

Timely tips help when dealing with minor bulbs

By Grace C. Lockwood

Everyone is familiar with the larger bulbs - tulips and daffodils, but there is a wealth of smaller and lesser known bulbs that provide bloom from March (sometimes February) through to June, and a few that bloom in the fall.

The minor bulbs should be planted in masses as the small flowers get lost on their own, or in a rock garden where they can be enjoyed close up. They should be left alone after planting to spread naturally as they do not have to be replanted every few years like tulips.

As a rule, most minor bulbs like full sun. Exceptions are Muscari, Scilla and some tiny Narcissi which flourish in partial shade as well. Do not plant them too deep or they will not flower or even

grow sometimes. A general rule of thumb is a planting depth of three times the bulb diameter. This will range from 2-4 inches in most cases.

The following are only a few of my favorites in the minor bulb group. The earliest are the Galathus nivalis, snowdrops; Eranthis hyemalis, winter aconites; and the species crocuses. The snowdrops and aconites bloom at the first hint of spring, usually in March, but if you are lucky, occasionally in late February.

Amazingly, hardy bees will work the flowers as soon as they open, seemingly regardless of the weather. Fast on their heels comes the cheery yellow Crocus ancyrensis, silvery chrysanthus blue pearl, tomasinianus, purple



GARDEN GRACES

and white lady killer and cream beauty to mention a few.

Next are the Iris reticulata; these are tiny bulbous iris only 6" high, sweetly scented and come in lovely shades of blue and violet.

Scilla species range in size

from the 6" Scilla siberica to the 18" Scilla campanulata (Spanish bluebells) now classified as Hyacinthoides hispanica because of their resemblance to hyacinths.

Both Spanish bluebells and the famed English bluebells (Scilla nutans) combine well with hostas, bulbs providing early color and later foliage of the hostas cover the dying bulb foliage. A recent muscari is Muscari tubergianum. They are sky blue on top of the flower spike, navy blue beneath and each bloom is rimmed with a fine, white line. Both grow in partial shade as well.

One of my favorite plant groups is the Fritillaria family. They bloom in April/May. The most

familiar are the crown imperial fritillarias and the smaller checkered fritillarias (Fritillaria meleagris). However, more varieties are available each year. New this year is Fritillaria pallidiflora with large chartreuse (yellow with a hint of green) bells and blue-green foliage. It grows 12" tall in rich soil and partial shade. Fritillaria camschatensis and persica Adiyaman have deep purple bells, a wonderful contrast with white tulips.

These are just a sampling of the minor and lesser known bulbs. Two excellent mail order houses are Cruikshanks (416) 488-8292 and Gardenimport (905) 731-1950.

Next time: late spring/early summer and fall blooming bulbs.

WHY RENT?

when you can
OWN AN INDUSTRIAL CONDO!

For only **5% Down** (min. \$4600.)

Balance at **8.25% for 3 years**

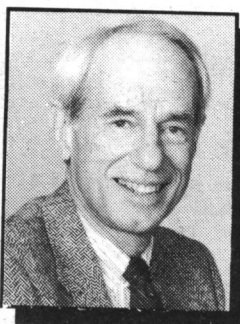


at **55 Sinclair Avenue, Georgetown.**

■ Unit sizes starting at 1320 sq. ft.

\$91,900

- 10 x 10 and 12 x 10 drive thru doors
- Some units have finished offices
- 14 ft. clear ceilings
- Fully sprinklered
- 600 volts 3 phase 30 amps to 120/208 3 phase electrical service



RUD WHITING*

Buy your's now by calling Rud Whiting* at

877-5211

Tor. 874-3051

24-Hour
Paging
Service

RE/MAX®

Suburban (91) Inc.

**360 Guelph St.
Georgetown**



* Sales Rep.

HALTON HILLS THIS WEEK 873-2254

DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN TRICK OR TREAT

Saturday, Oct. 30,
Costume Parade Contest

Open to all ages - 3 prizes awarded
10:30 a.m. - Register at the BIA Office - 116 Mill Street
11:00 a.m. - Parade of Costumes on Main Street South
Special Treats for all Entrants!

Dress for the occasion and join the fun in Downtown Georgetown
FIND THE ORANGE POSTER AT PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES AND SAY TRICK OR TREAT

DG Georgetown Central Business Improvement Area
116 Mill Street
Downtown Georgetown
873-4970

"Helping people find their perfect nest!"

Call
877-0173
24 HOUR PAGER

Residential Real Estate Services
Town & Country Properties Division
170 Guelph Street
Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4A7

DONNA ROBBINS **ROYAL LEPAGE**
Sales Representative