



Planting Guide

GET THE BEST FROM YOUR BULBS

Lilies, Peonies

Oriental Lilies,
Asiatic Lilies, Xmas
Lilies, Trumpet Lilies,
Peonies



AVAILABLE
JUNE
JULY



Edibles

Garlic, Shallots,
Seed Potatoes,
Asparagus

AVAILABLE
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST



Summer Bulbs

Dahlias, Callas,
Gladioli, Gloriosa,
Begonia, Vallota,
Tuberose, Crinum,
Hymenocallis +
much more

AVAILABLE
MID JULY
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER



Spring Bulbs

Tulips, Daffodils,
Freesias, Dutch Irises,
Hyacinths, Anemones,
Ranunculus, Muscari,
Crocuses, Scillas, Ixias +
much more

AVAILABLE
FEBRUARY
MARCH
APRIL
MAY





GARLIC

PLANTING YOUR GARLIC

The best time to be planting garlic cloves is mid May through to late July.

- Firstly, you need to break up each bulb into their individual cloves. It's the cloves that you plant, and not the whole bulb. Don't peel the cloves.
- Ensure that the area you have selected is free draining, has plenty of sun, and has all of the nutrients already added in (sheep pellets, compost etc).
- Bury each clove to a depth of around 5cm below the surface of the soil. Planting too shallow will generally cause problems with plants falling over, pulling the whole plant out of the ground.
- Space your garlic cloves around 15 cm apart - if you plant them too close, they'll end up being scrawny little things. Too much space and you'll end up with weeds coming out of your ears!
- Shoots will begin to emerge around a month after planting.

REMEMBER

- It's important to keep the area around your garlic as weed free as possible - garlic are one of those varieties that need all the nutrients they can get, and don't like to be fighting with weeds to obtain it.
- Weeds also block sunlight, and can cause diseases.
- Keep on top of the weeds by scratching the weeds up when they're still small, with a hand hoe or similar.
- **For more information on how to harvest your garlic ... head online to the Bulbs Direct Growers corner.**



SHALLOTS

PLANTING YOUR SHALLOTS

Shallots are traditionally planted on the shortest day and harvested on the longest, although they will grow if planted any time before spring - May through to around August is perfectly fine.

- Find a nice sunny spot with fertile, free draining soil - if your soil isn't free draining, you'll need to raise your beds.
- Dig in some sheep pellets or compost into the soil and work in well. Shallots will also do well in pots, but will require a good quality potting mix, and plenty of water over the spring months. We'd also recommend adding side dressings of fertilizer if growing in pots.
- Press them into the soil but leave half of the bulb poking out. Space your shallots at least 15-20 cm apart. Shallots form clusters of bulbs around the original bulb so they require more space than garlic.

REMEMBER

- Shallots don't like competing with weeds, so it's important to keep the area around your shallots as weed free as possible.
- Water regularly over the drier months - reduce the amount of water around a month out from harvesting (this will ensure that they keep once harvested).
- If flower stalks appear, it's a good idea to remove these. This will ensure that all of the shallot's energy is put into the bulbs, giving you a better production rate.
- **Head online to our Growers Corner for harvesting info!**





ASPARAGUS

GROWING ASPARAGUS

Asparagus Crowns can be planted anytime from early August through to late November, and will reward you with deliciousness for years to come!

- Select a nice and sunny permanent position, ensuring that all grass, roots, and oxalis etc are completely removed... we don't want the asparagus to be competing with weeds.
- It's important that the bed be raised 10-12 cm above the surrounding garden to ensure good drainage.
- Prior to planting, work in some compost, well rotted manure, or a good dressing of blood and bone fertilizer.
- To plant the crowns, open up a 15 cm wide trench 7-8 cm deep and place crowns 45 cm apart with roots spread out in star fashion. Replace the soil covering the crowns. Keep your rows 60-80 cm apart.

HARVESTING ASPARAGUS:

- In the first year cut spears for 2 weeks only - then allow plants to go to fern. Each year the cutting period can be extended until plants have become fully established.
- Harvest the shoots which are bigger than 1-2 cm in diameter, and leave the rest to grow into leafy ferns (they'll reach around 1.5 metres in height!) which will feed the crowns to give a bumper crop next year. If you take away all of the shoots, you'll be taking away next years harvest.
- Usually the cutting ceases in early December when plants are then allowed to run to fern.
- In autumn remove all fern when it has completely yellowed off.



