



Home Beautifying and Landscape Suggestions



Bulbs. A bulb is stored up energy assembled by a parent plant during a previous season's growth. In most cases a bulb has a sufficient amount of food within itself to develop a complete plant with blooms. Paper-white Narcissus will usually develop a splendid array of foliage and flowers by merely submerging the bulb in a little gravel or moss and keeping it continually supplied with water, heat and light.

If it is desired that a bulb shall continue to bloom from year to year, it is necessary that the plant shall not only furnish a bloom but develop an off-spring, usually in the form of another bulb, sufficiently nourished to produce flowers and an off-spring the next year. The writer knows of one case where Tulip bulbs have been grown in one place continually for 15 years, without a single replacement and apparently very little care. In Europe, instances have been related where bulbs have been known to bloom yearly for more than a century. The length of time a bulb will continue to bloom from year to year depends almost entirely on the home in which the bulb lives, the soil.

In making a survey and study of bulb-growing conditions in Holland, the writer found that it is a customary practice there to prepare the soil for bulbs to a depth of from 2 to 3 feet. This, at first, seemed utter foolishness, but as the nature of bulb growth and development became better understood by the writer, he realized that such growth was always downward. Some bulbs developed roots more than 24 inches in length.

Knowing that best results were obtained in the states when bulbs were planted from 6 to 8 inches below the surface of the soil, the deeply prepared beds ceased to appear foolish and merely explained in many ways the marvelous results obtained with bulbs in Holland.

Most of the root system of a bulb is developed in the late fall and early spring. The growing season for the foliage part of the bulb usually extends, in this section, from early April to July. It is during this season that the new bulb for the following season is formed. If the plant

food available in the soil is only sufficient to supply the present foliage and bloom, there will be no bulb formed and consequently no flower the following year. There must be sufficient plant food for foliage, bloom, and new bulb.

In some cases, the parent bulb produces three or four small bulbs. Usually these need from one to three years in which to develop into bulbs large enough to produce blooms.

In Holland, where the growing of bulbs is a highly commercialized business, it is from these small bulbs that they gain their increase. These

small bulbs are carefully saved, grown on again a second and sometimes a third year, the blossoms being pinched off and finally develop into large mother bulbs which are sent to America.

Narcissus seems to adapt themselves to this climate and soil much easier than do the tulips. About the only requirement for Narcissus bulbs is to plant them rather deep, (6 to 8 inches) when planted in black soil. This will prevent winter-killing. In lighter soils, it is not necessary to plant so deep. Plenty of plant food should be worked into the soil to a depth of at least 8 inches.



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