

ADVERTISING FEATURE

HOME & GARDEN

Blood meal on the surface discourages rabbits and squirrels from digging up bulbs

A few hours spent in the garden this fall can ensure a beautiful yard next year and for years to come.

Fall bulbs are perennials — they come back every year — and some even naturalize, meaning they multiply on their own and create a bigger display year after year.

According to John Mansz, from the Home Depot Canada, a major trend among Canadian gardeners is the return of classic Victorian flowers such

as irises and crocuses, which are planted in stunning one-colour groups, sometimes directly into lawns.

BUYING BULBS

- Bulbs start appearing in the stores in early September.
- Look for bulk packs of one species in order to get the colours you want. (Loose bulbs get mixed up easily so always choose pre-packaged ones)
- Check that the bulbs are firm and

have a white hue on the skin. No green tip should be showing except on some species of irises.

• Bulbs can be stored in a cool garage or shed until it's time to plant.

WHEN TO PLANT

- The first killing frost of the year signals it's time to plant the bulbs — this is usually in mid-October.
- Pull out annuals and plant bulbs in borders or with crocuses, directly into

lawns or grassy banks. Bulbs prefer sunny areas with well-drained soil.

• If your soil is a little too wet, mix in a little sand to promote more effective drainage. Moss is an indicator of wet soil, so avoid mossy areas.

• Planting bulbs in a shady area is fine as long as the trees are deciduous as bulbs will bloom before there are leaves on the trees.

• When planting, it is best to arrange bulbs in a single colour group for maximum impact. Follow the planting instructions for the specific variety purchased — generally larger flowers such as tulips and daffodils are widely spaced and smaller ones, such as crocuses, are planted closer together.

• Make planting easy by investing in a hand bulb planter that pulls out a plug of soil and drops a bulb into the hole in one easy move — no digging or bending. Or use a broom pole to make holes in the lawns and banks to save you from a lot of bending.

• Give your bulbs a boost by sprinkling in a little bone meal into the hole before dropping in the bulbs.

• Dried blood meal sprinkled on the surface will discourage rabbits and squirrels from digging bulbs up.

• Apartment dwellers can enjoy spring bulbs by planting dwarf bulbs in containers stored in a cool shed, garage or fridge over the winter and brought out for display in early spring.

WHAT YOU NEED

A shovel or trowel, hand bulb planter (optional), broom handle, bulbs, bone meal and/or blood meal.



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CANADIAN TIRE CORRECTION NOTICE

We wish to draw your attention to the following in our current "Fabulous 2-week sale" flyer:

Page 8 Oral-B Plaque Remover 99-2129-0
The illustration is incorrect. This item includes only one brush and does not include a storage tower.

Page 14 13" Drill Press 55-5911-2
The vise does not come with the drill press as shown in the illustration.

We wish to draw your attention to the following in our current "1998 Catalogue":

Page 308 Item #3 Reese Shadow Mount Custom Class III Trailer Hitch 40-7004X
The illustration is incorrect.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience we may have caused you.

Circle 4337/3538 CAT - All Zones