



**BRECK'S®**  
**FALL**  
**PLANTING**  
**HANDBOOK**

*Bring the Magic of Holland to Your Garden*



# BRECK'S®

*Bulbs direct to you from Holland since 1818*

Dear Breck's Gardener:

Thank you for ordering your bulbs and plants from Breck's. Here at our headquarters in the centre of Holland's bulb-growing region, we have selected only the very finest bulbs and plants for shipment to you. Your order has been carefully packed, and every possible effort has been made to see that your bulbs and plants reach you safely at the proper planting time for your area.

However, before you place your bulbs and plants in the garden, I suggest you read this special Breck's Planting Handbook. While planting and caring for top-quality bulbs and plants is relatively simple, we have included a number of suggestions to help you achieve maximum beauty.

You may find slight differences between the planting information in this handbook and that found in a Breck's catalogue or on the bag in which your bulbs and plants were shipped. In such cases, I recommend that you follow the instructions printed on the bag, since these instructions cover the specific variety you have received.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to send Breck's bulbs and plants for your garden. I hope their beauty will bring great pleasure to you, your friends and your neighbours.

Faithfully,



Ben van der Veldt  
Directeur, Breck Holland B.V.

## QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

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## BULB AND PERENNIAL PLANTING TIPS FROM HOLLAND'S EXPERTS

### How to Create a Beautiful Dutch Spring Garden

#### ON ARRIVAL

Bulbs and most perennials are shipped to you in their natural dormant state. Do not be alarmed if your plants appear to be dead or void of green leaves or sprouts. Rest assured, they will spring back to life after you plant them. Almost all bulbs and perennials die back to the ground in autumn and early winter. Bulbs and plants are more easily transported in a dormant state than when they are actively growing.

All bulbs and perennials should be planted in your garden as soon as possible to ensure the best success. If you must delay planting, open the bags to permit air circulation and place them out of direct sunlight in a cool (45–55°F [7–13°C]), well-ventilated room. Do not place the bulbs where they can freeze. If you have the space, storing the bulbs in the refrigerator is another excellent way to "hold them" prior to planting. If you choose this method, be sure to keep them away from any fresh fruit. The ethylene gas given off by ripening fruit can be damaging to bulbs.

In milder climate areas of North

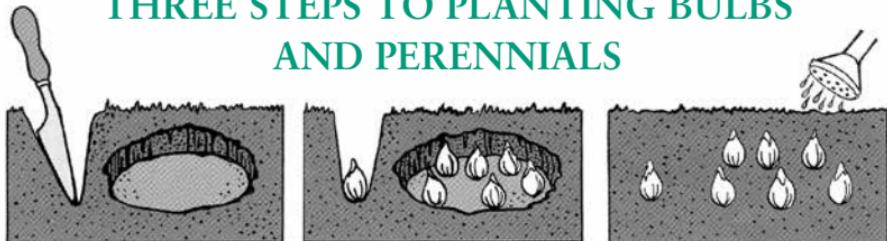
America, where little or no frost can be expected, later planting is recommended. After receiving your bulbs from Holland, give them a "substitute winter" by pre-cooling them in the bottom of the refrigerator before planting. A 6–8 week cooling period is recommended.

Growing masses of beautiful spring flowers is simple when you start with top-quality Dutch bulbs and perennials. With just a minimum amount of effort, you can have the same beauty found in the finest gardens of Europe.

#### SOIL

Spring-blooming Dutch bulbs are not too fussy about soil—provided it is not too heavy and sticky. If the soil is heavy, loosen it with a generous amount of humus, sand, gypsum, etc. If very light, add moisture holders like humus and leaf mold. Bulbs and perennials need plenty of water and good drainage. If water tends to stand in the planting area, you'll want to break up hard subsoil by putting in a layer of drainage material such as sand, coarse gravel,

## THREE STEPS TO PLANTING BULBS AND PERENNIALS



1. *Dig a hole or bed to proper depth for the type of plant being planted and loosen the soil at the bottom of the hole or bed.*

2. *Place plant roots or bulbs (generally pointed tips up) at the bottom of hole. Be sure there are no pockets to hold water.*

3. *Cover with loose soil and pack well. Then give a good initial watering. That's all. Now Mother Nature takes over.*

broken stone or sifted cinders below your surface soil.

