

Care Instructions for Living Flower Arrangements

Spring Flowering Bulbs to Force:

1. Water pot 3 times until soil is thoroughly damp
2. Place in an area between 50° - 60°F for rooting (cool garage; mulch pile in shade; or refrigerator @ 50° - 60°F (usually 2-3 weeks) Roots should be seen at the drain holes of the pot
3. When fully rooted, place the pot in a refrigerator @ 33° - 45°F for about 10-12 weeks for additional cooling; (be sure there are NO fruits or vegetables in the same refrigerator - beer and wine are okay!)
4. When vernalization (cool period) is complete, take out of fridge and put in a cool 50° - 60°F place in bright light
5. It is ideal to place on a seed starting electric mat (see our summer catalogue) @ 70°F but in a cool room 50° - 60°F. Use 'Grow Lights' or cool fluorescent lights 8"-14" above the pots for optimum growth and to keep the bulbs from getting too tall. A fan blowing on the pots of bulbs is also beneficial
6. As they come into bloom, use all over the house to enjoy and share with friends.
7. When finished blooming, keep in bright light and water until after danger of hard freeze. Then find a vacant spot in the garden and transplant

Spring Flowering Bulbs to Over Winter Outside in a Mulch Pile and Have in Bloom During the Spring

1. Water pot 3 times until soil is thoroughly damp
2. Place pot in a uniformly cool spot
 - a. Outside on the north side of a building in the shadow, covered in a mulch, leaves, bark or finished compost pile, with 6"-10" on top and on the sides
 - b. In a uniformly cool garage or another unheated building
 1. insulate around the pots to keep uniformly cool
 2. water pots lightly once a month
 - c. Over winter on a patio or balcony in an insulated Styrofoam cooler
 1. Open cooler once a week for fresh air-exchange
 2. Water once a month to keep damp but not wet
3. When danger of hard freeze (below 25°F) is over, pull the mulch away and place pots in a bright sunny area to grow and bloom
4. When finished blooming, find a vacant spot into the garden; dig a hole 6"-8" deep; knock bulbs out of pot and cover around bulbs with soil. When foliage dies, finished filling the hole with soil

Summer Flowering Bulbs - most summer flowering bulbs begin to grow when soil temperatures are above 60°F.

1. To start before nighttime temperature is above 60°F
 - a. Water thoroughly
 - b. Start indoors in a warm 60° - 70°F, sunny spot or on a heat mat and under grow lights; will give you a head start for an earlier blooming pot
 - c. Keep inside in as bright a light as possible until nighttime temps are 60°F or above, then take out and enjoy on the patio
2. To wait until outside nighttime temperature is above 60°F
 - a. Do not water until ready to start
 - b. Bulbs should stay dormant until watered; when ready, water thoroughly and place in a bright sunny spot
 - c. Enjoy bloom and foliage throughout the summer; deadhead flowers to encourage bulb growth instead of seed formation
3. For best results, at the end of the season, transplant hardy bulbs in the garden
4. Store non-hardy bulbs in peat in a consistently cool location that won't freeze during the winter and plant in the garden next spring

Overall

1. Water
 - a. Water sparingly until growth begins
 - b. When actively growing, water every other day
 - c. When in full growth, water daily
2. Fertilizer
 - a. The bulbs you receive already have the blooms in them, so for bloom this year, it is not necessary to fertilize
 - b. If you wish to recycle the bulbs into your garden, use a slow release bulb fertilizer like 'Brent and Becky's Bulb Fertilizer' (10-10-20 formula) or 'Brent and Becky's Organic Bulb Supplement (5-10-12 formula) or Holland Bulb Booster (9-9-6 formula) available at local Garden Centers
 - c. Or treat this pot as an annual and put in compost at the end of the season and start fresh next year
3. Light
 - a. Adequate light (full sun to partial shade) will help these bulbs perform at their best.
 - b. Insufficient light (shade to full shade) will cause most bulbs to grow tall with weak stems and with smaller and fewer blooms
 - c. Supplemental lighting (grow lights or cool fluorescent lights 12"-18" above will help to supply the light requirements before bloom