

# Summer Bulb Varieties

**Agapanthus:** This unique perennial should be planted in a sunny location about 1 1/2 inches deep. During the spring and summer growing season, apply light feedings of any garden fertilizer, every month or two. Flowering time is during the summer. Plants will grow to be 10 to 15 inches high. For the winter, the foliage will die, but with a little luck and a winter cover of mulch, the plants will come back for many years in the spring.

**Anemones:** Anemones can be planted either in the fall or in the spring. Plant them in groups of 10 to 15 bulbs in the border, about 1 to 2 inches deep and 2 to 3 inches apart in part shade or full sun. If planted in the spring, it is advisable to soak the bulbs for 12 hours before planting. Anemones bloom June, July, and August. Each bulb will produce 4 to 5 flowers.

**Astilbe:** This is a favorite perennial for cool, moist shade. Plenty of organic matter should be worked into the soil when planting. Astilbe is a long-lived hardy perennial, growing 2 to 3 feet tall. The pink feathery blooms appear in June and July. Set the clumps 1 inch below the surface in either spring or fall.

**Begonia:** Tuberous begonia flowers are varied and more colorful than most other summer flowering bulbs. They are slow to start, but once in bloom they will flower all summer and fall. Start them early in the spring, indoors in flats with damp peat moss. Set them close together, level with the soil. After danger of frost is over, set them out in the garden or window box. Fertilize sparingly through the growing season.

**Caladium:** Caladium grows in varying light conditions, full sun to deep shade. In this area, caladium may be planted in the garden when day temperatures are 70°F and higher. To get a head start, about 2 months before the 70°F temps, plant the tubers 1 to 2 inches deep in moist vermiculite or peat. Feed every 2 to 3 weeks during the growing season with a mild all purpose fertilizer.

**Bleeding heart:** This hardy perennial grows 3 feet tall and produces heart-shaped blooms from April to June. It will tolerate medium shade to full sun. Because of its relatively large size and its tendency to die down after blooming, it is best used as a specimen plant rather than massed.

**Canna:** These sun flowers develop into huge plants with large, beautiful foliage. Most varieties grow 4 feet or more. Can be started indoors to give them a head start, or they can be planted directly outside when danger of frost has passed. Plant them 2 to 3 inches deep and 15 to 18 inches apart.

**Dahlia:** Dahlias contain the largest variety of flower types of many of the summer bulbs. There are 16 categories, each of which spans a full range of colors and size.

**Freesia:** Freesia is know for its strong fragrance. Plant in groups of 10 to 15 bulbs, 2 to 3 inches deep, and 1 inch apart, in part shade to full sun. Blooming time is July and August.

**Gladiola:** Gladiola comes in an abundance of colors and varieties. They are an excellent cut flower. Grow gladiola in full sun. To extend the bloom season, plant the corms at 7 to 10 day intervals. Plant them 6 to 8 inches apart, covering them with 4 to 6 inches of soil.

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**Lily-of-the-valley:** They should be planted about 3 to 4 inches deep. They make an excellent ground-cover. They thrive in partial shade and moist, acidic soils. Plant in fall or early spring.

**Daylily:** Daylily blooms last only one day, but their stems bear quantities of buds which provide new blooms each day over a long period. They can be planted in either the spring or fall, in partial or full sun. Very hardy.

**Hybrid lily:** Lilies should be planted in the spring or fall, in groups of 3 to 5 bulbs. Plant in partial shade or full sun, about 5 to 6 inches deep, and 5 inches apart. Use plenty of organic matter when planting to provide good drainage.

**Peony:** Requires rich garden soil and a sunny location. Space plants 2 to 3 feet apart when massing. Place roots so the eyes are 2 inches below the surface of the ground. Flowers bloom in May-June. Practice good garden sanitation by removing and destroying the old foliage in the fall.

**Phlox paniculata:** Phlox grows 2 to 4 feet high with large conical flower heads of pink, red, salmon, purple, lavender, and white. Space plants 24 inches apart and plant in a well-drained soil with superphosphate worked into the soil. Phlox self-sows prolifically.

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