



## 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



## PLANTING YOUR TULIPS



TULIPS

Tulips love colder climates, but will also do incredibly well in warmer regions (even as far North as the Cape!)

- If you don't have a cold climate like ourselves, we recommend chilling your Tulip Bulbs for 6 to 8 weeks prior to planting. This will trick them into thinking they are having their Winter period, and prolong their stems and Flowering period.
- If you're chilling them as we do, you should leave them in their paper bags, and pop into your fridge around late March - taking them out to plant late May. Keep an eye on your Bulbs as they are being chilled as you don't want them to go moldy.

### Planting into the ground

- Pick a nice sunny spot for your Tulip Bulbs - Full Sun or Part Shade if you're in a warm region.
- Plant in free draining soil, around 10cm deep (in cool regions), and 15cm in warmer regions, and leave spacings of around 10cm to give them room for expansion. If your soil isn't free draining, you'll need to raise the beds slightly to ensure they don't get bogged down during the Winter Months.
- Give your Bulbs a kick start using our specially prepared Bulb Food... they'll thank you for it with an even better display.

### Planting in pots

- Ensure you get a good quality potting mix, and mix in a bit of compost for good measure.
- Plant your Tulip Bulbs 10cm deep, with spacings of only 1 or 2cm's (this will give you a stunning display!)
- Give them a nice deep watering to begin with, and site your pots in an area that gets Full Sun to Part Shade. It's essential to keep watering them, as potting mix will easily dry out.
- Add some mulch on top to keep the soil moisture in... and the weeds out! Ensure that the mulch fairly fine.

After their Spring flowering (and before they go to seed), we recommend deheading the flowers (if you haven't already cut them for your vase). This will ensure that all of the energy is put back into the Tulip Bulb, rather than energy going into the formation of seed.



It's important not to cut down the leaves until they are yellow, as this is a vital part of the growing process.

## PLANTING YOUR DAFFODILS



DAFFODILS

Daffodils are best planted from the beginning of April, through to mid May (however can happily be planted a couple of weeks either side of that)

### Planting into the ground

- Daffodil's, as with most Bulbs, require a good amount of Sun (for best results). The beauty of Daffodils however is they are significantly more tolerant of shade. They can therefore be planted in Full Sun or Part shade. Ensure that the soil is free draining, and if it's not, build it up around 10cm with soil to create a raised bed.
- Plant your Daffodil Bulbs with the pointed tip facing up, around 10cm below the surface of the soil, with a nice mix of fertilizer... try our special Bulb Food mix for superior results!
- Once planted, give them a good dousing of water - a good deep watering.
- After a few days, your Daffodil Bulbs will begin working their magic - roots will start appearing, so it's essential that if there hasn't been any rain, that you continue to water every once in a while.

### Planting in pots

- Daffodils are fantastic in pots - the best varieties being the miniature versions such as Tete a Tete Daffodil. Ensure your selected pot has drainage holes, and is at least 20cm deep.
- The soil should be a good quality potting mix. You can add in some well worked garden soils too... if you do, make sure you add in Bulb Food.
- Plant your Daffodil Bulbs 10cm deep
- Choose an area that has full Sun to part Shade. On your deck or patio works a treat.
- Give them a good deep watering. Keep in mind that potting mix tends to dry out quickly, so it's a good idea to water them once in a while.

The beauty of growing them in pots, is that when they start dying down and looking a bit scruffy, they are easily moved out of sight.

You'll start seeing leaves popping through around the middle of Winter. There's not a lot you'll need to do, other than sprinkling around a little Slug bait... slugs and snails tend to love Daffodils.



