



## Tip of the Week

### Tips for planting spring-flowering bulbs

If you need an excuse to get outside to enjoy this weekend's great fall weather, then round up some tulip and daffodil bulbs and get them in the ground. Bulb-planting season is now official. Here are tips for a successful planting project.



**Consolidate for impact.** Spreading bulbs across too much space will lessen their visual impact, so it's good to know how many square feet of planting space you have and plant accordingly. Use these guidelines for how many bulbs to plant per square foot of garden:

- Standard tulips and large daffodils: 5 bulbs
- Miniature daffodils: 6-11 bulbs
- Alium globe master: 1-2 bulbs
- Crocus: 8-12 bulbs
- Muscari: 14-18 bulbs
- Hyacinthoides: 5-6 bulbs

**Depth.** The rule of thumb is to plant bulbs at a depth that's three times their height. Thus, small bulbs will be planted shallower than large bulbs.

**Which end is up?** The pointed end should be planted up. If you can't tell, place the bulb on its side and let Mother Nature take over. Planted sideways, the bulb will send shoots up and roots down.

**Nutrients.** Add an amendment specially formulated for bulbs when you plant.

**Protect from predators.** Voles, elk and deer are common bulb predators. If they are in the neighborhood, you should protect against them from the moment of planting. Deter wildlife by placing chicken wire or pea gravel over the beds.

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You can also try "five alarm" hot sauce or capsaicin sprinkled on the soil. In the spring, rabbits like to chew on emerging, tender leaves. Placing a goose decoy in the garden often frightens them away. Blood meal (from a garden center) is another rabbit deterrent, but will have to be re-applied after every rain or snow as it is ruined by moisture.

**Need help planting bulbs or for other fall landscape projects?** Go to [www.alcc.com](http://www.alcc.com) and click on *Find a Pro*.

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