



NatureFest 2021

Bulbs 101

Charles County Master Gardeners "Just for Kids"

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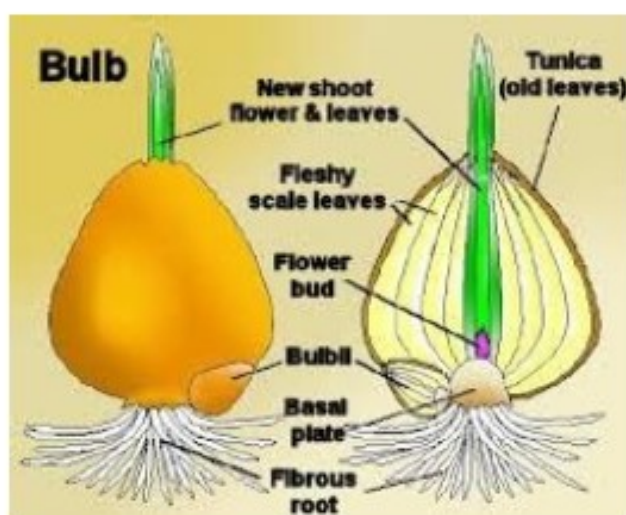
Bulbs 101:

1. What is a Bulb?
2. Growing Plants from a Bulb
3. Onion Sets

What is a Bulb?



A bulb is a plant in resting stage that is enclosed in a ball of fleshy membrane.



Many flowers and some vegetables start out as bulbs, like daffodils, tulips and onions.

For more information see our work sheet "How to Grow Plants from a Bulb!"



Growing Plants from a Bulb

Fall-planted flower bulbs, such as Tulips, Daffodils, Crocus and Hyacinths, which bloom in spring, should be planted as soon as the ground is cool, when evening temperatures average between 40 - 50 F. Spring planted bulbs, such as onion sets, can be planted as soon as the soil can be worked in early spring.



Planting:

- ⇒ First, read the label, because without the label, you can't tell the red tulip bulbs from the white tulip bulbs just by looking at the bulbs.
- ⇒ You can plant bulbs just about anywhere in your garden, as long as the soil drains well. Bulbs like sun, and in many areas, the spring garden can be very sunny since the leaves on the trees are not out yet.
- ⇒ Loosen soil in the planting area to a depth of at least 8". Remove any weeds, rocks or other debris. You can mix in compost, other organic matter or slow releasing fertilizer if your soil doesn't have enough nutrients.
- ⇒ Depending on the bulb, follow the recommendation on the label for planting depth. As a general rule, plant big bulbs about 8" deep and small bulbs about 5" deep. Set the bulb in the hole pointy side up or the roots down. You can also dig a bigger hole and plant several bulbs at one time or plant them in a container.
- ⇒ Now that the bulbs are planted, fill with soil over the hole, lightly compress the soil but do not pack it. Water once to help root growth and to fill any air pockets. There is no need to water continuously in the garden unless you planted your bulbs in a container. Then you want to water once in a while.



Growing Plants from a Bulb



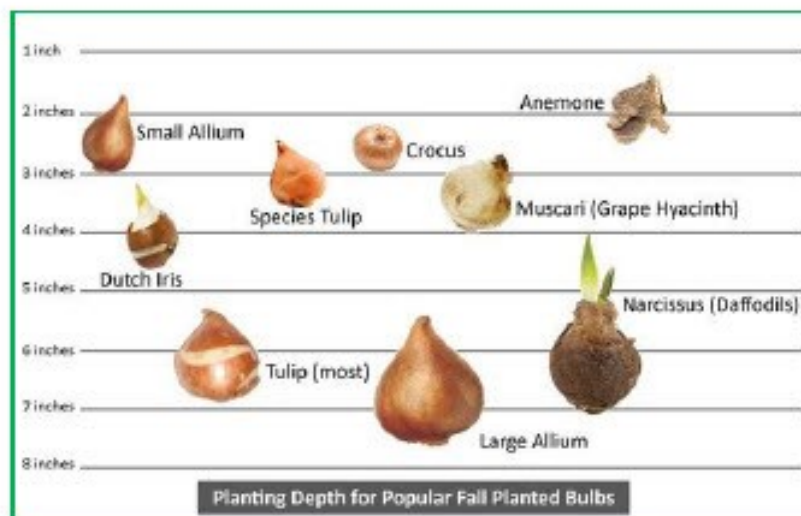
1. What should you read first before you begin planting?

2. Can I plant bulbs in an area that is very wet?

3. To what depth should you loosen the soil before planting?

4. Do you set the bulb in the hole pointy side up or down?

5. Do I water the bulbs I planted in a garden bed all the time?



Onion Sets

Onion is a vegetable that belongs to the *Allium* family and includes garlic, scallion, shallot, leek, chive, and Chinese onions. Onions vary in size, shape, color, and flavor. The most common types are red, yellow, and white onions. Their taste can range from sweet and juicy to sharp, spicy and strong. They are commonly used for cooking, sandwiches and salads.

Attract pollinators.



- ⇒ Botanical name: *Allium Cepa*
- ⇒ Height mature plant : 10 - 30 inches
- ⇒ Width mature plant: 4 - 24 inches, with bulbs 1-6 inches in diameter
- ⇒ Plant onion bulb 1 to 1.5 inches deep so the top of the bulb is level with the soil and the pointy end is facing upward
- ⇒ Plant 2 to 4 inches apart
- ⇒ Grow in Full Sun (6 to 8 hours of direct sun per day) in rich, well drained soil which should have a PH of 6.2-6.8
- ⇒ 90 - 120 days to maturity after planting
- ⇒ Keep the sets well watered until they are established to encourage strong root growth
- ⇒ Time to harvest is about 3 months for full-size onions, or throughout the growing season for green spring onions.



How to grow bulbs of any kind: See work sheet "How to Grow Plants from a Bulb".

The enclosed information was provided courtesy of the Charles County Master Gardeners

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