## PLANTING YOUR FREESIAS

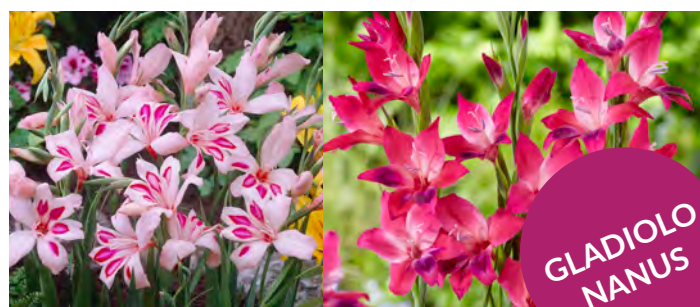
Freesia's are a Kiwi favourite - their stunning sweet scent and beautiful colourful blooms make for an instant impact in any garden.

- Freesia Bulbs are well suited for naturalising, establishing themselves relatively quickly within the garden, but are also perfect in pots. The beauty of growing Freesias in pots is the ability to move them close to the house once in flower, to distribute their heavenly aroma.
- Freesias are actually corms rather than Bulbs, and will send out all of their nutrients in one season to produce a beautiful display. The corm will then reproduce into several other corms, with the initial corm fading away into nothing.
- You can plant Freesias anytime from March through to late May.

### Planting guide

- Freesia Bulbs (Corms) require full Sun or part shade to thrive.
- Ensure your soil is free draining. If the soil retains too much water, the corms will rot away in the Winter Months. To avoid this, you can build up your beds.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of at least 15cm, and mix in some good quality Bulb fertilizer.
- Plant Freesias with the pointy part of the corm facing upwards, and a depth of around 6cm. You can plant Freesia Bulbs fairly close together, however we would suggest no closer than 5cm.
- Give your Freesias a good deep initial watering, and continue to do so once every few days if conditions are dry, or if you have planted them in pots (generally potting mix dries out quickly)

More information on how to produce the perfect blooms can be found in our Growers Corner!



## PLANTING YOUR GLADIOLI NANUS

Gladioli Nanus are a beautiful dwarf, Spring flowering Gladioli - their smaller stature make them perfect in pots, or as a border plant. They are incredibly hardy.

- These petite, early-blooming, hardier-than-usual glads, are perfect for the Spring bouquet.
- Gladioli Nanus can be planted anytime from late March through to mid/late May.

### Planting guide

- Find a sheltered Sunny spot in your garden with good free draining soil. Gladioli Nanus will tolerate Part shade, but will give you a better display if planted in full Sun.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of around 20cm, and mix in some good quality Bulb Food.
- Plant your Gladioli Nanus Bulbs with their tip facing upwards, at a depth of around 5-7cm. We recommend planting in groups to give the best display (they'll also hold each other up better)
- Give them a good deep watering - keep moist throughout their growing cycle, but not too wet.

Gladioli Nanus are incredibly hardy, but can be subject to Thrips and Rust. Thrips are a sap-sucking pest that will eventually suck the goodness out of your blooms. You can combat thrips by spraying with a general purpose insecticide - we recommend Naturally Neem for this.

Rust diseases occur most often in mild, moist conditions. Rust is spread by spores that are transferred from infected plants to healthy plants - to combat Rust, we would recommend a fungicide spray such as Yates Bravo.

For more information on picking your blooms, plant care and harvesting, head to our Growers Corner.



## PLANTING DUTCH IRIS



DUTCH IRIS

Among one of the hardiest, easiest to grow Spring Bulb varieties, the Dutch Iris is a real must have. They are a fantastic cutflower, lasting for a couple of weeks in a vase.

- Flowering relatively early in the season (around September) on lovely strong stems.
- Dutch Irises can be planted from late March through to mid May.

### Planting into the ground

- Dutch Irises require full Sun to perform at their best. Find a spot in the garden that's free draining, otherwise your Bulbs will rot over the Winter. If the soil's not free draining, you can raise your bed slightly to combat this.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of at least 15cm, mixing in a bit of Bulb Food while you're at it, and plant with the pointy side up, around 10cm deep.
- Adding a bit of compost wouldn't go a miss... make sure you don't use manure, as this will generally give you more leaves and less flowers.
- Give your Bulbs a nice deep watering to kick start them.
- You should start seeing leaves appearing from mid May, with their flowers around September onwards.

