



CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

Basic Bulbology....

Inspired by the previous writings of my esteemed co-workers, I aspired to write an article exhuming the authority of 'Reno', matching the outstanding wit of our resident D.R., or rising to the level of His Horticultural Holiness, J.G., Plant Godd. Well, as we near the end of this long season, motivation has fled this fellow's feeble mind as the fancy fades from freshly frosted foliage. Thus said, I hope one can stomach the following drivel which I will entitle, simply: Ben's Basic Bulbology: Beneficial Blathering for the Budding Botanist. Without further alliteration, I implore you to continue reading.

What is a bulb? They are not magic beans cultivated by wooden shoe clad windmill dwellers. A bulb is an underground storage chamber holding an embryonic plant encapsulated by layers of food. The nutrients held within provide the energy for the plant to grow and produce the desirable bloom. Through photosynthetic processes, the foliage replenishes the essential food stores for the next growing season. Examples of true bulbs include tulips, daffodils, crocus, alliums, and hyacinths.



Are bulbs perennials? Yes, all bulbs are perennials, but not all are hardy in Michigan. To ensure reliable yearly reemergence, their growing requirements must be met. Most available bulb plants originated in Mediterranean climates, wet fall/spring and dry, hot summers. Bulbs require well drained soil, ample moisture in fall and spring, hot summers with little moisture, and full sun while the foliage is present.

How does one plant a bulb? Dig hole, insert plant, and backfill. As a simple rule of thumb, $D \leq \pi h$, $h \geq D/\pi$, or $D/h \leq \pi$, where D =excavation depth and h =height of bulb. To further the redundancy, make a hole as deep as about three times the bulb's height. Similarly to other plants, bulbs should be installed green side up for optimal results. However, since many bulbous plants are planted when dormant

and arrive to the site in a paper bag or cardboard box, this may not be as obvious as familiar container or B&B material. When in doubt, plant the bulb on its side. Add bulb specific fertilizer or bone meal to the back fill to promote future vigor.

Autumn's splendor of color marks the end of the growing season, and sadly, the CPC Monday Message. Gray skies and white snow will soon cloak our dormant landscapes. Void of the warmth and comfort provided by the colors of the garden and the written words of the Christensen's staff, winter can be quite dull. As a



Ben Woloskie

Christensen's Plant Center
6282 Gotfredson Road
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

(734) 454-1400 voice

(734) 454-1414 fax

Return to Archive

registered contractor, spring will be marked by a celebrated new e-mail message in your inbox on Monday morning. Allow your clients to share in the return of joy by confidently providing them with a brilliant display of color with fall-planted, spring-flowering bulbs.

Faithfully submitted 10.22.12,
Benjamin R. Woloskie, Go Blue!

