

## Got Bulbs?

A few Internet resources for  
learning how to plant spring bulbs

October 2008

*Tempted by the bins of beautiful bulbs at the local garden center? Lured to your doom by the gorgeous offerings of garden supply catalogs? Here are a few websites to help you get the most out of your bulb planting this fall:*

[www.bulb.com](http://www.bulb.com)

International Flower Bulb Centre, Netherlands

Click on "Public" page, and then "It's Fall Bulb Season"

Many good articles about planting or forcing bulbs, including a list of varieties that work well for forcing. GardenWeb forum folks swear by this website.

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/bulbs>

University of Illinois Extension Service

Offers cultural information about spring bulbs---selection, planting, and forcing. Plus links to other resources, including heirloom bulbs.



<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/envirohort/426-201/426-201.html>

Virginia Cooperative Extension

A good "basics" article about bulb culture, including the differences among bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes.

[www.daffodilusa.org](http://www.daffodilusa.org)

American Daffodil Society

Information about planting, breeding, selecting, showing daffodils. A link will take you to [www.daffseek.org](http://www.daffseek.org), the Society's database of 8,500 varieties. Designed to allow searches by characteristic, name, class.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/infosheets/hardybulbs.pdf>  
Green Spring Gardens, Fairfax County, Virginia

A 10-page article titled "Recommended Hardy Bulbs for the Washington, D.C. area." Covers Zone 7, which includes most of Virginia except for the mountainous areas.

*Looking for inspiration or just want to enjoy someone else's hard work?*

Check out these websites:

<http://www.keukenhof.nl/nm/english.html>

The Keukenhof Garden in Lisse, Netherlands is world-renowned for its display gardens, open from mid-March to late May annually. Click on the above link, then on Park, then on Slideshow for a tantalizing glimpse of how the pros do it. Other pages on the website also offer up ideas for bulb displays.

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Closer to home, in Richmond, the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Virginia House (Virginia Historical Society HQ) and Agecroft Hall also beckon to bulb-lovers in the spring. Check their websites to find the best dates for visiting.

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden: <http://www.lewisginter.org/>

Virginia House: [http://www.vahistorical.org/vh/vh\\_gardens\\_main.htm](http://www.vahistorical.org/vh/vh_gardens_main.htm)

Agecroft Hall: <http://www.agecrofthall.com/gardens.html>



*". . . the flowers come forth like the belles of the day, have their short reign of beauty and splendour, and retire, like them, to the more interesting office of reproducing their like. The Hyacinths and Tulips are off the stage, the Irises are giving place to the Belladonnas, as these will to the Tuberoses, etc. ..."*

Thomas Jefferson to Anne Cary Bankhead. Monticello. May 26, 1811