### Planting in pots

- As with most Spring Bulbs, Dutch Irises do great in pots. Make sure your pot is at least 20cm deep, and has good drainage holes.
- Select a good quality potting mix, and add a little compost in. You can use garden soil too providing it is free draining, but make sure you add in some Bulb food.
- $\frac{3}{4}$  fill your pot with soil, and place the Bulbs in (it's easier to push them in slightly, so that when you fill the pot up with the remainder of the soil, the bulbs don't fall over) You're wanting the tips to be facing up, and around 10cm below the surface of the soil.
- Give your pot a good deep watering, remembering that the soil in pots can often get rather dry, it's important to water more often than if they were in the ground.
- Site your pot somewhere where it can receive full sun.

## PLANTING YOUR IRIS RETICULATA

IRIS RETICULATA

Iris Reticulata's are a stunningly beautiful dwarf Iris, flowering on 10-15cm stems.

### Planting into the ground

- Reticulata Irises require full Sun to perform at their best, but will happily tolerate part shade. Find a spot in the garden that's free draining, otherwise your Bulbs will rot over the Winter. If the soil's not free draining, you can raise your bed slightly to combat this.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of at least 15cm, mixing in a bit of Bulb Food while you're at it, and plant with the pointy side up, around 10cm deep.
- Adding a bit of compost wouldn't go a miss... make sure you don't use manure, as this will generally give you more leaves and less flowers.
- Give your Bulbs a nice deep watering to kick start them.
- You should start seeing leaves appearing from mid May, with their flowers around September onwards.



### Planting in pots

- As with most Spring Bulbs, Reticulata Irises do great in pots. Make sure your pot is at least 20cm deep, and has good drainage holes.
- Select a good quality potting mix, and add a little compost in. You can use garden soil too providing it is free draining, but make sure you add in some Bulb food.
- $\frac{3}{4}$  fill your pot with soil, and place the Bulbs in (it's easier to push them in slightly, so that when you fill the pot up with the remainder of the soil, the bulbs don't fall over) You're wanting the tips to be facing up, and around 10cm below the surface of the soil.
- Give your pot a good deep watering, remembering that the soil in pots can often get rather dry, it's important to water more often than if they were in the ground.
- Site your pot somewhere where it can receive full sun.

### After flowering

- As with all Bulbs, it's vital to let the plants die down on their own - as tempting as it can be to remove the unsightly leaves, it's important not to. Bulbs are a wee storage system, and need the Nutrients gained from the leaves to do well in subsequent years. Once the foliage is brown and dry it's fine to remove.

## PLANTING HYACINTH

Hyacinth's are a heavily scented Spring Flowering variety that is fantastic grown indoors, in pots, or out in the garden - their striking colours makes a real statement.

### Planting in pots or in the ground

- Hyacinth's like to have a chilling period to ensure their flowers aren't stunted, so if you live in a warm region, you'll need to chill your Bulbs in the fridge for 4-6 weeks. Keep the Bulbs in the paper bag they came in, and chill them from late March, until early to mid April (chilling!, not freezing)
- Hyacinth's require free draining soil, and Full Sun to part shade. If you want your Hyacinths to have longer stems, then part shade is recommended.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of at least 15cm, and mix in some general purpose fertilizer, or our specifically formulated Bulb Food.
- Plant 10cm deep, with the pointy part of the Bulb facing upwards.

Hyacinth's will need to be lifted around December/January if you live in a warmer district, as you'll need to go through the chilling period again to get a good flowering crop.

### Planting in Hyacinth glasses

'Forcing' Hyacinth's by growing them in glass jars is increasingly popular, and fairly straightforward, and is the perfect way of bringing the beautiful fragrance into your home - it's also a fantastic way of forcing your Hyacinths to flower earlier than usual.