SANDERSONIA

PLANTING YOUR SANDERSONIA TUBERS

Sandersonia, also known as the Golden Lily of the Valley, Chinese Lantern, or Golden Bells are Native to South Africa (where most of the worlds beautiful Bulbs originate!) they do relatively well in most parts of NZ.

- You should aim to be planting your Sandersonia Tubers early to mid Spring - we would suggest planting around mid to late September for optimal results, but they can happily be planted later.
- Find a nice sunny spot in your garden with free draining soil. If your soil isn't free draining, it's essential to raise your garden by adding additional soil, or of course plant them into pots! Soil needs to be free draining so that they don't rot over the winter months.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of 20cm, and mix in some of our Bulb Food - just a sprinkling. If you're concerned about bugs, add in a sprinkling of Neem Granules too.
- Plant around 5cm below the surface of the soil, and at least 10cm apart (plant the 2 legged Tuber flat/horizontal).
- - Sandersonia do require something to grow up (whether it be a stake, or another plant to lean against), so if you are growing it up a stake, now is a good chance to get that in the ground.
- Feel free to add a layer of untreated sawdust or other mulch - this will act as a weed suppressant, keeps the moisture content up in the soil, and it also helps to keep soil temperatures more constant. All hugely beneficial (nobody likes weeding!)
- Give your planted Sandersonia Tubers a good deep watering to begin with, then just when ever it is required. Once a week should do the trick, but it all depends on your rainfall.

REMEMBER

- Sandersonia Tubers have only one flowering life, but don't panic, as the Tuber re-produces new Tubers. The Tuber you purchase will die away this coming season, and at least 2 newbies will be produced for next season.



LILIES
ORIENTAL
ASIATIC
CHRISTMAS
TRUMPET

PLANTING YOUR LILY BULBS

- Select a nice, sunny position (at least 6 hours of good sunlight) with free draining soil. If your soil isn't free draining, you'll need to build the soil up into a mound - water trapped beneath the overlapping scales on the lily bulb may cause rot.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of at least 30 cm. Deep planting encourages the developing stem to send out roots to help stabilize the plant, which can often remove the need for staking.
- Enrich the soil with some general purpose fertilizer, or our specifically formulated Bulb Fert. It's important not to use sheep pellets, or cattle manure.
- Plant the bulbs around 10 cm below the surface of the soil, with the pointy side facing up. Fill the hole with soil.
- Space bulbs at a distance equal to about three times the bulb's diameter.
- Usually we recommend planting lily bulbs in groups of 3 to 5 bulbs - this will give you the best affect
- Give them a nice deep watering.

REMEMBER

- It's a good idea to keep lilies mulched so that their roots are cool. The mulch should feel moist, but not wet. Mulch will also act as a weed suppressant.
- We recommend applying a thin layer of compost each spring, followed by another layer of mulch.
- Some lilies will need staking - ideally these should be done at planting time, so you don't poke through the roots.
- It's a good idea to remove old blooms before they go to seed - this will ensure the plants don't waste energy in making seeds, and all of the energy will go back into producing bigger, more impressive blooms in the next season.
- After the lily blooms, you can remove the stem itself. However, it's important NOT to remove leaves until they have died down completely.
- Divide plants every 3 to 4 years.
- **More information on how to produce the perfect blooms can be found in our Growers Corner!**



CALLAS
(ZANTEDESCHIA)

PLANTING YOUR CALLA

Calla, also known as Zantedeschia, are a lovely South African native - they are super easy to grow, and are fantastic at adding colour and elegance to gardens, patios, and vases (Callas are the perfect cut flower - lasting for weeks in a vase!)

- Ideally, Calla bulbs should be planted from September through to around December (if planting into the garden) - it's possible to plant earlier if potted up in a nice warm sunny spot.
- Callas like semi-shade to full sun, so hunt out that perfect sunny spot where all can see! As with most bulbs, your soil needs to be relatively free draining.
- Calla bulbs should be planted to a depth of 5-10cm, and at least 10 cm apart in free draining soil. It's important to loosen the soil to a depth of around 20 cm.
- We recommend sprinkling a handful of general purpose fertilizer, or our special Bulb Fert after planting to really pamper those blooms!
- A layer of sawdust or mulch over the top wouldn't go amiss - this will keep the weeds suppressed, as well as helping to keep the soil temperature constant.