Some perennials and bulbs have specific needs when it comes to the acidity, or pH level, of the soil. Soil acidity is measured on a scale of 1 to 14. Everything below 7 is considered acidic and everything above is considered alkaline. Most garden plants thrive at a pH level between 6 and 7.5. This range is optimal for most plants because it indicates the phosphorus in the soil is soluble—meaning that it dissolves in water—and can be taken up by plant roots.

It is good to know the pH level of your soil. There are a few methods you can use to test your soil's acidity. The first is to send a soil sample to your local cooperative extension office and have it analyzed there. You can also purchase do-it-yourself soil pH testing kits at most nurseries and garden centres.

If you want to raise the pH level, you can add garden lime. If you want to gradually lower it, you can add organic matter like compost, an acidic mulch

(e.g., pine needle mulch) or peat. For rapid pH lowering, use one of the acidic soil additives available at your local garden supply store. Aluminum sulfate is one of the quickest-acting options available. In general terms, expect to use about 1.2 lbs of aluminum sulfate to lower the pH of a 10 sq ft patch of soil by one on the pH scale.

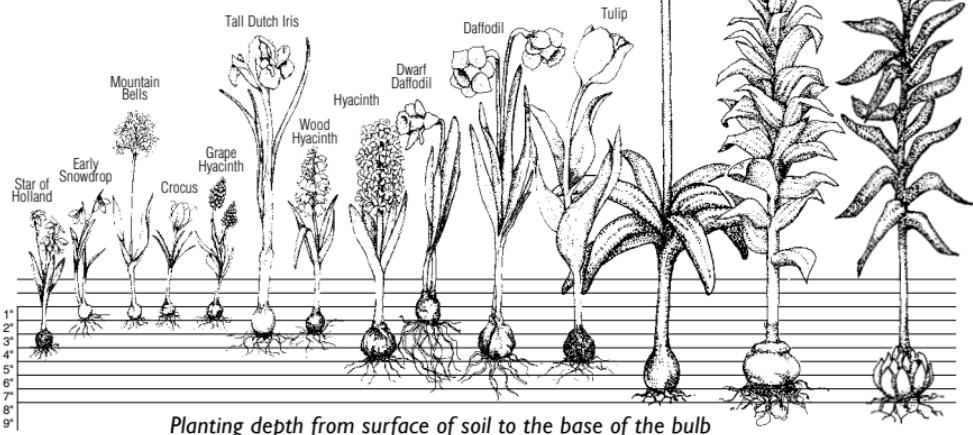
### PLANTING

On pages 26–29 you will find a chart showing recommended planting depths. Planting depth is measured from the surface of the soil to the shoulder of a bulb (where the bulb begins to narrow) or the top of a perennial. Distance between plants is measured from the centre of one plant to the centre of the next. See the bag label for this information.

Although not required for success, it's a good idea to mix a quantity of Breck's® Food for Bulbs and Perennials with the loose soil at the bottom of your planting. This will provide additional food without any danger of "burning." Never apply fresh or half-rotted manure

## HOW DEEP SHOULD DUTCH SPRING BULBS BE PLANTED?

The illustration below provides a graphic indication of how deep major varieties of Dutch bulbs should be planted for maximum growth and blooming in your garden. The depths indicated are the minimum number of inches below the surface of the soil—not from the top of a protective layer of mulch that you add after planting. For more detailed information, see the planting guide beginning on page 26 of this handbook, plus the information printed on the bags in which your bulbs arrive from Holland. In cases where there appears to be a conflict in specified planting depths, it is recommended that you follow any instructions printed on the bag in which your bulbs are packaged.



Planting depth from surface of soil to the base of the bulb

directly on bulbs and perennials.

**There are two basic methods of planting:**

1. Dig individual holes for each plant or bulb. This can be done with a garden trowel or with a special hole-cutting tool called a bulb planter.
2. If you are planting several plants or bulbs in a single area, you may want to dig an entire bed to planting depth. Then you can place all the plants at once and fill dirt in around them.

**Planting flower bulbs and tubers step by step:**

1. Spade or rototill the soil to a depth of 12–15" (30–40 cm).
2. Thoroughly mix in a generous 2" (5 cm) layer of dehydrated manure, garden compost and Breck's Food for Bulbs and Perennials.
3. Firm the soil a bit.
4. Place the bulbs at the proper depth (see detailed chart on pages 26–29).
5. Work soil in and around bulb/tuber, firming it with your fingers.
6. Water thoroughly after planting.

