

Planting Summer Bulbs

Plants commonly referred to as summer bulbs include bulbs, corms, rhizomes, and tuberous roots. What they have in common is that most of them are not hardy and should be dug up in the fall when they are dormant. When dug, allow the bulbs to air dry for one to two days, and then store them in a cool, dry place for planting next spring. Do not store them in plastic bags or containers.

Bulbs should be planted when the soil is warm and the danger of frost has passed (DC - April 15, Kensington - April 29, Olney - May 1). The package will advise the proper depth for the variety you choose. Select a site as recommended in sun or shade. Almost all bulbs prefer well-drained soil that is amended with organic material, such as Bumper Crop. Work the material into the top 10-12 inches of the soil and water thoroughly after planting.

Try to keep weeds from the area, as they will reduce the strength of your plants. Fertilize occasionally during the growing season using an all purpose 10-10-10 plant food or organic fertilizer. To encourage healthy bulbs, remove all spent blooms.

Don't be afraid to experiment and try some new varieties. Johnson's carries an outstanding selection.

Agapanthus - *Agapanthus africanus* - white, blue, and purple flowers

Baboon flower - *Babiana stricta* - fragrant blue, rose, or pink flowers

Begonia, tuberous - *Begonia x tuberhybrida* - wide range of colors

Caladium - *Caladium x hortulanum* - variegated green, red, pink, and white foliage

Calla lily - *Zantedeschia spp.* - white, pink, or yellow blooms

Canna - *Canna x gernalis* - red, orange, or yellow blooms and large foliage

Dahlia - *Dahlia hybrida* - varied bloom colors, shapes, and sizes

Elephant ears - *Colocasia esculenta* - foliage plant

Freesia - *Freesia spp.* - wide range of colors, fragrant

Gladiolus - *Gladiolus x hortulanus* - wide range of flower colors

Iris - *Iris spp.* - varied sizes, most colors except red

Lily, asiatic or oriental - *Lilium spp.* - fragrant, wide range of colors, hardy

Ranunculus - *Ranunculus asiaticus* - red, yellow, white, or orange blooms

Tuberose - *Polyanthis tuberosa* - white, fragrant flowers

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