

## The Beauty of Tulips

By planting different flower bulb colours it is possible to create stunning effects. Although tulips and narcissi do not like to be placed in the same vase, they are perfect partners planted together in pots.



## Narcissus in the Leading Role

Narcissi look beautiful in any interior setting as they can be used in so many ways.



	Planting Date	Number of Cold Weeks to 9°C	Earliest Flowering Starts
Crocus	Early October - Early November	14-15	Early February
Iris reticulata	Early October - Early November	12-13	Early January
Muscari	Early October - Early November	14-15	Early February
Hyacinths Prepared	Mid September - Mid December	10-12	Mid December
Hyacinths Unprepared	Mid October - Early December	11-13	Mid January
Narcissi	Early October - Early December	12-13	Mid January
Tulips	Early October - Early December	13-17	Mid January

## Hyacinths: Distinguished and Fragrant

Hyacinths are famous for their scent. These sturdy flower clusters emphasize beautiful character and can create a special effect.



## Winter Joy

During the winter months, there are other ways to enjoy flowering bulbs in containers inside your home. By purchasing pre-forced bulbs that are available in stores, there is instant gratification of colourful blooms. You can enjoy these potted bulbs for an average of 7 to 10 days. You can also buy bulbs that are in an earlier stage of development: sprouted bulbs. Although these bulbs are not as developed, they will mature from their green shoots and buds and provide a wonderful display of colour. Once your bulbs have bloomed, they will provide weeks of pleasure inside your home, on your balcony, deck or patio. Try muscari, tulips or narcissi.



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# Enjoy the Beauty of *Forcing Flowering Bulbs*

## Planting Guide From Bulbs To Beauty

Tips for planting flower bulbs inside your home.



# Forcing Flower Bulbs



Flower bulbs bring colour not only into your garden but also into your living room. There is more than one way to get flower bulbs to bloom earlier than they would outside. One of these is known as the 'home forcing' method in which you provide the flower bulbs with a chilling treatment yourself. This way, you can have your first harbingers of spring in your home as early as Christmas.

## Home Forcing is an Interesting Hobby!

Flower bulbs for growing indoors can be planted in an almost endless range of containers - even glass jars. However, what is more important than the type of pot is the amount of room that is available in which the flower bulb roots have to develop.



## Planting

- Select a container that is not too small, you can plant several bulbs in a larger container.
- Partially fill the pot with moist soil and tamp down lightly. Then press the bulbs gently into the soil. They can be placed so they almost touch one another. When planting tulips, place the flat side of the bulb against the inside of the pot.
- Fill the pot up with moist soil so that the noses of the bulbs are covered. Water the soil generously to encourage rooting. Make sure excess water is drained, as bulbs sitting in standing water will deteriorate.
- Give the plants the required cold period. As soon as the flower buds have emerged from the bulbs, the pots can be transferred to a warm location.

## Important Points

1. Flower bulbs can usually remain in their forcing containers when creating indoor centre-pieces. A layer of soil, moss, wood chips or pebbles will hide the plastic containers from view. If the container will not fit into the pot, the bulbs can also be removed carefully from their original container. The flower bulbs need water at frequent intervals, but not too much at a time.
2. Keep the soil moist.
3. As the buds open into flowers, occasionally provide a fine misting of water to protect the flowers from drying out.
4. Always plant an uneven number of bulbs in a bowl or container. The result will be more eye catching.



## Small Bulbs Indoors and Out

You can also force many other kinds of smaller bulbs such as crocus, muscari (grape hyacinths), scilla and iris reticulata. Since most of the smaller bulbs prefer temperatures a bit cooler than those of the average living room, a better spot for them might be a table in a cooler area of the home.

