



# SEPTEMBER FLOWER GARDEN GUIDE

## Bulbs

- Prepare beds for planting of spring flowering bulbs. Choose a well-drained site, clear all weeds, and incorporate a thick layer of organic matter. Apply a fertilizer such as 10-10-10 at 1 to 2 lbs./100 sq./ft or Bulb Booster (9-9-6) at 3 to 5 lbs./sq. ft., superphosphate, or other commercial bulb fertilizer. Plant spring flowering bulbs beginning in late September. Planting too early can cause bulbs to sprout top growth before winter. However, allow at least four to six weeks before the ground freezes for good root formation.
- If you are putting in bulbs as part of a perennial bed, plant them after all other plants have been installed.
- For a different look, mix several types of spring bulbs (of similar height), and scatter them at random over the bed, adjusting only for proper spacing.
- As a general rule, bulbs should be planted three times as deep as their greatest dimension. The deep planting of tulips is the exception.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs according to the following chart:

	Variety	Depth	Spacing
Allium	small	4"	4-6"
	large	6"	6-8"
	giant	6"	10-12"
Anemone		3-5"	4-6"
Camassia		4"	4-6"
Chionodaza (Glory of the Snow)		3-4"	2"
Crocus		4-5"	3-4"
Daffodil/Narcissi	<10"	4-6"	2-4"
	>10"	6-8"	3-8"
Eranthis (Winter Aconite)		2"	2-4"
Erythronium		2-3"	2-4"
Fritillaria	tall	5-6"	12-15"
	short	3-4"	5"
Galanthus (Snowdrops)		3-5"	2-4"
Hyacinth		6"	6"
Dutch Iris/Dwarf Iris		5"	2-4"
Leucojum (Hardy Snowflake)		3"	3-4"
Muscari (Grape Hyacinth)		3-5"	3-4"
Puschkinia (Striped Squill)		2-4"	4-5"
Scilla		5"	3-4"
Tulip		8-12"	4-8"

- Before the ground freezes, and after frost has killed the tops, dig and lift roots of tuberous begonia, gladiolus, cannas, and dahlia. Knock excess dirt off the roots and remove foliage, leaving a short stub. Let roots air dry for several days. Store on newspaper or in mesh bags or old nylons or in dry sand, sawdust or peat moss in a cool, dry, frost free garage or basement. Check them occasionally and discard any showing signs of mold or decay.

## Annuals

- Take cuttings of easily rooted plants for indoor winter color. Spray or dip the cutting to remove insects before bringing indoors. Wax begonias and impatiens can be dipped in rooting hormone powder and stuck in damp sand. Coleus shoots will root in a glass of water on the window sill.
- Clean up plants, which have finished blooming and add them to the compost pile.
- Keep summer annuals blooming until frost by picking off faded flowers and seedheads and watering the plants during dry weather.

- Harvest strawflowers, statice, baby's breath and celosia for drying when the blossoms are about half open. To dry them, hang upside-down in a dry, well-ventilated area out of direct sun.
- After the first freeze, mulch the bed to avoid heaving.

### Perennials

- Phlox, daylilies, iris and peonies can be divided and replanted at this time. Daylily clumps can be split with a spade or a pair of spading forks; new clumps should be about the size of a softball. This is a great time to lift and divide peony crowns. They should be split with a sharp knife. Divisions should have at least 3 to 4 eyes and should be reset with the eyes close to the surface. Shallow eyes are better bloomers.
- Watch for garden chrysanthemums to bloom as days grow shorter. Some may have bloomed earlier this summer, which will decrease the number of fall blooms.
- Continue applying preventive sprays for powdery mildew on asters.
- You can still add new plants to the bed. Even if plant crowns are dormant, plants will continue root growth if the ground is workable.
- Begin cutting back plants that are not vigorous or which have finished blooming. Add waste to the compost pile. Do not compost plants suffering from disease.

### Roses

- Continue to spray roses to protect them against diseases and insects.
- Prepare soil for spring beds. Roses enjoy somewhat heavy soil, so supplement soils with a generous amount of organic matter (manure or compost). Bone meal and/or superphosphate will add the phosphorus necessary for good blooms.
- Leave the rose hips on roses to encourage dormancy.
- **NO PRUNING!** Roses need to begin to harden off to prepare for overwintering.