REMEMBER

- These beautiful bulbs will flower this summer, and will look spectacular.
- If we suddenly get a cold snap, flowering may be reduced, but don't panic ... next year they'll be back in full force!
- Watering is always a must with bulbs - a nice deep watering once planted, and then every week or so thereafter will be plenty.





PLANTING YOUR GLADIOLI

Gladioli (*Gladiolus*), also known as 'Sword Lilies', or 'Gladys', are a stunning summer flowering variety that produces tall slender stems ranging from 80 – 120 cm high.

- Gladioli can be timed to flower any time during summer simply by planting about 90 days before you require them to be in flower, but avoid planting until the danger of frosts have passed. You can also use this timing to create a long lasting display with stagger planting.
- Plant in full sun and in well-drained soil, if soil is heavy, mound it up so that excess water will run off from around the area were the corm has been planted.
- Ideally, loosen the soil to a depth of at least 20 cm, and mix in a sprinkling of bulb fertilizer (if you have it) or a general purpose Fert mix.
- Plant the corm so that the pointy part is facing up, to a depth of 8-10 cm.
- Protect them from strong winds by either planting in a shelter spot or supporting them with a growth support system.
- Insects and fungi can attack gladioli, so it is advisable to spray about every 2 – 3 weeks with an insecticide (try our Neem products!) and fungicide to keep your plants looking their best.



PLANTING YOUR YACON

Yacon is taking the world by storm - it's a delicious, unique tasting vegetable, best known for being a prebiotic super food. Yacon is also hugely beneficial to your soil, so it's a win-win here!

- Yacon should be planted around September/ October
- Yacon need plenty of space to grow, so it's important to plant them at least 70cm apart (they grow into impressive 2m tall beauties!)
- It's a good idea to work in some well rotted compost to your planting area prior to planting.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of around 40cm, and plant your Yacon crowns 10cm deep.
- Yacon are fairly pest and disease resistant, so you can just about plant and walk away, watering only when dry.

HARVESTING

- Harvesting the Tubers (which are the edible part) takes place after the plant has flowered - cut the leaves back (or if you've had a frost, there's no need to cut back, as the frost will have done this for you!) and using a garden fork, raise the crown and cut off the Tubers for eating. Leave the crown in the ground to reproduce new Tubers for next season.
- Once harvested, the tubers will keep for months if kept in a cool dark place. They are delicious raw or cooked (if using raw a bit of lemon juice can be used to stop them browning).

REMEMBER

- The crowns will grow larger each season and can be divided for more Yacon plants.





PLANTING YOUR DAHLIA

The best time to plant Dahlias here in NZ is September or October, but can be planted anytime from mid August through to late December.

- Dahlias love sun ,so choose a nice sunny spot in your garden. Ideally a spot that gets at least 4 hours of full sun a day.
- Dahlias will grow in almost any soil, but prefer well drained loamy soil conditions.
- Prepare the ground a few weeks before planting by digging over the soil thoroughly and adding a little well rotted compost and an application of general fertiliser.
- Before planting the tubers, apply stakes (for larger varieties) staking after planting damages roots and tubers.
- Plant your Dahlia tubers about 5-10cm deep and about 50cm apart with the eye facing upwards. Water well and keep moist being careful not to over-water.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF DAHLIAS...

Many, many moons ago...1789 to be precise, a number of Dahlias were sent from Mexico (their Native Homeland) to the botanical garden of Madrid, along with the recommendation to use them as food. At the time, this recommendation resulted in little popularity....

All that changed when Joséphine de Beauharnais, Napoleon's wife, had a sudden whim to fill her entire garden with Dahlias. Having set the new trend, everyone wanted some of these charming beauties in their garden. Dahlias quickly became the 'in' thing, and they soon became rather affordable; their status changed from 'exclusive' to 'ordinary', and for years, the charming Dahlia had to make do with this undeserved status. Fortunately, however, she has been rediscovered! This lady is again a hot item in the garden!

www.bulbsdirect.co.nz

AFTER PLANTING

- If you're wanting your dahlias to bloom like crazy, it's a good idea to pinch out the tops of your dahlia plants after the second set of leaves has developed ... it sounds ruthless I know, but by doing this your dahlia plant will form four flower stalks instead of one, and will ensure you have a lovely display of blooms for weeks, even months to come! Either cut them off with a sharp knife, or squeeze between your thumb and forefinger, remove the main shoot down to the top two pair of leaves.
- Speaking of being ruthless, it's also often recommended to remove all but five shoots sprouting from the tuber. There may be several more shoots, some of them spindly, however all but five should go... this will encourage bushy, vigorous plant growth, with masses of blooms.
- Earwigs and slugs can both be a pain when it comes to dahlias - it's important to keep on top of these wee buggers. Slug bait works a treat for slugs and snails, and the eco friendly Neem granules are fantastic for earwigs.