**Planting bareroot perennials step by step:**

1. Remove the roots from the

- package and soak them in cold to lukewarm water for 30 minutes.
2. Spade or rototill the soil to a depth of 12–15" (30–40 cm).
3. Thoroughly mix in a generous 2" (5 cm) layer of dehydrated manure, garden compost and Breck's Food for Bulbs and Perennials.
4. Firm the soil a bit.
5. Make a hole large enough to place the root so the top of the plant is in the proper position (see detailed chart on pages 26–29). Spread roots over the surface of the soil at the bottom of the hole.
6. Carefully fill around and between the roots and cover the crown/eyes with a maximum of 0.5" (1–2 cm) of soil. Press to make sure each plant is firmly set and all air pockets have been eliminated.
7. Water thoroughly after planting.

#### **Planting potted perennials step by step:**

1. Before planting, place pots in approximately 0.5" (1–2 cm) of cold to lukewarm water for 30 minutes. Do not remove plants from pot.
2. Spade or rototill soil to a depth of 12–15" (30–40 cm).
3. Thoroughly mix in a generous 2" (5 cm) layer of dehydrated manure, garden compost and Breck's Food for Bulbs and Perennials.
4. Firm the soil a bit.
5. Make a hole slightly larger than the pot.

6. Carefully remove the plant from the pot. Score vertical marks on all four sides of the root ball to encourage roots to grow outside the surrounding soil.
7. Hold the top of the root ball level with the soil surface and carefully fill in around the root ball. Firm soil around the plant to remove air pockets.
8. Water thoroughly after planting.

### **CUT FLOWERS**

Most varieties, as indicated in the chart on pages 26–29, are excellent for cut flowers. When cutting blooms for bouquets, never cut more foliage than necessary, because it nourishes bulbs for the following year's growth. Stems without leaves can be cut to within an inch of ground level.

The best time for cutting is when buds are just starting to open. Bulbs with many flowers per stem—like lilies and glads—are best cut when the first few buds open. The other buds will open while the stems are in water. Cutting should be done in early morning or late evening. Always cut the flowers—do not just pull them up or break off the stems.

Cut flowers should immediately be placed in clean, lukewarm water. Let them soak in a cool, dark place for at least six hours before arranging. To prolong bouquet life, add a bit of lemon-lime soda to the water and place your arrangements in a cool place each night. If you rearrange your flowers, it's best to cut off a bit of their stems to help them take up additional moisture.

# CARING FOR YOUR DUTCH BULBS AND PERENNIALS

## How to Protect Bulbs for Winter Storage and Replanting

Most Dutch bulbs and perennials require only a minimum amount of care to provide annual beauty.

### FERTILIZING

Each spring when flower stems and foliage begin to emerge from the ground, apply Breck's® Food for Bulbs and Perennials.

### WATERING

Like all flowers, bulbs appreciate regular watering. As a general rule, they should be deeply watered anytime natural rainfall is less than one inch per week during their growing and blooming season.

### AFTER BLOOMING

After your spring-blooming bulbs have flowered and faded, leave the foliage intact and water moderately. It's not necessary to remove spent flowers, although we recommend this for tulips, daffodils and hyacinths. To get the best results from your bulbs the following year, make sure they get at least 6 hours of sun per day for 2 months.

Most bulbs prefer not to be disturbed and can be left in the ground for many years, but beware of overcrowding. When too many bulbs try to occupy the same space, they will be less vigorous and flowers will be fewer and smaller, an indication that it's time to transplant them. You can dig up your bulbs as they are going dormant (which is when

foliage is brown and papery and can easily be pulled free), and divide and move them to a new location. Some varieties, of course, are more prone to multiply than others, and from time to time they will need to be dug up and divided before being replanted at better spacing.

If you lift your spring-flowering bulbs after the foliage has died back, store them in a cool, dry place during the summer for replanting in the early fall. Daffodils and the smaller bulbs—crocuses, scillas, grape hyacinths, etc.—are better if left where they are so they can grow and multiply for many years. If they are planted at the proper depth, annuals may be planted right atop and among them.

