

Eremurus: Eremurus, also known as Foxtail Lilies, should be planted in well-drained soil in an area that receives full sun. Select the planting area carefully as Eremurus do not like to be disturbed. Remove the soil to a depth of 2' and form a cone approximately 18" high in the center of the soil. Place the crown of the tuberous roots at the top of the cone and spread the roots along the side of the cone. Fill the hole with the remaining soil and water well. Keep the area watered well during the growing season. Mark the area so that it is not disturbed after the foliage has died off in the summer.

Eucomis (Pineapple Lily): Eucomis can be planted in early spring in warm areas and after all danger of frost has passed in cooler or cold areas. Select an area in full sun to partial shade where the soil is well-drained, humus-rich, and sandy. Loosen the soil and place the bulbs so that the necks of the bulbs are just visible at the top of the soil. Water in when planted, then begin watering and feeding regularly when growth appears. Eucomis loves high humidity, and blooming can be induced by alternating periods of dryness and wetness. In cold climates, carefully lift the bulbs from the ground and place in pots indoors during the winter.

Gladiolus: Select an area in the garden, a bed, or border that receives full sun and where the soil is sandy, well-drained, and rich in organic matter. Gladiolus planted in straight rows tend to look like soldiers, which is perfect for a cutting garden. However, for a more natural look they should be planted in holes that are round or oval shaped. Dig a hole 8" deep and a bulb-boosting fertilizer following the directions on the package. Compost may be added to enrich the soil if needed. Cover the fertilizer/compost with 2" of soil and place the bulbs with the pointy end facing up 6" apart. Gladiolus look best when 10-12 bulbs are planted in the same area. Cover the bulbs with the remaining soil and water well. Cover the area with 2" of mulch to keep the bulbs cool. Gladiolus bloom 70-100 days after planting. To enjoy flowering throughout the season, plant bulbs 2 weeks apart.

Gloriosa superba 'Rothschildiana' (Climbing Lily): Climbing Lilies grow best in an area that is slightly shady or partially sunny and near a fence or trellis about 6' tall that the plants can climb. Dig a hole 6" deep and amend the soil with peat moss, sand, and leaf mulch as needed. Place 2" of amended soil back into the hole, place the tubers horizontally onto the soil 12" apart and cover with the remaining soil. Water the area thoroughly and keep it watered well until shoots begin to appear. Then keep the soil moist but not soggy. At the end of the season, carefully dig up the tubers, clean them carefully, and dust with sulfur to prevent disease. Store in dry peat moss and replant in spring when pink buds have formed on the tubers.

Hollyhock: Hollyhocks grow best in a location that is sheltered from the wind and that receives full sun. Soil should be well-drained and either slightly alkaline or neutral. Loosen the soil to a depth of about 10" and wider than the roots that are to be planted. Set the roots into the soil about 16" apart with the bud or crown level with the soil in groups of 3 or more for the best appearance. Fill in the soil, tamp down, water thoroughly, and add a layer of mulch. Do not permit the soil to dry out, but the roots should not sit in soggy soil either. Hollyhocks can grow to heights above 4', so staking the plants may be required.

Hosta: Select a location in the garden that receives dappled to full shade and where the soil is slightly acidic and drains well. Loosen the soil and place the roots into the soil 18"-36" apart with the roots facing down and the "eyes" or growing point upward just slightly below the soil level. Tamp the soil down and water thoroughly. After the flowers bloom, leave the foliage in place until it turns yellow and dies off. Hostas rarely need dividing and are very long-lived perennials.

Liatris: Select a location in the garden that receives full sun to partial shade. Soil should be fertile and moist but not soggy. Loosen the soil to a depth of 6"-8" and place the bulbs in the soil in groups with the bulbs 4"-6" apart and 15"-18" away from other plants. Tops of the bulbs should be slightly below the soil level. Tamp down the soil, water thoroughly, and cover with a light layer of mulch. Once the bulbs begin to grow, water 2-3 times per week as needed. Divide in spring as required.