- Place a piece of charcoal at the bottom of the jar (this is to prevent algae growth)
- Fill the jar with water, to just below where the Bulb will sit. It's important that the Bulb is not touching the water, as this will cause the Bulb to rot.
- Place the Hyacinth Bulb in the jar (it will sit in the narrow neck of the jar), with the pointy part of the Bulb facing up (and the flatter side of the Bulb facing downwards)
- Place the Hyacinth jar in your fridge (away from Fruit and vegetables if possible, as these will cause growth issues) for around 8 weeks - topping up the water if necessary.
- After around 8 weeks of growth, your Hyacinths should have fully developed roots, which take up most of the jar, and the Bulb will likely have a shoot of around 3-4cm. If the roots haven't fully developed, it's important to give them another couple of weeks in the fridge.



- Over the next 3 to 4 weeks, gradually move the Hyacinth Jar into stronger lit, warmer areas of the house. Too much light and warmth at this stage of growth can cause your Hyacinth to grow too rapidly, giving you a flimsy flower stem.
- After around 5 weeks, your Hyacinth will be in full flower, spreading it's fragrance around your home. Ensure that it's not in full sun, or getting too hot, as this will shorten the vase life.
- After flowering, we recommend planting your Bulb into the garden. It will take a couple of seasons for the Bulb to recover from it's forced flowering, so we recommend leaving it a couple of years before being able to do this all over again.

## PLANTING YOUR MUSCARI



Muscari, or Grape hyacinths as they're often referred to, make outstanding border plants, and are fantastic for Naturalising.

- We recommend to always plant plenty of bulbs (at least 25) in a group to obtain the best visual effect. A spot under deciduous shrubs is another place where grape hyacinths will be attractive.
- After all, the flowering period for grape hyacinths comes at a time when the shrubs are still bare.

### Planting guide

- Muscari's will thrive in full sun to part shade - under deciduous trees is always popular.
- Plant in well drained soil, 3-5cm deep. Ensure that the soil is loosened to at least 10cm, and add in some Bulb food.
- Water well to begin with, but avoid over-watering... as long as the soil is moist, and not too damp, they'll perform well.

Muscari will Naturalise well, so there is no need to lift Muscari Bulbs, however if you have grown them in pots, you may wish to.

Ensure that you let the foliage die down naturally prior to harvesting the Bulbs - the best time to harvest Muscari is late December through to late January.

Once lifted, let them dry for a few days, and store them somewhere cool and dry until planting time, which is around late March/April.



ANEMONE

## PLANTING YOUR ANEMONE

Anemones (also known as Windflowers) are one of the best-bang-for-your-buck varieties. One of the easiest ways to add colour and beauty to your Spring garden. Simple to grow, and incredibly floriferous.

- These tiny little Rhizomes pack a real punch! Anemones are fantastic planted in mass, and make a great cut flower. To prolong your display, they can be stagger planted.
- Anemones can be planted anytime from March through to late May.

### Planting in the ground or in pots



- Prior to planting, we recommend chilling your Anemones in the paper bag they arrived in, for around 3-5 weeks. This will give them a good kick start.
- Anemones are best planted in full Sun, or a semi shaded position, and are well suited for pots.
- It's essential to have free draining soil, but this can be rectified by raising your beds with compost and other soils if you're in a heavy clay type area.
- Before planting, soak the Anemone Rhizomes in water for around 2 hours.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of around 10-15cm, and mix in some Bulb Food.
- Simply push the small Rhizomes into the soil (pointy part facing downwards) with your finger, to a depth of around 3 - 5cm.
- Soak well once planted, and continue to soak well every week until shoots emerge, and then keep them moist but not wet.

Anemones are reasonably heavy feeders, so a few side dressings of fertiliser over their growing period can help to prolong their flowering significantly.