### MULCH/WINTER PROTECTION

It is a good idea to give your hardy bulbs and perennials some winter protection if temperatures will fall below freezing. Bulbs and plants without protection may even work themselves up out of the ground after periods of freezing and thawing.

There are many good winter "overcoats" for your bulbs, including leaves, evergreen boughs, straw, wood chips, compost and ground corncobs.

A year-round mulch also keeps the soil from drying out, maintains a more even soil temperature and reduces

weed growth. It also prevents soil from splashing onto the flowers and foliage.

## DIVIDING PERENNIALS

Perennials will grow bigger each year. You can divide your plants for even more beauty around your home. Dividing will also help to maintain their health and vigour. Every 3–4 years, in the fall or as growth is beginning in the spring, plants

can be lifted and divided into clumps of 3–5 shoots. Spring-flowering plants, such as irises, are best divided between July and August after flowering, when they produce new roots. When you have very large clumps, use only their outer, active parts. Replant the divisions immediately.

## BAREROOT PERENNIALS

There are five basic types of root systems: fibrous roots, long taproots, rhizomes, roots with “eyes” and fleshy tuberous roots. Before planting, bareroot perennials should be soaked in water for 30 minutes.



### FIBROUS ROOTS

(example: *tall hybrid phlox*)  
Dig a hole twice as wide and twice as deep as the bareroots. Carefully spread the roots out in the hole.

Holding the roots with one hand, lower them in the planting hole at the proper depth. Fill in and around the roots with soil. Tamp the soil with your hands to remove air pockets. Mark the planting, and then create a “saucer” in the soil above the planting hole. Fill the saucer with water. Let it soak in and fill the saucer again until the roots are completely watered.

fibrous roots.



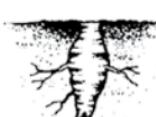
### RHIZOMES

(example: *bearded irises*)  
Dig a shallow hole 2–4" (5–10 cm) deep and twice as wide as the rhizome. Create a small mound in the middle of this shallow planting hole. Place the rhizome on top of this mound and spread the roots. Fill the hole with soil, but only partially cover the rhizome. Water thoroughly.



### ROOTS WITH “EYES”

(examples: *peonies, astilbes*)  
Dig a hole twice as wide and twice as deep as the root. Holding the root at the proper planting depth and with “eyes” pointing up, fill in and around the root with soil until the planting hole is filled. Firm the soil with both hands and water thoroughly. (Note: It is important to plant the tops of peonies level with the soil surface for proper blooming).



### LONG TAPROOTS

(examples: *hollyhocks, hardy hibiscus*)

Follow the steps outlined above for



## FLESHY TUBEROUS ROOTS

(examples: daylilies, hostas)  
Dig a hole twice as wide and twice as deep as the roots. Create a mound in the planting hole to hold the roots and the crown

(where roots meet the stem) at ground level. Spread the roots over the mound. Fill the planting hole with soil and firm with both hands. Water thoroughly.

## INFORMATION BY VARIETY

### ACHILLEA

(See YARROW)

### ALCEA ROSEA

(See HOLLYHOCK)

### ALLIUM

Easily grown in average, medium-moisture, well-drained soil and full sun. Flowers attract lots of pollinators. Leaves will wither and disappear from the garden shortly after bloom.

### ANEMONE

*blanda*

(Grecian Windflowers)

Soak corms in lukewarm water for a few hours before planting. The corms are lumpy and irregular, so don't worry about which side of the corms need to face up. Regardless of how the corms are positioned, they will grow. Plant in organically rich, well-draining, neutral pH soil in full to partial sunlight.

### *coronaria*

(Daisy Anemones, Windflowers)

Soak corms in lukewarm water for a few hours before planting. Plant your anemones in a site with rich to average

garden loam and good drainage. Raised beds are advisable in gardens with heavy clay soil, as bulbs may rot due to excessive moisture after a wet winter. Anemone corms are lumpy and irregular, so don't worry about which side of the corms need to face up. Regardless of how the corms are positioned, they will grow.

### *nemorosa*

(Wood Anemones)

Plant the small rhizomes (roots) a maximum of 1" below the surface of humus-rich, well-drained soil in part to full shade. Incorporate leaf mold into the soil. Spreads slowly over time to form a nice carpet.