PICKING DAHLIAS

- Unlike a lot of Flowering Bulbs, Dahlia Flowers don't continue opening after they have been cut - it's therefore important to only pick blooms that are fully open.
- If you don't manage to pick every bloom for the vase, it's a good idea to have an occasional deadheading field day. Not only will this tidy the bush up, but it will significantly prolong their flowering, and ensure that more Nutrients head back down into the production of healthy Tubers.



 **BulbsDirect**



GLORIOSA

PLANTING YOUR GLORIOSA

Gloriosa Rothschildiana, also known as the Climbing Flame lily, is a gorgeous tropical lily that will climb up anything you put in front of it! Its beautiful flowers will begin popping out in December (earlier in warm climates) and will stay out for a month or longer.

- Gloriosa like to climb up fences, plants, stakes, or anything you want really - they will reach around 1m in height.
- Each tuber will send up 2 growing points, and will have up to 30 flowers each point ... these are a stunning addition to any garden!
- Gloriosa tubers can be planted anytime from September through to the end of December.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

- First things first- you need to find a nice, sunny spot in your garden with good drainage ... ensuring that it's in an area for all to see!
- Loosen the soil to a depth of 15 cm, and plant the 2 legged tubers flat (horizontally) - cover your tubers with around 10 cm of soil.
- Tubers love to be fertilized, so a handful of general purpose fertilizer, or our special Bulb Food is advised.
- Do remember, that the more you pamper your tubers, the better your blooms will be!
- Gloriosa lilies are a climbing lily, and will require something to grow up or over - staking will work perfectly, or simply let it grow up a nearby plant.
- You will have blooming spectacular flowers for years to come ... ENJOY!!



BEGONIA

PLANTING YOUR BEGONIA

Begonia are a classic gardener's favourite, and can be grown in pots, hanging baskets or in the garden, they are even a great indoor plant!

- There's a huge range of varieties, so there is bound to be one or two that will tickle your fancy.
- Begonias should be planted around early spring. Find a nice, well drained spot for your tubers - begonias don't like too much sun, so the hotter your region, the less sun they need! If planting in pots indoors, ensure that they have access to a bit of light, but not full sun.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

- Plant the tubers around 3 cm below the surface of the soil, ensuring the indented side of the tuber is facing up.
- Cover your tubers with soil, and give them a dousing of water ... you should see the tip of the begonia breaking the surface of the soil over the next 3 weeks.
- When watering, make sure you don't over do it - keep the soil a little damp, but not soggy! You should always water around the tuber/plant, and not the plant itself (this could cause mildew problems).
- When your begonias first start to flower, we recommend pinching off the first 3 or 4 buds, as this will encourage the plant to produce larger blooms!
- Once you have enjoyed your beautiful flowers, the plant will begin to die down. Please let it die down on its own, as this is an important part of the tubers growth.
- Once fully died down, you can either dig out the bulbs, or leave them in the ground for next summer!
- We recommend digging the bulbs if your region experiences very cold, or wet winters. Store your bulbs in a nice cool, dry spot, ready for next summer.
- Begonias ... blooming amazing!



HIPPEASTRUM

GROWING HIPPEASTRUM

The Hippeastrum is a bulbous plant that originated in South Africa - this beauty has 4 to 6 large flowers on thick, impressive, hollow stems.

GROWING HIPPEASTRUM IN POTS

- Pot bulb into any size container into which it will fit - providing it has drainage holes
- Choose a brand name potting mix (ph 6.0 to 7.0). Ideally it should contain no tree bark or fresh manure.
- Hold bulb over the pot so the roots hang into the pot.
- Fill in around bulb with medium.
- Firm down so no air pockets remain. The nose of the bulb should be above the pots rim with its shoulders protruding above the soil surface.
- After planting water well and firm down soil again. Be careful not to damage the plant roots.
- Place your potted bulb in a light warm position at room temperature.
- As first flora stems lengthen, rotate the pot a half turn every day to help stop the stem growing towards the strongest source of light.
- When flowering has finished and foliage is drying down, place the bulb and pot on its side in a cool, dry place.
- Allow the bulb a well earned rest without food or water for 3 months.
- Afterwards remove the old foliage, wash bulb and repeat from the start again, or place in the garden to flower again in spring



VALLOTA



PLANTING YOUR VALLOTA

Vallota lilies are stunning plants - super easy to grow, they will perform year after year.