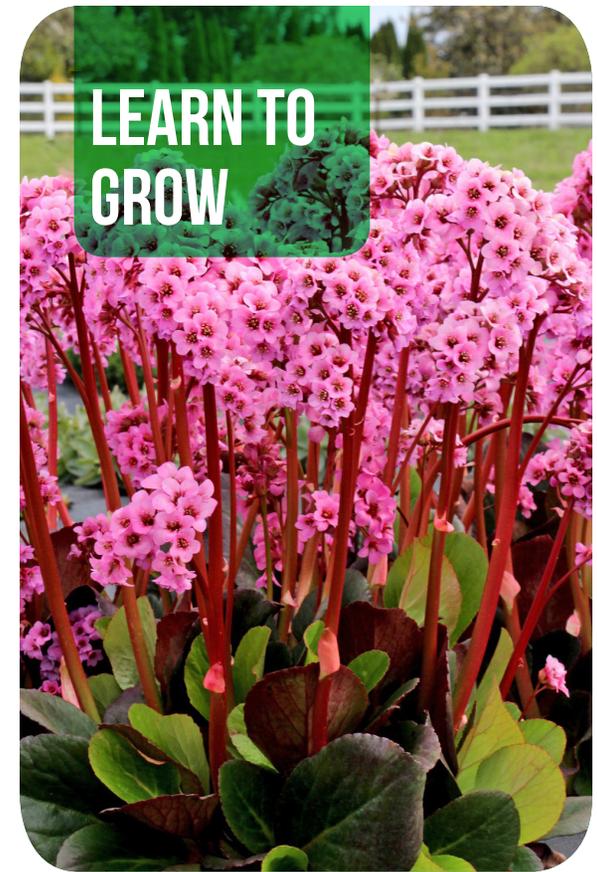
Lilies: Plant lily bulbs as soon as possible after they are received. If this is not possible, store them in a refrigerator and keep them moist. Lilies prefer full sun and well-drained soil. Dig a hole 6-8" deep and place the bulbs about 6" apart. Lilies look best when planted in clusters of 3-6 bulbs. Water in well when planting, then water when the soil becomes dry at the top. Remove spent flowers but do not remove the stalks or the leaves as they provide the necessary food for the bulbs to bloom the following year. Foliage and stems may be removed after they have turned yellow.

Peony: Select an area in the garden that receives full sun where the soil drains well. Loosen the soil to a depth of 12"-18" and amend with compost if necessary. Place the fleshy roots into the soil so that the "eyes" or growing points are no more than 1"-2" below the soil level. Plants should be spaced 24"-36" apart. Tamp down the soil and water well. As the plant begins to grow, place a hoop-type stake into the ground to support the plant and its heavy blooms. Water deeply during periods of drought.

Phlox paniculata: Phlox prefer moist, well-drained soil in a sunny to partially shaded area of the garden. Dig a hole 12"-15" deep and amend the soil with compost if needed. Place the roots 12"-18" apart into the soil with the crowns 1"-2" below the soil level. Fill in the soil, tamp down, and water in thoroughly. Water deeply during dry spells being careful to keep water away from the foliage. Deadhead plants to encourage vigorous growth. Plants should be divided every 2-3 years in early fall.

Rudbeckia: Select a sunny to partially shady spot in the garden where the soil drains well. Loosen the soil to a depth of 12"-15" and mix in 2"-3" of compost. Set the roots 12"-18" apart with the crown about 1" below the soil level. Water in lightly and apply a light layer of mulch. Do not water again until sprouts appear. Water only when the plants begin to wilt, making certain the soil is never really wet. Deadhead to ensure vigorous growth and blooming.

Sedum: Sedum should be planted within a day or two of their arrival. Select an area in the garden that receives full sun to dappled shade where the soil is well-drained. Loosen the soil to a depth of 12"-15" and place the roots 18"-24" apart with the crowns approximately 1" below the surface of the soil. Tamp down the soil, water lightly to settle the soil, and apply a light layer of mulch. Do not water again until active growth takes place. Water only when the soil becomes dry, perhaps once per week if needed.



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HINTS & TIPS



When should Spring Bulbs be planted? If you receive your bulbs at the proper time for planting in your Zone, it is best to plant the bulbs as soon as possible. If this cannot be done, remove the bulbs from the packages and place them on a tray with sawdust or damp peat moss. Keep them in a cool, dark, dry place that is ventilated well until they can be planted. Do not permit the bulbs to freeze.

What about Perennial Roots? Dormant roots usually have no leaves but may have some green tips beginning to show, are shipped in bags with peat moss, and should be planted as soon as possible. If that cannot be done, open the packages in which they came and if the roots appear dry, soak them in warm water for a few hours. Then store the roots in moist peat moss in a very cold but not freezing place. If they cannot be planted in less than 2 weeks, plant them in pots of soil until they can be planted in the ground.