### ANEMONE POPPY

(See ORIENTAL POPPY)

### AQUILEGIA

(See COLUMBINE)

### ARUM ITALICUM

Plant in any well-drained soil, preferably with lots of organic matter. Does well in full sun as well as full shade! Foliage appears in the fall and stays attractive

until late spring. Flower spathes appear in the spring followed by orange berries in summer. Foliage goes dormant in early summer. Can be invasive in northwestern United States.

### **ASCLEPIAS**

Best planted in well-drained, sandy or gravelly soil. Plant the root vertically so that the eye is 1" (2.5 cm) beneath the soil surface. Water sparingly. Drought tolerant. Clumps can remain undisturbed indefinitely.

### **ASTER**

Asters provide mounds of colour in your garden in late summer and early autumn. They are perfect for planting with other late-blooming flowers—such as cushion mums, helenium and rudbeckia—in the perennial border or in front of the house and evergreen hedges. They will also brighten your home with long-lasting, autumn bouquets. They do well in average, well-drained soil. To keep your asters compact and bushy, cut back the stems to 1" (2.5 cm) after the first killing frost.

### **ASTILBE**

Astilbes are attractive, mound-shaped plants with glossy, fernlike foliage that provides a striking contrast to the delicate, plumelike flower spikes. They are attractive when planted in drifts or when used in combination with other shade-loving perennials such as hostas and ferns. Astilbes prefer medium to moist soils. If the soil is not allowed to dry out during the spring and summer

months, the foliage will stay attractive until the fall. Astilbes grow rapidly and can exhaust the soil around them over time, which reduces flowering.

### **ASTRANTIA**

Asters provide mounds of colour. Best grown in moist, fertile, preferably humus-rich soil, but tolerates drier conditions. After flowers have faded, cut back to tidy and encourage a fresh flush of leaf growth.

### **AUTUMN DAFFODIL**

(*STERNBERGIA LUTEA*)

Plant in dry to medium moist, well-drained soils in full sun. Good drainage is essential. Prefers hot and dry summer months. If left undisturbed, plants will form slowly, increasing clumps over time. Do not remove foliage before it has yellowed naturally.

### **BEARDED IRIS**

(See *IRIS Bearded*)

### **BELAMCANDA**

(See *LEOPARD FLOWER*)

### **BELLEVALIA**

(See *GRAPE HYACINTH*)

### **BLEEDING HEART**

(*DICENTRA*)

Plant in well-drained, humus-rich soil that is not allowed to dry out during the growing season. It cannot tolerate constantly moist soil. May tolerate

full sun in cool areas but prefers part to full shade. The foliage of *Dicentra spectabilis* varieties dies back in midsummer. The smaller bleeding hearts keep their attractive foliage until fall.

### **BLUE GRAPE HYACINTH**

(See GRAPE HYACINTH)

### **CAMASSIA**

Best grown in moist, fertile, acidic, humus-rich soil in full sun to part shade. Needs regular moisture during the spring but will tolerate drier conditions after blooming as the plants head for summer dormancy. Best left undisturbed once planted.

### **CAMPANULA**

Easily grown in moist but well-drained, neutral to alkaline soil. Cut back after flowering to encourage future growth.

### **CANTERBURY BELLS**

(See CAMPANULA)

### **CARNATION**

(See DIANTHUS)

### **CARPET PHLOX**

(See PHLOX)

### **CATMINT**

(NEPETA)

This fast-growing perennial is highly floriferous when planted in well-

drained soil in full sun. Lean soil and somewhat dry growing conditions will encourage both more flowers and a stronger scent. Too much fertilizer will only make the plant grow lots of flimsy foliage. Cut back directly after the first flush and it will flower again in late summer!

### **CHIONODOXA**

(See EARLY SNOW GLORIES)

### **COLCHICUM**

Plant in any well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Colchicums will flower within a few weeks after you've planted them in the fall. In the spring, they produce lush green leaves that last until summer. Excellent for naturalizing, but you need to allow the leaves to yellow naturally before removing. Colchicums can also be placed on the windowsill without soil or water and will bloom after a few weeks. After blooming, plant outside following the instructions above.