- Vallota's are a wonderful South African bulb that will naturalise nicely here in NZ if left in the ground. The cheery scarlet blooms are an attractive feature in the summer and autumn months.
- Vallota leaves are upright and strappy, growing 20 - 45 cm long - they add a nice contrast to the bright red.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

- Plant your vallota bulbs in a permanent position as they tend to sulk if they are moved.
- Vallota bulbs do well in pots but can also be planted outside in a nice sunny spot, ensuring a rich free draining soil.
- Plant with the neck of the bulb just above the soil 10 - 12 cm apart.
- These bulbs thrive when they are crowded, so once planted leave them undisturbed for 3-4 years.
- Water well during growth but sparingly once the foliage starts to yellow.
- Fertilise with a general purpose fertiliser or bulb food to ensure beautiful flowers year after year.
- You will be amazed at how easy vallota bulbs are to grow! Enjoy.





PLANTING YOUR PEONIES

Paeonies (peonies) are surprisingly easy to grow given the correct growing conditions.

- Being planted in the correct location and given a little attention, most peonies will grow profusely in the same spot for many years, and will become a focal point of your gardens.
- They thrive in frosty cold areas, and require some cold to flower successfully. Ideally requiring at least 3 frosts a year. They are also incredibly drought tolerant through the summer.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

- Choose a well-drained site where they'll get full sun.
- Deep, fertile soil is an advantage, however peonies can still perform well in relatively poor soils providing they don't get waterlogged.
- Allow an area of around one square metre for when they are fully grown (around 3 years from planting).
- It's important to keep peonies away from trees and shrubs (even overhanging branches are a pest) as this is one of the main factors for failure to thrive.
- For normal Herbaceous peonies, plant the roots with the eyes facing upwards, and the roots on a slight downward angle, to a depth of 5 cm below the surface of the soil.
- For Itoh peonies, plant so that the tallest eye is just below the surface of the soil. Plant so that the roots are horizontal.



CARING FOR YOUR PEONIES

- Adding a sprinkling of general purpose Fertilizer to your Peonies once a season can usually help improve the colouring and size of the Blooms - Peonies aren't gross feeders, and to be perfectly honest, don't require fertilizer at all, but we have found that the blooms will be slightly better with a sprinkling.
- We would recommend not using compost, as this has been known to cause Botrytis (a grey Mould) which causes stem rot and blackened leaves. On that note, if you find your Peonies with Botrytis, your best method to rid your plant of it is to remove diseased parts as they present themselves.
- It's a good idea to mulch over your Peonies, to keep the weeds suppressed.

PEONY FLOWERING

- Peonies don't tend to like being moved, so it's highly likely that you won't see many, if any, flowers in the first season of growth. This is nothing to be worried about.
- It's important not to cut any stems in their first year of growth, as they are building up strength for their next season.
- Peonies usually flower from late October to Early December, and make excellent cutflowers.
- If you're wanting to bring your beautiful blooms inside, then Peony flowers should be picked while they are still in bud form to give them their longest vase life - it's important to only cut around 1/3rd of the stem (half at most), as the plant needs this to continue to thrive.
- Removing side buds will increase the size of the main flower. However, leaving the side buds prolongs the flowering display time, so it's up to you whether you de-bud or not.
- Once the foliage has died down and changed colour after blooming, cut it off and remove it to avoid disease.



SAFFRON

PLANTING YOUR SAFFRON



Plant your saffron bulbs from late December through to late March.

- Plant around 10 cm apart and 10-15 cm deep, in nice, free draining soils – ensure that they get plenty of sunlight.
- Saffron flowers in it's first season, roughly 40 - 60 days after planting.
- Rain or watering 10 -15 days before flowering results in higher production; dry conditions will often cause smaller flowers and thus smaller stigmas.
- Saffron corms tend to naturalise incredibly well in our climate, but we recommend lifting them every 3 to 4 years, as flower numbers will begin to drop after this point. You'll be pleasantly surprised at the amount of corms that you get out of the few that were planted!