Anemones are great as cutflowers, however unlike Ranunculus, it's recommended to let the flowers open and close for a couple of nights before picking - this will prolong their vase life.

Once the foliage has died back in late Spring, you can harvest the Anemone Bulbs (Rhizomes), or simply leave them to pop up next year. Note that Anemones won't do as well in subsequent seasons, so if you're wanting a beautiful display every year it's recommended to buy in new stock each season (new stock from Bulbs Direct is younger, and much more floriferous)



RANUNCULUS

## PLANTING YOUR RANUNCULUS

Ranunculus (also known as Persian buttercup) are showy, value-for-money, and incredibly easy to grow - their prolonged flowering period makes them a perfect addition to your garden or balcony.

- Ranunculus corms are fairly unusual looking, as they have small fleshy roots, known as claws attached.
- Ranunculus can be planted anytime from late March through to around June.

### Planting in the ground or in pots

- Prior to planting, we recommend chilling your Ranunculus corms in the paper bag they arrived in, for around 3-5 weeks. This will give them a good kick start.
- Ranunculus are best planted in full Sun, or a semi shaded position, and are well suited for pots. Semi shade will help to lengthen their stems.
- It's essential to have free draining soil, but this can be rectified by raising your beds with compost and other soils if you're in a heavy clay type area.
- Before planting, soak the Ranunculus in water for around 2 hours.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of around 10-15cm, and mix in some Bulb Food (if you've had trouble growing Ranunculus before, try sprouting them in seed raising mix before planting out into the garden)
- Carefully push the small corms into the soil (claws facing downwards) with your finger, to a depth of around 3 - 5cm.
- Soak well once planted, and continue to soak well every week until shoots emerge, and then keep them moist but not wet.

Ranunculus, like Anemones, are reasonably heavy feeders, so a few side dressings of fertiliser over their growing period can help to prolong their flowering significantly.

Ranunculus are a great cut flower, and last well in a vase - to prolong their vase life, pick your Ranunculus blooms half unfurled, and they'll continue to open up in the vase.



## GROWING GIANT AND SPECIE CROCUS

Crocuses flower to perfection in cold Winter districts, but are incredibly hardy, and do well across the country. They do well in shady, and damp areas of the garden.

- Their dainty wee blooms are the first herald of Spring.
- The smaller of the Crocuses (the Specie Crocus) flower around 7-9cm in height, whilst their slightly larger cousin, the Giant Crocus, flower up to 14cm.
- The effect of crocuses is especially beautiful when they are planted in large numbers. For a mass planting effect, 100 to 150 corms should be planted. One important growing condition is that crocuses must have a well-drained soil. Crocus corms remaining in the ground will always bloom a bit earlier than the ones planted that season.

### Planting guide

- Crocus will thrive in Full Sun to Part shade - they are fantastic under trees, providing they still get some dappled sun.
- Crocuses will tolerate damp conditions, but we still need a relatively free draining soil.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of around 15cm, and mix in some Bulb Food.
- Plant your Crocus Bulbs with the point facing upwards, to a depth of 5-8cm.
- Give them a good dousing of water to get them started, and keep them moist throughout their growth period.
- You'll see their dainty wee blooms popping out early Spring.
- Crocuses love to Naturalize, so we recommend leaving them undisturbed for years to come.

For more information, including how to lawn-plant, head online to our Growers Corner.



## 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.





## 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!







## PLANTING YOUR IXIA

Ixia Bulbs are perfect for New Zealand's hot climates, but can be grown in most areas if planted under roof overhangs to restrict water, while still allowing the full sun conditions.

- Ixia's should be planted in sheltered areas of the garden to avoid the flowers toppling over.

