

## Bulbs for Containers

### Choosing your Container

Good drainage is vital to bulbs, so choose pots with large holes. Terracotta pots are great for spring flowering bulbs because they are porous and allow water through their sides as well as their drainage holes. This lessens the chance of bulb rot during our wet, mild winters. Wooden containers also drain quite well.

### Soil Mixes

A well-drained soil is essential for bulbs. Add either 10% crushed pumice rock or washed sand to our **GARDENWORKS** Planter Box Mix and you're ready to go!

### Fertilizing

When planting bulbs, be sure to fertilize with **GARDENWORKS** Bone Meal or Bulb Food at planting time, and, again, just after blooming. Although these products are virtually interchangeable, there is one major difference: since it is organic, bone meal is slower to take effect. As a result, bone meal makes a better over-winter feed, while bulb food supplies a burst of feed in the spring.

### Caring for your New Pot of Bulbs

Place your container outside in a sunny location where it will receive natural rain or can be watered. Since most bulbs are much hardier than necessary for our mild winters, there is no need to shelter them. You may apply a light mulch during heavy-frost periods, once the foliage and buds starts to show above the soil. Keep your container evenly moist, and avoid digging near the developing plants.

### Moving the Pot

When in bloom plant containers can be moved to the best site in the garden and if the pot is small enough, can even be brought into the house. After blooming, the pot can be stored out of sight in a garage or shed; or carefully planted over for a spring, summer and fall show. During each replanting, be extra careful around the developing bulbs.

### Potted Bulb Design Guide

Planting up your own recipe of colour is always fun! Almost all spring-flowering bulbs can be grown in pots. Choose bulbs that will flower all at once, creating a big colourful display.

#### Soft Colour schemes

Pastel shades are probably the easiest way to create a soft look. It is nice to break the pastels up with white or cream blooms somewhere in your container. This will give a clean look instead of a washed out one. Another pleasant combination is to choose one colour and use two different shades of it, along with a white or cream to soften it up.

Example: Deep-purple, pale-purple and cream.

#### Bright colour schemes

For a burst of colour choose either three consecutive colours on the colour wheel making sure you pick flowers with intense deep, rich colour.

Consecutive colours are: **(red, orange, yellow)** **(orange, yellow, green)** **(yellow, green, blue)** **(green, blue, purple)**

Or choose complementary colours. These are colours that are opposite on the colour wheel: **(purple & yellow)** **(orange & blue)** or **(red & green)**

#### A simple, 3-tiered potted design for beginners as easy as 1, 2, 3

1. The first tier of 5-7 tall yellow tulips form the backbone of the planter. (*see illustration*)
2. The second tier of grape hyacinths (*Muscari* spp.) create a soft-looking ring around the container and offer a colour contrast to the tulips.
3. The bottom tier of yellow-centred primulas, hug the pot, mirror the colour of tulips, and conveniently bloom at the same time as the rest of the pot.

**If you'd like some help with your own recipe for a pot of colour our staff will be happy to assist you.**