FLOWER HARVESTING

- Harvest the flowers by pinching off at the base with your fingernail, or with a slight twisting movement.
- They are best harvested in the morning after dew has evaporated – it's possible to harvest the stigmas without picking the flowers, but a little difficult, so our suggestion is to pick the flower, and then collect the stigmas.
- Once you've collected the stigmas, it's important to dry them as soon as possible to avoid rot.
- Drying and storing information can be found on our website.



POLYGONATUM



PLANTING YOUR POLYGONATUM

Polygonatum, more commonly known as Solomon's Seal is a hardy, herbaceous perennial that does best in cool, dappled shade in rich soil. The perfect woodland plant, that looks fantastic alongside Hostas and ferns.

- Polygonatum multiflorum, which typically grow to around 75cm in height, form an attractive clump of rich green leaves with delightfully scented creamy white blooms.
- Flowering late spring to early summer - both the foliage and blooms make for a stunning addition to the vase!

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

- Find yourself a nice spot that has part/full shade
- Loosen the soil to a depth of 30cm, and mix in some well rotted compost, with a wee sprinkling of Bulb Food.
- Plant around 5cm deep, and ensure you leave spacing of around 25cm.
- Keep moist during growing season when rainfall isn't sufficient.
- Cut back dead foliage and old stems to the ground in Winter. If necessary to move the plant, lift and divide during the Winter months. You should replant it as quickly as possible.





RAIN LILIES



AMARYLLIS BELLADONNA

GROWING RAIN LILIES

Rain lilies (*Zephyranthes*) can be planted any time of the year – the most common variety being *Candida*, a stunning evergreen variety, that are perfect in borders, and look particularly stunning planted in mass.

- *Candida* rain lilies are one of the smaller of the *Zephyranthes*, flowering to around 15 cm in height - planted in clumps, they make for a spectacular sight once in flower.
- Other varieties of rain lilies that are available through Bulbs Direct, include the taller white - *Drummondii*, which grows to an astounding 30 - 40cm, a beautiful light yellow variety - *Primulina*, which flowers to around 20-30 cm, the striking bright yellow variety - *Flavissima*, flowering on a 10-20cm stem, and several beautiful pinks.
- Rain lilies do best in well-drained soils, in full sun or part shade, but require frequent watering to perform to their best.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

- Plant your bulbs about 2.5 cm deep with the greenery above the surface of the soil.
- Rain lilies look great in clumps, so we suggest planting them in groups of 5. The closer they are planted, the sooner you will achieve your mass-planted look.
- It's essential to keep your bulbs watered over the summer period (particularly if just planted) – a nice deep watering once a week would suffice.



PLANTING AMARYLLIS BELLADONNA (NAKED LADIES)

Belladonna lilies, or 'Naked Ladies' as they are more commonly known, are a hardy, summer flowering bulb native to South Africa.

- The term Naked Ladies comes from the behavior of the plant, which sends up greenery in late autumn, eventually dying back to nothing by the latter part of spring. Then when late summer hits, the plant sprouts a stem without leaves with a big impressive flower at the end of it. The stem without leaves is where the designation "naked lady" comes from.
- *Amaryllis Belladonna*s love the sun and can be planted almost anywhere with well-draining soil, as long as they can soak in those rays!

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Loosen your soil to a depth of around 20 cm. Plant your bulbs with the pointed tip upwards, ensuring that around 1/3 of the neck of the bulb remains exposed to the air. In other words, don't completely cover it up.

- Naked ladies tend to do better when planted in groups, so we recommend planting a minimum of three bulbs, allowing them to touch one another. Clusters of these look absolutely stunning!
- Water after being planted, getting the soil damp but not soggy. *Amaryllis* don't mind moisture, but as with most plants, they won't do well if they get too wet!
- Ideally, you should leave your Bulbs to multiply up on their own - no need to lift these Bulbs! Let them do their thing.





CLIVIA

PLANTING CLIVIA

Clivia - one of our absolute faves! Whether you grow them in beds or pots, clivias are among the most versatile, hardy and beautiful plants you can include in your landscape

- Clivias are incredibly easy to grow, but their position is vital. Early morning sun or dappled shade is best, with protection from midday and afternoon sun. Clivias planted out in the open will become scorched and unsightly on the first hot sunny day.
- In colder climates, Clivia will generally need protection from frosts. The far-reaching canopy of a deciduous tree over the top your Clivia patch will work a treat in preventing frost damage.
- Clivia will eventually clump up into a much larger plant, so we recommend spacing them to be at least 30 cm apart.
- Plant your Clivia into nice free draining soil, with some added organic matter to give it a boost (loosen the soil to a depth of around 20 cm, and plant so that the roots are below the surface of the soil).

