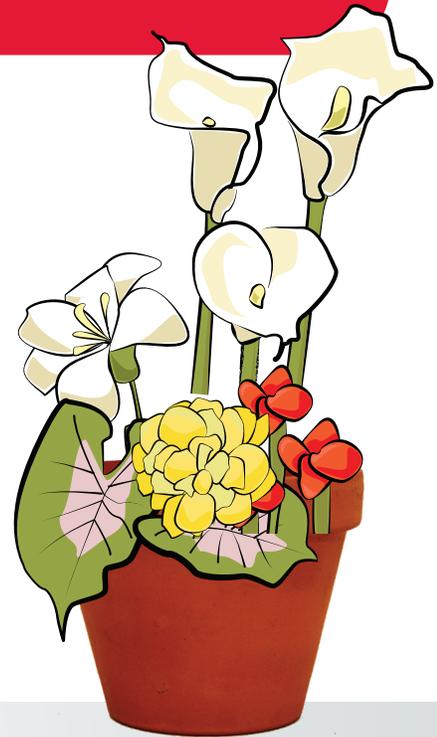


How do I plant bulbs?

There are many popular and unusual varieties of plants that can be started from bulbs in the spring. Most are tropical or subtropical plants that would otherwise not be hardy in our harsh Wisconsin winters. These can be purchased each year and treated as annuals, or dug up in the fall and stored for the winter to be planted again the following spring. A few, such as Asiatic and Oriental lilies, are hardy and can be left in the ground to be enjoyed year after year. Two basic methods can be used to start your spring-planted bulbs:

- 1 Pot the bulb indoors in late winter or early spring for a container plant, then plant outdoors when the weather is warm enough. *This method is often used for slow-growing bulbs, such as tuberous begonias, calla lilies, caladiums, elephant ears, and freesia.*
- 2 Or wait for the weather to warm up sufficiently, then plant directly in the ground outside. This method works well for anemones, dahlias, gladiolus, and most lilies.

Most spring-planted bulbs like regular watering and fertilizing to help sustain fast growth and flowering. However, when starting bulbs indoors, water sparingly until the plants begin to leaf out. Too much water at this time can cause the bulbs to rot.



Calla Lilies

- Start indoors in February or March.
- Plant the bulbs 1" deep in a well-drained pot and place them in full sun.
- They can be moved outdoors around Memorial Day, and do best in full sun to part shade.
- Love lots of water while growing.

Lilies

- Plant outside as soon as the ground can be worked.
- If you can't plant them right away, store them in a cool, dark location.
- Plant in well-drained soil in part to full sun, 6-8" deep and 12-16" apart.
- Water thoroughly to ensure that the soil settles around the bulb.
- Mulch well in the fall to provide winter protection.
- Don't overfeed! Apply a little fertilizer before and after flowering.

Caladiums

- Start indoors from February to mid April.
- Plant the bulbs 1 to 2" deep.
- It's important that the bulbs stay warm. 75° to 80° F is ideal.
- They can be moved outside to a shady location around Memorial Day.

Tuberous Begonia

- Start inside in pots in midwinter.
- The "cup" goes up.
- Pot them with the tuber exposed, and then cover with 1" of soil after growth has started.
- Move to a shady location outdoors around Memorial Day. A little morning sun is beneficial.

Cannas

- Plant directly outdoors around Memorial Day, or start inside in pots 4 to 6 weeks earlier.
- Plant them with the bud/eye/sprout up, and cover with about 2 inches of soil.
- They like full sun and lots of water. Use mulch to keep them from drying out too fast.

Dahlias

- Love lots of sun.
- Start inside in pots in late April or May, or plant directly in the ground around Memorial Day.
- When planting outside, space 18 to 24" apart. Dig a hole 12" deep, put a stake in the center, place the tuber in and cover with 2-3" of soil.
- DON'T WATER until you see growth.
- As the plant grows, fill in the rest of the hole with high quality garden soil.
- Water regularly, and apply flower or tomato fertilizer every 3-4 weeks.

Elephant Ears

- Start early indoors in pots twice as wide as the bulbs, with the bulbs eye-up and just exposed above the soil.
- Once growth has started, keep them moist at all times.
- They may be moved outdoors to a partly shaded to full shade location at the end of May.

Please email us with any questions at
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