



2310 W St Rt 55 TROY  
937.335.5550

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

## SUMMER FLOWERING BULBS

**A true bulb is a swollen underground stem consisting of scale-like leaf bases. These are filled with food and wrapped tightly around a bud in the heart of the bulb, and are usually surrounded by a hard protective covering. Other types of bulbs are corms (pictured below), tubers, and tuberous roots, all with slightly different characteristics. It isn't necessary to study these distinctions, but rather, it is more important to understand what these swollen tissue masses do. The purpose of a bulb is to enable the plant to survive periods of cold and/or drought,**



**GROWING SUMMER BULBS** - Most summer bulbs require full sun and a fast-draining soil. Although bulbs contain their first season's food supply, using a bulb food before planting will help the bulb to root faster.

When planting, make sure that the bulb is right side up. Corms and true bulbs are usually pointed on top and flatter on the bottom; often you see the remains of last year's roots. Round tubers are usually concave on top and round on the bottom.

**MAINTENANCE** - Deep watering will help keep your bulbs healthy and robust. Deadheading is another favor you can do for your bulbs to keep the plant from putting energy into seed formation. When the weather begins to turn cold, dig up your summer-blooming bulbs or bring their containers indoors. Once they've begun their dormant stage, you can store most bulbs in a paper bag in a dry, cool, dark place until the next year.

### TYPES OF SUMMER FLOWERING BULBS

**ANEMONE** - Anemone need full sun or partial shade, rich soil, and excellent drainage. Soak the tubers overnight in tepid water before planting, then plant them 1/2 inch deep, 4 - 6 inches apart. They grow 6 - 9 inches tall and bloom in April and May. Remove them in the fall for winter storage.

**BEGONIA** - Plant begonias where they will receive plenty of bright light, but not in direct sun and give them rich, well-drained soil. Start begonias indoors in a pot, planting them 1 inch deep and 12 inches apart. Move them outside after the danger of frost is past. Begonias can range in height from 12 - 24 inches and some produce flowers as large as 10 inches across in vivid reds, pinks, salmons, apricots, yellows, oranges, and whites. They bloom all summer but will need to be moved indoors by the first frost.

**CALADIUM** - Caladiums grow to 1 foot tall and do not bloom. They will succeed in average garden soil, in shade to partial sun. You can easily start these bulbs indoors by planting them 1 - 2 inches deep and 12 - 18 inches apart. Move them inside for winter.

**CANNA** - Plant cannas in full sun, 4 inches deep and 18 inches apart. They will grow to a height of 18 inches to six feet depending on the variety and bloom July through September. Dig up the bulbs for winter storage when frost kills the foliage.

**CALLA** - Callas make good houseplants, reaching 36 inches in height and blooming in July. Plant three bulbs per 6 inch container, 1 - 2 inches deep, and place in partial shade to full sun. Callas are not winter hardy.

**DAHLIA** - Dahlias require rich soil with extra potassium and phosphorus, and full sun to partial shade. They come in many different varieties, ranging in height from 2 - 4 feet. The flowers can be as small as an inch across and as large as 12 inches across, appearing July through September. Plant the bulbs 3 - 4 inches deep, 15 inches apart. Move them inside for the winter.

**ELEPHANT EARS** - Plant these bulbs in partial shade to full sun, 4 inches deep and 2 - 4 feet apart. This plant produces no blooms and reaches 4 - 6 feet in height. Dig up bulbs for winter.

**FREESIA** - Freesia requires full sun and well-drained soil. Plant the bulbs 4 - 6 inches deep and 6 inches apart. They will bloom 10 - 12 weeks after planting and will grow to a height of 18 - 24 inches. Freesia makes an excellent houseplant in the winter months.

**GLADIOLUS** - The tall, brightly-colored flower spikes of “glads” are showy in the garden and last a long time when cut. Plant in full sun after the danger of frost is past, 4 - 6 inches deep and 6 inches apart. Then plant in succession every 2 weeks until midsummer for blooms lasting May through July.

**IRIS (DUTCH)** - Dutch iris grow from bulbs and should be planted 5 inches deep and 4 - 6 inches apart in full sun. They will bloom March to May and reach 12 - 24 inches in height. Mulch them in winter for added protection.

**LILY** - These hardy bulbs prefer full sun to partial shade and well-drained soil. Lilies reach heights of 2 - 5 feet and produce magnificent flowers in mid to late summer in a wide range of colors, shapes, and sizes. Plant bulbs 5 inches deep and 18 inches apart.

**RANUNCULUS** - Ranunculus flowers, which are several inches across, appear in early summer



*Making the world beautiful  
one flower at a time.*