PLANTING CLIVIA IN POTS:

- Potted Clivia are a perfect way of adding colour to a shady courtyard or patio.
- In pots and containers, Clivia like to be root bound ... they like to be left undisturbed for many years.
- Do not over-water them when in pots, nor have them sitting in saucers of water, as their fleshy roots can rot if they are over saturated.
- A bit of tough love seems to work with Clivia!



BEARDED IRIS

GROWING BEARDED IRIS

Bearded Irises are elegant and colourful - With a little know-how, you can grace your garden with long-lasting, ever-multiplying blooms for years to come.

- To perform at their best, bearded irises require full sun for at least half a day in summer - insufficient sun over the summer period will dramatically hinder the flower production. If possible, full sun is preferred.
- Bearded irises don't tend to like humidity, but they love frosts!

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

- You should plant your rhizome, so that part of it is still exposed, or with no more than 1-2 cm of soil over the rhizome. The reason we plant them in this manner, is they need to be exposed to both the heat of the summer, and the cold of the winter (if you're in the North, and you have planted in full sun, then 1-2 cm of soil over the top is recommended).

REMEMBER

- It's important not to mulch over the top of irises, as the moisture retention can cause rot.
- When it comes to watering, our motto for bearded irises is that less is more ... they are fairly drought tolerant plants once established and many will generally survive with no summer watering. If you do water them, they should not be watered any more than every 2 weeks or so in dry periods.





TUBEROSE



CRINUM

PLANTING YOUR TUBEROSE

Tuberose, or Polianthes Tuberosa, is a heavenly scented Mexican native variety - If you're a gardener who loves scent, you'll fall in love with Tuberose!

- Tuberose do best in warm areas of the garden (or patio) in full sun.
- Find a nice sunny spot in your garden with good drainage - the sunnier the better!
- Dig in some well rotted manure, and a sprinkling of our Bulb Fert.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of around 20 cm, and plant your bulb pointy side up, at around 4 - 5cm deep. The tuberose bulbs we sell are actually nice clumps of bulbs, so you'll get a lovely display come late Summer!
- Once planted, give your tuberose a generous watering - this will settle the soil, and give them the jump start they require. You should expect to see growth within a few weeks (colder areas will take longer).

REMEMBER

- Water fairly regularly during the growing season if the rain has evaded you (a decent watering once a week is much better than lighter drinks).
- Tuberose plants are heavy feeders, so we recommend a side dressing once the leaves have appeared (the blooms will thank you for it!)
- Tuberose generally flower late in the summer, so it's a lovely addition when many varieties have finished blooming. Generally speaking, we would expect them to bloom 90 - 120 days after planting.
- Tuberose are a fantastic cut-flower, so if you're wanting to bring those delicious scented blooms inside ... go for it! As with all flowers, it's recommended to pick them in the morning or evening (not during the heat of the day). This will ensure your blooms last as long as possible.
- After blooming has finished for the season leave the foliage in place; don't cut it off.

GROWING CRINUM

Deliciously fragrant, Crinums are a lovely addition to the summer garden - their robust, tall stems are adorned with large, trumpet-like blooms.

- Crinums perform best in moist, but free draining soils, in full sun to part shade.
- Crinums can grow to a staggering 90-120 cm, and 30-60 cm wide, so its essential to leave space for them.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

- Find a nice and sunny spot in the garden - the soil needs to be relatively free draining, as you don't want them to rot.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of around 20 cm, and dig in some Bulb Fert, or well rotted organic matter.
- Plant the bulbs so that they are at least 30 cm apart (they get fairly large!). Bury the bulb up to the place where the stem emerges from the "neck" of the bulb (the stem should be above the ground and the neck should be under the soil).
- During the first summer of growth, keep them watered (try to keep the soil around the bulbs lightly moist).
- Once Crinums are established (a year or so after first planted) they are relatively drought tolerant, so watering is no longer required. Potted Crinums need to be watered frequently to keep the soil consistently moist.



PREPARING YOUR SEED POTATOES



POTATOES



Certified, NZ Grown Seed Potatoes... nothing beats them!

- You should aim to have brought your preferred seed potatoes up to 6 weeks before planting... this is to allow them to begin to sprout (called chitting).
- Always use certified, virus free seed potatoes to ensure you get great results.
- It's important not to plant out your Seed Potatoes until after the risk of frosts have ended (alternatively if you're super eager, the use of Frost cloth can do the trick)
- Store your seed Potatoes in a nice dry area until they produce shoots between 2 – 4 cm long (storing in an egg container is our wee hack!)

