

ADVERTISING FEATURE

# HOME & GARDEN

## Flower bulbs are among the easiest plants for children to grow successfully.

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mind when selecting a site and describe an imaginary picture of the future to your young arborist.

✓ Most young trees should be planted in holes about three feet (one meter) wide, and 18 inches (50 cm) deep.

✓ Good drainage is essential, add some gravel or other drainage material to the bottom of the hole.

✓ Stake young trees for support for the first few years.

✓ Water well when planting and over the winter.

### EASY BULBS YIELD FABULOUS FLOWERS

Perhaps no other garden activity is so identified with fall as the planting of spring-flowering bulbs. Surprisingly, for all their modesty,

flower bulbs are among the easiest plants for beginners, including children, to grow successfully.

Bulbs are not seeds, but living plants that are practically guaranteed to grow if you put them in the ground in the fall. Cut a hyacinth bulb in half (from top to bottom), for example, and you and your child can see the embryonic baby

flowers in the middle, just waiting to burst forth in the spring.

However, here are some helpful tips:  
 ✓ Bulbs need good drainage, so choose areas where water is not likely to collect in puddles and make the soil too soggy.

✓ As a rule of thumb, generally plant bulbs three times as deep as they are high.

✓ Plant before the first ground-freezing frost.

✓ The pointed side of the bulb goes up.

While you're waiting for spring...

Another cool thing about bulbs that kids love, is their ability to be fooled or forced into flowering early, during the winter.

Bulb forcing is both a fun activity and a chance for children to see very quickly what a

spring garden can look like.

Potted-up Paperwhites and other bulbs, also make wonderful handmade gifts from children.

In the end, fall is only the beginning of gardening as a family activity. Come spring, you can enjoy the flowery fruits of your fall labour, and plan for summer annuals and, of course, the family vegetable patch.



Kids love helping out in the garden.

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**(905) 294-4331**  
**Economist & Sun • Stouffville Tribune**

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