### **COLUMBINE**

(AQUILEGIA)

Plant in moist, well-drained soil enriched with organic matter. Columbine plants are adaptable, but they prefer an acidic soil. They are tougher plants than they appear, but they tend to be short-lived perennials. However, they will seed and spread, remaining in your garden for years.

## CONEFLOWER

(*ECHINACEA*)

Once established, coneflowers are hardy, drought-tolerant and long-blooming perennials. They will grow well in just about any soil that has sufficient drainage. To get the most blooms and the sturdiest plants, plant coneflowers in a spot that gets at least five hours of full sun a day. They will tolerate partial shade, but plants may flop or strain to reach the sun. Too much supplemental fertilizer can cause them to become leggy.

## COREOPSIS

Plant in any well-drained, ordinary soil. Coreopsis is slow to appear in spring, so be patient. Plants need regular water when first planted until they are established; after that, they are quite drought tolerant. Deadheading will keep the plants blooming throughout the summer. A decrease in flowering is a signal it is time to divide the plants.

## CORYDALIS

(See LARKSPUR)

## CROCUS

(FALL & SPRING BLOOMERS)

Easily grown in average, medium-moisture, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Thrives in sandy or gritty soils but performs poorly in heavy clay soils. If necessary, incorporate sand into the planting area to improve soil drainage. If planted in the lawn, foliage should be left unmown until it yellows.

## CROWN IMPERIAL

(See *FRITILLARIA imperialis*)

## CYCLAMEN

Cyclamens need well-drained, neutral to slightly alkaline soil, preferably with lots of organic matter. Grow cyclamens beneath deciduous shrubs, around trees in rock gardens or in mixed borders. Plant tubers with concave side up. If you cannot make out which side is up, plant the tubers on their side. Once established, do not disturb and they will slowly multiply. *Cyclamen hederifolium*, *colum* and *cilicium* are cold hardy. *Cyclamen cilicium* is the most tender of these three and needs a winter cover in areas with severe frost.

## DAFFODIL

(*NARCISSUS*)

Plant your daffodils as soon as possible after receiving them from Holland, as they need to form a good root system before winter. Because daffodils increase annually and produce more flowers each year, we recommend that you fertilize with a topdressing of Breck's® Food for Bulbs and Perennials when planting them. Then follow through with an additional feeding each spring and fall. They will continue to multiply over the years and will not need to be lifted and divided until clumps become crowded and fail to produce large blooms. Before lifting bulbs for dividing, wait until the foliage has withered. Then carefully dig up the clumps. After pulling the bulbs apart, replant them farther apart.

## DAYLILY

(*HEMEROCALLIS*)

Daylilies will tolerate just about any well-drained soil, but for optimal results, work in lots of organic matter. In the average home garden, a single fertilizer application in the spring is usually sufficient. A fertilizer that is high in nitrogen is best. Daylilies are rugged, adaptable, vigorous perennials that endure in the garden for many years with little or no care. They tolerate drought but perform best in moist, well-drained soils.

## DIANTHUS

For year-round beauty and a delightful, extra-long summer blooming season, there is no plant like the bright, cheerful carnation (*Dianthus*). Carnations do well in most garden soil and standard potting mixes for containers. After the first heavy frost, when your carnations have finished blooming, cut the stems back to 1" (2.5 cm) stubs. Although carnations are winter-hardy perennials, you may wish to cover the roots with a 2–4" (5–10 cm) layer of mulch.

## DICHELOSTEMMA

Grow in fertile, but well-drained soil in a sunny, sheltered position. Add grit to heavy soils to improve drainage. Water during any dry spells while in active growth but allow the plant to dry out after flowering. May need winter protection in your area. Firecracker is a variety hardy in zones 6–9. If unsure of which zone you live in, check the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map on page 25.

## DIGITALIS

(See *FOXGLOVE*)

## DOGTOOTH

(*ERYTHRONIUM*)

Best grown in moist, acidic, humus-rich soil in part to full shade. The plants will slowly spread to form large colonies if left undisturbed in optimum growing conditions. Foliage disappears by late spring as the plants go dormant.

## DRAGON FLOWER

(*DRACUNCULUS*)

Plant in average, medium-moisture, well-drained soil in part shade. Prefers moist, rich soils. Plants are not reliably winter hardy. Best to mulch in winter to help protect them from cold temperatures. In cold winter areas north of USDA Zone 5, tubers may be dug up in the fall, overwintered indoors and replanted in spring in somewhat the same manner as dahlias. If unsure of which zone you live in, check the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map on page 25.