### Planting guide

- Ixia's do well in pot's or straight into the garden. They require somewhere hot and dry...full sun, and free draining soils. Potting mix will work perfectly if you wish to pot them up, just remembering that potting mix dries out quickly, so an occasional watering is needed.
- Once you've found a nice sunny spot in the garden (preferably protected from too much wind), loosen the soil to a depth of at least 15cm. Mix in some of our Bulb Food, or a general purpose fertilizer.
- Plant your Ixia Bulbs (corms) with the pointy side facing up, to a depth of 4-5cm.
- Water initially to get them started, and keep the soil mildly moist throughout their growth period. Avoid over watering. Usually, if they're in the ground, they won't need a lot of watering, as our Winter will take care of that for you.

Ixia's make for a stunningly beautiful cut flower - if you're wanting to bring them inside for all to admire, you should cut the stems in the morning, ensuring there's at least 10cm left on the plant.

Cutting flowers in the early mornings will generally prolong their vase life.

After flowering, it's important to let your Ixia plants die down completely. Let the leaves go brown and dry before you remove them, as this is important for the growth of the corm.

You can leave the corms in the ground for next season, or if you wish to lift the corms, the best time to be doing so is late December/early January.



## PLANTING SPARAXIS

Sparaxis make a stunningly beautiful addition to the garden or patio - their striking colour combinations, strong stems, and swordlike foliage make them a must have.

- We recommend planting in groups of 10 or more, to give the most impact.
- Sparaxis enjoy full Sun, and will tolerate dry conditions.
- Great in pots or straight into the garden.

### Planting guide

- Find a spot in your garden with free draining soil, full sun, and is relatively protected from the wind.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of at least 15cm, and add in some Bulb Food. Make sure that the fertilizer is mixed into the soil.
- Plant your small Sparaxis Bulbs with the pointy side facing upwards, to a depth of 4-5cm. Leaving spaces of at least 5cm.
- Give your Sparaxis a good watering to kick start them. Sparaxis can handle being fairly dry, so they are a bit of a 'Plant and forget' type Bulb.

Sparaxis Bulbs can be left to naturalise in the garden for years, but we'd recommend digging them out every few years when they become congested.

### Flower harvesting

Harvesting of Sparaxis Bulbs should take place in summer (around late December) once the leaves have died down completely. As always, letting the leaves die down is an important part of the growth of next years Bulbs.





## PLANTING IPHEION

This pretty, dainty, bulbous plant can be found growing in the wild in South America. Surprisingly, its winter hardiness is good.

- Ipheions would generally be planted in full sun, but fortunately also flourish under light deciduous shade, provided they are allowed sufficient space.
- Attractive companion Bulbs are varieties like Muscari, Iris Reticulata's, Snowflakes and Scillas, planted in drifts to provide complementary form and colour in springtime.

### Planting guide

- Site your Ipheions in an area that gets full sun, or part shade.
- Ensure that the soil is free draining, and if not, we recommend building up the height of the bed.
- Loosen soil to a depth of 15cm, and mix in some Bulb Food.
- Plant your Ipheion Bulbs around 5-7cm deep.
- Water occasionally, ensuring that the soil is moist, but not too wet.

### Remember

- Ipheions will bulk up over a few years of growth, so we recommend leaving them to naturalize... you'll have a stunning display for years to come.



## GROWING SCILLA

Scilla, also known as Bluebells, are the ideal Bulb for Naturalizing - they are hardy wee things, that enjoy part shade. Perfect for undertree plantings.

There are two types of Bluebells - English Bluebells, and the more common variety found in New Zealand, the Spanish Bluebells. Spanish Bluebells grow much easier in our climate, hence why you'll see a lot more of these than the English version.