SORTING OUT THE PLANTING AREA

- Potatoes are best grown in the garden, but can also do well in buckets, tire stacks or planter bags.
- Select a position in your garden that is sunny and free draining but reasonably sheltered from strong winds.
- Potatoes are hungry wee fellas, and will need plenty of fertiliser for them to perform at their best. Treat them right, and they'll treat you with plenty of scrumptious spuds.

IN THE GARDEN

- If you can, avoid planting your potatoes where tomatoes were planted last season.
- Prepare the soil by working it up well, and mixing in some organic matter - adding organic matter enriches the soil, creating the perfect growing conditions.
- We recommend adding in some organic Fertilizer at this point - Blood and Bone works best (if you have a hungry Labrador like we do, I'd suggest skipping the Blood and Bone... we've learnt our lesson here!)
- After the soil has been thoroughly worked up, dig a trench about 15cm deep and place the seed potatoes approximately 25cm apart, if you need more than one trench space each one 80 cm apart.
- Lay each potato with the shoots pointing upwards and carefully cover them back over with soil without damaging the shoots.

HARVEST TIME

- Early varieties are generally ready to harvest approximately 90 days (3 months) after planting or when the flowers are fully opened.
- The main and late crop are ready when the flowers and foliage (leaves) have died back.
- Dig your fresh potatoes using a fork, carefully remove the soil from the top of the row then dig right down under them and lift up, start digging well back from where they were planted to avoid damaging any new spuds then work your way into the plant.
- IF harvesting from containers or buckets, just tip it over onto the mat or tarpaulin (this makes it easier to clean up) and hunt down you fresh spuds in the soil.

STORING FOR EATING

- First up, check each variety for storability, rub the skin with your thumb and if it peels off easily then eat these varieties first as they will not keep for a long time.
- As soon as they have been dug, dry them thoroughly (you can wash them first if you want) and store them in a cool dark place that has good ventilation, do not expose your eating potatoes to light.
- Storing them in old sacks or paper bags is fine as they can 'breathe' in these, but do not store in a sealed container such as an ice cream container with the lid on because they will get no fresh air.
- Keep a close eye on them and remove and rotten ones immediately, these will infect the good ones next to it if they are not removed in time.
- Carefully stored potatoes can last up to 6 months. .





PLANTING YOUR HYMENOCALLIS

Hymenocallis bulbs should be planted in late spring, but can be planted right through to the end of the year.

- Hymenocallis bulbs prefer to be planted in full sun or part shade, and require moist, yet free draining soil.
- Dig down to a depth of at least 20 cm, and mix in some Bulb fert (or general purpose fertilizer will do the trick).
- Each plant has a spread of around 20 cm, so it's important not to plant them too close together.
- When planting your bulbs, leave the necks slightly above the surface of the soil.
- Give them a decent watering to kick start them, and continue to do so around once a week if there is a lack of rain (the soil should be lightly moist).
- We recommend a side dressing of fertilizer a couple of months after planting (this will help them bloom to perfection).
- Every 5 years or so, it's a good idea to dig your bulbs out and separate the clumps - Hymenocallis don't tend to like being overcrowded, so by doing this you will ensure plenty of flowers year in, year out! (This should be done in early spring).

GROWING YOUR SONATINI

Sonatini are fantastic in pots, or directly into the garden. Sonatini Hippeastrums were developed by Dutch breeders using hardy species of the same family.

They are more compact than traditional Hippeastrums, growing 30-40cm high and 10-15cm across, but have just as much, if not more flower power.

PLANTING

- If you're wanting to plant directly into the garden - plant bulbs in a sunny position with well-drained soil. Mix in a good sprinkling of fertilizer, or decayed animal manure (Leave the top of each bulb protruding above the soil)
- For potting, plant at the same depth. Choose a pot large enough to allow a minimum of 3-4 cm of soil around the bulb, with the nose of the bulb protruding from the top of the pot. A 15cm pot should be big enough.
- Planted in full sunlight, they should flower in approximately 4 - 5 weeks. If they are budding up too quickly for your desired flowering time (e.g. you're wanting a Christmas display) then pop your pot in a cooler position.
- Same deal goes in reverse, if flowering appears too slow, place in a warmer position with more sunlight.

