



1711 King Street • Santa Cruz, California 95060
www.pwlandscapedesign.com • pwalters@pwlandscapedesign.com
831-458-1307 fax • 831-458-1305 phone

Planning Ahead for Spring

Published September 2006

Spring has sprung! Or at least it will in just a few short months. And now is just the time to make sure your Spring is flower-filled and glorious by planting bulbs. Bulbs are an inexpensive and easy way to add color to your garden and fill in any planting gaps you've spotted in your landscape.

Bulbs do best in well-drained soil. (If the soil is damp, daffodils will do better than tulips.) As a general rule, most bulbs should be planted at a depth equal to three times their diameter. (Bearded iris and begonias, however, go just beneath the surface. To create a natural look, scatter your bulbs over the ground and plant them where they land. Then follow up with an organic mulch as a topcoat to nourish the bulbs and protect them through the winter. Plant up a couple of shallow pots at the same time, to create some easy "spot color" for your entry or patio.

In Spring, fertilize your bulbs with a general compound fertilizer for border plants as soon as the sprouts are breaking through the topsoil. After the blooming is over, make sure to leave the leaves on until they die all the way back, since this is how the bulbs store up nourishment for next year's show!

You can of course find bulbs in your local nurseries—and even Costco! -- but take a look online, too. There are numerous mail-order companies that specialize in bulbs, and you can find both an extensive choice of bulbs and some very good deals.