### Planting guide

- Site your Bluebells in an area that gets full sun or part shade. Ensure that the soil is free draining. Ideally somewhere that they can be left to naturalise over the years.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of at least 15cm, and mix in our Bulb Food... alternatively a good quality general purpose fertilizer will do the trick.
- Plant your Bluebell Bulbs with the pointy side facing upwards, to a depth of 10cm. Leave spacings of 10cm's to give them space to multiply and bulk up.
- Keep your Bluebell Bulbs moist, but not wet... keep watering from time to time until the foliage has died down completely (after flowering has been and gone)

### Remember

- Scilla's also make a lovely addition to the bouquet - the best time to be picking these flowers is early morning, before the heat of the sun hits.
- As with all Bulbs, it's important to let the leaves die down completely before removing the spent leaves. This will ensure all of the Nutrients end up back down in the Bulb for next seasons growth.





## 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 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!



ORNITHOGALUM

## GROWING ORNITHOGALUM

Ornithogalum, also known as Chinchinchees, are a stunning South African variety - their blooms are prized as cut-flowers.... With a vase life of 2 weeks, there's no wonder!

- Ornithogalums are incredibly hardy, and will make a lovely spectacle in pots or straight into the garden.
- These beauties are happy even in dry sites, as long as they have reasonable amounts of moisture during the Spring flowering season.

### Planting instructions

- Find somewhere in the garden that's free-draining, and gets full sun or part shade.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of 15cm, and mix in some Bulb Food, or a general purpose fertilizer.
- Plant just 4-6cm deep, and about the same distance for spacings (pointy side of the bulb facing upwards)
- Give them a good watering to get the Bulbs kickstarted.

### After flowering

- It's important to let the foliage die down completely before removing it - the leaves will gather sunlight, create food through photosynthesis, and fill the Bulb with all it needs to produce a stunning display next season.
- Ornithogalum's do well year after year without having to lift the Bulbs, however after around 4 years you may see a decline in flower numbers. If you do, it'll be caused by an overcrowding of Bulbs. We'd recommend lifting the Bulbs and replanting.
- Ensure that the leaves have fully died down before lifting (the ideal time to be doing this is around mid to late January). Once you've dug the Bulbs out, and separated the clumps, let the Bulbs dry for a few days.
- Once the Bulbs have had their drying period, store them somewhere cool and dry until planting time (late March through to May).



## PLANTING YOUR NERINES

Nerines are an oldie but a goodie - According to a popular anecdote, Nerine got its common name (well, not so common in New Zealand), Guernsey lily, when a specimen washed up on the shores of Guernsey, an island in the English Channel, thus introducing the South African native to Europe.

- Nerine blooms as a cluster of flowers on a leafless stem. Each flower is trumpet-shaped with recurved petals. Nerines are the perfect cutflower.
- Nerines like to be hot and dry - they do best in full Sun, in sandy, very well drained soil.
- Nerines should be planted as soon as you receive them.

### Planting guide

- Site your Nerines in Full Sun, with free draining soil.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of 15cm, adding in some good general purpose fertilizer, or ideally our special bulb food mix.
- Plant your Nerines with the neck of the Bulb above the surface of the soil (the top of Nerine Bulbs should never be fully buried)
- Water lightly.

For more information on picking your Nerines, head online to our Growers Corner.



## GROWING YOUR TRITONIA

Tritonia, also known as Flame Freesias, are a lovely frost and drought hardy Spring flowering Bulb.

- Tritonia are hardy plants that have tall rod-shaped stems that jut upwards from their green strappy foliage and are covered in tiny flowers that open from the top of the stem first and work their way down to the bottom.
- They are similar in form to a Freesia, but without the scent - making it a great choice if you find Freesias overpowering.

### Planting guide

- Tritonia prefer to be planted in full sun, 8-10cm apart with the bulb at a depth of 5cm. They require free draining soil.
- Before planting, loosen the soil to a depth of at least 15cm, and mix in some Bulb food.
- Push the Bulb into the soil (pointy side up), to a depth of around 5cm.
- Give them a nice deep watering to begin with, but don't start watering regularly until the grassy shoots appear above the soil.

### Remember

- Once flower season has been, & upon the leaves turning brown, watering can be stopped.
- These corms prefer a relatively dry soil whilst dormant.