Where should I plant Spring varieties? Select an area with good drainage since most plants do not do well in soil that is constantly wet. If water drains from a 1 foot deep by 1 foot wide hole in 10-30 minutes, you've found a good area. A hole that drains in less than 10 minutes is too dry; one that takes more than an hour to drain is too wet. All poorly drained or too wet soil can be amended with organic matter and by raising the planting bed by a few inches. Most bulbs that are planted in the Spring require full sun or at least 5-6 hours of sunlight daily. Check the package instructions for more detailed planting requirements.

How should bulbs be planted? Bulbs should be planted pointy end up and look best when they are grouped in clusters of an odd number of bulbs. Always loosen the soil at the bottom of the hole where the bulbs are being planted, place the bulbs close together but not touching, cover the bulbs with soil, and water in well. Add some 5-10-5 fertilizer several times during the growing season. In dry conditions, water bulbs deeply so that moisture reaches the roots, especially during times of rapid growth. Place mulch in the planting areas to conserve moisture.

Important! Just as adequate moisture and fertilizer are important during the growing season, it is also important that you always permit the foliage to mature and die off naturally. The leaves provide the food the bulbs need to produce flowers during the next flowering season. Foliage can be cut off at its base once it wither

GROWING INSTRUCTIONS



Agastacha: Select a sunny spot in the garden that drains well. Loosen soil to a depth of approximately 6" and place the plants into the soil 18-24" apart. Cover leaving only the crown above the top of the soil. Water in to saturate the roots. Water to saturate the roots when the soil is slightly dry. Fertilize yearly in spring with a 10-10-10 fertilizer following the directions on the package. Water thoroughly after fertilizing to prevent root burn. Deadhead flowers to promote continued blooming. In 3-4 years, plants can be divided in either spring or fall. Hardy in Zones 4-10.

Astilbe: Astilbe prefer partial shade and require soil that is moist but drains well. Dig a hole and loosen soil, adding organic matter to enrich the soil. Place the bulbs in the hole at least 1" apart and cover the crown and any emerging shoots with at least ½" of soil. Water in thoroughly. Fertilize annually in the spring. Dig and divide plants every 3-4 years in early spring or fall. Hardy in Zones 4-8.

Begonias: Begonias are best when they are started indoors in pots. About 6 weeks before the last frost is expected in your area, plant the tubers round side down about 1" below the surface of potting soil. Water well when planting, then keep the soil moist but not wet. Place the pot in a warm, semi-shady area. When all danger of frost has passed, it's time to place the Begonias outdoors. Select a shady to partially shady spot where there is rich soil that drains well. The spot should also be sheltered from the wind. Dig a hole deep enough to accommodate the soil in which the Begonia is growing and remove the plant from the pot being careful not to disturb the roots. Place the plants approximately 12" apart. Keep the area moist and fertilize your Begonias about once a month. In windy areas, it may be necessary to stake the plants. Begonias are hardy in Zone 10. In all other areas they should be dug up and stored for the winter.

Caladium: Select a location where there is filtered sunlight to one which is in full shade. Soil should drain well. Loosen the soil and plant the tubers bumpy side (top) up about 2" deep and 6-8" apart depending on the size of the tubers. You may wish to add some bone meal or 6-6-6 fertilizer to the soil before planting the tubers. Water in thoroughly, then water just to keep the ground moist. Fertilize once monthly with bone meal or 6-6-6 fertilizer, following the directions on the package. At the end of the season, trim off yellowed foliage and cover with a light layer of mulch. In cold areas, carefully dig up the tubers before the first frost. Air-dry the tubers and store them in paper bags in a cold location or in a box with peat moss.

Calla Lily (Zantedeschia): After all danger of frost has passed, select a location in full sun to partial shade. Soil should drain well. Loosen the soil and plant the rhizomes horizontally with the pointy side up. Cover with 3" of soil and water in well. Cover the area with a layer of mulch to retain moisture, and keep the soil moist throughout the growing season. At the end of the season, remove yellowed foliage and cover with fresh mulch. In cold areas, carefully dig up the rhizomes before the first frost. Store indoors in sand or dry peat moss at temperatures between 60° - 75°F.

