**ORNITHOGALUM THYRSOIDES**

PLANT: Outdoors (marginally hardy) or indoors in containers  
DEPTH: Outdoors- Cover with 2-3 inches of soil  
Indoors: - Barely cover  
LOCATION: Sun or light shade  
SOIL CONDITIONING: Loosen clay soils with sand to improve drainage

**OXALIX**

PLANT: Outdoors in spring  
DEPTH: Cover with 2 inches of soil  
LOCATION: Full sun  
SOIL CONDITIONING: Apply a light dusting of a 5-10-5 fertilizer when active growth is first seen.

**RANUNCULUS**

PLANT: Outdoors after frost after soaking in water for several hours  
DEPTH: Cover with 1-1 1/2" inch soil  
LOCATION: Full sun  
SOIL CONDITIONING: Avoid excessive watering. Loosen heavy soils with sand. Dust with a 5-10-5 fertilizer when growth is established.

**SPARAXIS**

PLANT: Outdoors after frost (or earlier indoors, to then be planted outside.)  
DEPTH: Cover with 2- inches of soil  
LOCATION: Full sun  
SOIL CONDITIONING: Loosen heavy soils with sand. Apply a 5-10-5 fertilizer when growth appears.  
If kept in containers use a high-phosphorous fertilizer every 2 weeks – as long as leaves are green

**TIGRIDIA**

PLANT: Indoors early to plant outside after frost  
DEPTH: Cover with 2-3 inches of soil  
LOCATION: Sun with mid-day shade  
SOIL CONDITIONING: Loosen heavy soils with sand for improved drainage. Apply a 5-10-5 fertilizer every 2-3 weeks while in active growth.

**TUBEROSE**

PLANT: Early indoors to plant outside after frost.  
DEPTH: Cover with 2-3 inches of soil  
LOCATION: Full sun  
SOIL CONDITIONING: Loosen heavy soils with sand to improve drainage. Apply a 5-10-5 fertilizer once a month while in active growth.

**ZEPHYRANTHES: ROBUSTA**

PLANT: In spring  
DEPTH: Cover with 1-2 inches of soil  
LOCATION: Sun  
SOIL CONDITIONING: Loosen heavy soils with sand. Apply a 5-10-5 fertilizer monthly while in active