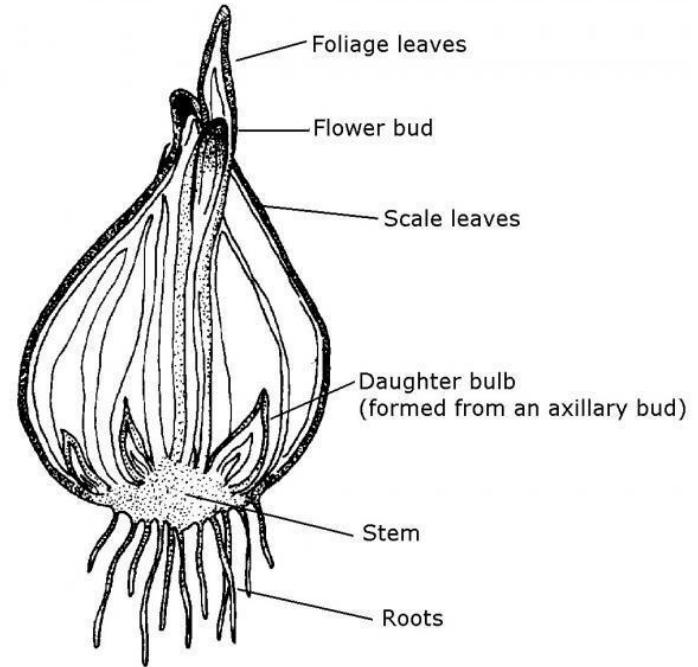


Forcing Bulbs

Spring in December and January



What is a bulb?



Not to be confused with....

Tubers...yams, potatoes, dahlias,
begonias



Corms...gladiolus, freesias



Materials for forcing bulbs: Work Space

Bulbs



Container



Gravel/Soil

Choosing and handling bulbs:

Popular choices are daffodils, amaryllis, paperwhites, hyacinth, tulips, crocus

Choose Reubenesque bulbs..plump and without blemish, but with a light brown papery skin

Handle carefully to avoid bruising and store in a cool place - if you cannot plant right away, use a mesh bag or paper bag with holes for ventilation and keep in an empty vegetable bin in the refrigerator (or in a cool cellar). Ripening food can give off ethylene gas which can damage bulbs.

CAUTION: Some bulbs can be poisonous so should not be available for small children to access.

Finding a Container



Gravel or Soil



Planting:

A 6 inch pot can accommodate 6 tulips or daffodils, 3 hyacinths, 15 crocuses

1. Place a layer of medium in the bottom of the pot
2. Plant bulb with flat or root side down and pointed or leafing side up
3. Fill with more planting medium until about $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the bulb is covered
4. Add water to reach the roots or until it runs out the bottom of the pot
5. Move to a cool location for 2-4 weeks before moving into warm sunny location

Bulbs should be planted from early October to December

Flowers can be expected 3-4 weeks after moving into the sun.

To have continuous flowers for the holidays, start planting in October and plant each week.

Flower lifetime can be extended by placing plant in a cool area at night.

When plant finishes flowering, trim the spent flower but let the leaves continue

Let plants go dormant and dispose of annual plants or plant hardy ones in the garden. They will likely take a year to develop blossoms.

Keep it short and sweet

From: William B. Miller
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Daffodils and narcissus can grow tall and may need support OR

When the roots are growing and the shoot is green and about 1-2" above the bulb, pour off the water and replace it with a solution of 4% to 6% alcohol.

How much vodka do daffodils like?

Mixology for paperwhites:

Any hard liquor should work. Stay away from beer or wine because of the sugars and use a 40% alcohol liquor (gin, vodka, whiskey, tequila)

Add 1 part booze to 7 parts water

This produces 5% solution for watering.