Canna: After all danger of frost has passed and the soil has warmed, select an area in full sun where the soil drains well but still retains moisture and does not get soggy. Planting Cannas in full sun produces the best foliage color and the number of blooms. Loosen the soil and place the rhizomes, horizontally with the eyes/ growing points facing up, 4"-6" deep and 2' apart for tall varieties, 1' apart for medium and dwarf varieties. Water thoroughly after planting. Keep soil moist but not soggy thereafter and fertilize once per month during the growing season. Feel free to cut the flowers, which does not hurt the plant. Most people grow Cannas for their lush, colorful foliage. Do not cut or remove the foliage. The plant needs the nutrients from the foliage for the next year's growth. Remove leaves once they have died off.

Crocsmia: After all danger of frost has passed, select an area that drains well in full sun to partial shade. Loosen the soil to a depth of 6" and plant the corms 5" deep and 6"-8" apart. Water thoroughly and keep well-watered throughout the growing season. In warmer areas, cover with mulch in the fall. In colder areas, dig up the corms, let them air dry, and store indoors during the winter.

Dahlia: Because Dahlias can range in height from a mere 7" to approximately 48", it is important to select their location in the garden carefully. Low growing varieties look best close to the edge of a border with taller varieties progressing to the back. All Dahlias should be planted after all danger of frost has passed. Choose a sunny location that drains well. Dig a hole about 12" deep and allow 12" to 36" of space between tubers depending on variety. Amend the soil with peat moss or compost and place half of it back into the hole. Lay the tubers out flat in the soil, replace the remaining amended soil. Do not water until shoots appear. Water deeply 2-3 times per week. For larger blooms, buds should be pinched back. On varieties where buds appear in clusters of 3, pinch off 2 of the buds leaving only the center bud to flower. Pinching buds back will help to retain the size and shape of the plant. Dahlias are winter hardy in zones 8-10. In all other zones, dig up the tubers carefully after the first fall frost has killed the foliage. Let the tubers dry thoroughly and pack them in sawdust, dry sand, or peat moss. Store the tubers in a cool (40° - 45°), dry place. In the spring, separate the tubers from the stalks leaving about 1" of stalk attached. Each tuber must have a bud or an eye to bloom. Replant and enjoy!

Bearded German Iris: Select a site that drains well and receives at least 6-8 hours of direct sunlight each day. Loosen the soil and form a mound in the center with the top of the mound slightly below the level of the ground. Place the rhizome at the top of the mound and gently spread the roots downward permitting the leaf-fan to show above ground level. Place the remaining soil into the hole and tamp down around the rhizome and roots. Water thoroughly and water deeply during dry periods. Plants should be spaced 12"-24" apart. Cut back the flowering stem after blooms have faded and trim foliage into a fan shape of approximately 12".

Dutch Iris (Iris hollandica): Select a site in full sun that drains well. Loosen the soil and plant the bulbs 4" deep and 3'-6" apart, placing 5-7 bulbs in the same area. Water once after planting. In colder regions where the ground freezes, cover the area with a layer of mulch. After the flowers bloom, permit the foliage to ripen and turn yellow before removing. In 3-5 years, when flowering begins to diminish, lift the clumps of bulbs during dormancy. Remove and replant the "bulblets" that form along mature bulbs.

Echinacea (Butterfly Daisy): Select a location that receives full sun to light shade where the soil drains well. Loosen the soil to a depth of 6-8" and place the root vertically into the soil with the eye facing upward about 18" apart. Cover with 1-2" of soil and water in. Water plants sparingly, as they are drought tolerant. Plants can remain undisturbed indefinitely. Hardy in Zones 3-9.

Echinops: Echinops, also called Globe Thistle, should be planted in soil that drains well in an area in the garden that receives full sun. Loosen the soil and dig a hole twice the size of the roots. Place the plants into the soil 3'-4' apart and fill the hole with the remaining soil. Water well after planting, then water every other day to keep the soil moist. While the plant is flowering, water deeply to keep the soil moist.

Elephant Ears (Alocasia and Colocasia): Select a location where there is filtered sunlight to one which is in full shade. Soil should drain well. Loosen the soil and plant the bulbs 6" deep and 6-8" apart depending on their size. You may wish to add some bone meal or 6-6-6 fertilizer to the soil before planting the bulbs. Water in thoroughly, then water just to keep the ground moist. Fertilize once monthly with bone meal or 6-6-6 fertilizer, following the directions on the package. At the end of the season, trim off yellowed foliage and cover with a light layer of mulch. In cold areas, carefully dig up the bulbs before the first frost, permit them to air dry, and store them in paper bags in a cold location or in a box with peat moss.