## DUTCH IRIS

(See *IRIS Dutch*)

## EARLY SNOW GLORIES

(*CHIONODOXA*)

Plant in average, medium-moisture, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Naturalizes easily by way of bulb offsets and self-seeding to form a spreading carpet. Let foliage yellow naturally before removing.

## **EARLY STARDRIFT**

(PUSCHKINIA)

Plant in average, medium-moisture, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Excellent for naturalizing. Let foliage yellow naturally before removing.

## **ECHINACEA**

(See CONEFLOWER)

## **ENGLISH BLUEBELLS**

Easily grown in part to full shade in well-drained soil, preferably with lots of organic material. Lovely under deciduous trees and shrubs. Excellent for naturalizing. Let foliage yellow naturally before removing.

## **ERANTHIS**

(See WINTER ACONITE)

## **EREMURUS**

(See FOXTAIL LILY)

## **ERYTHRONIUM**

(See DOGTOOTH)

## **FAIR MAIDS OF FRANCE**

(SAXIFRAGA GRANULATA  
'FLORE PLENO')

Plant in part to full shade in average to moist soil. Plants dislike dry, sunny conditions during spring and early summer. The small corms should be planted just below the soil surface and no deeper than 0.5". Does well beneath deciduous trees that don't

leaf out very early. Foliage appears in late summer to early fall and stays green all winter until after flowering when the plants go dormant for just a few months.

## **FERN**

Hardy ferns are tolerant of cold winter temperatures and can be grown outdoors year round. Most ferns are slow growing and can take several years to reach their mature size. Ferns give a delicate and airy quality to a shady garden. Many will grow in full shade areas where other plants will not grow. Being woodland dwellers, they require well-drained soil high in organic matter. Ferns may be divided in the fall or very early in spring before the new growth is emerging.

## **FIRECRACKER**

(See DICHELOSTEMMA)

## **FOXGLOVE**

(DIGITALIS)

Foxgloves prefer evenly moist, well-drained soil. Provide water the first few weeks whenever rainfall is less than 1" (2.5 cm) per week. Most foxgloves act as biennials. The term biennial means that the plant will grow for two years and then mainly die off. However, if you cut foxgloves back immediately after they are done, you can encourage a second round of blooms the following year. Make sure to leave a few spent blooms on the plant so they can produce seeds to grow more seedlings the next year.

## FOXTAIL LILY

(EREMURUS)

Foxtail Lily dislikes moist conditions, so plant in well-drained soil, preferably average to dry. Take extreme care when planting. The tuberous roots are quite brittle and should be handled with care. Dig a hole 8" (20 cm) wide and 6" (15 cm) deep. Remove the roots from the package and carefully spread the roots out like a fan over the surface of the soil at the bottom of the hole. Fill around and over the roots and crown with soil. If necessary, adjust the depth of the planting so the top of the plant is just below the soil surface. Press to make sure each plant is firmly set and all air pockets have been eliminated. As flower heads fade, you can cut back their stems. In the fall, a 4–6" (10–15 cm) layer of mulch, such as shredded leaves, is advised to help protect the roots in areas where the ground tends to heave due to alternate freezing and thawing.

## FRITILLARIA

### Crown Imperial

(imperialis)

Grow in a bed that receives a full 6 to 8 hours of sunlight daily and provides optimum drainage, which can be achieved by adding gravel or coarse sand. The bulbs have a hollow center that traps water, making them prone to bulb rot. Planting the bulbs on their side, surrounding them with sand and watering properly minimizes this problem. Crown Imperials are heavy feeders, so fertilize well at planting time and in early spring to help the bulbs gain enough energy for next year's flowers. Bulbs can be left in the

ground for many years.

## Guinea-Hen Flower

(meleagris)

Prefers full sun to part shade and moist soil during the spring. Bulbs should be left in the ground where they will naturalize.

## Pallidiflora

Grows well in fertile, humus-rich, well-drained soil. Prefers a rich peaty soil in semi-shade.

## uva-vulpis

Needs a moderately fertile, very well-drained soil. Intolerant of wet conditions when dormant. Naturalizes well when left undisturbed.

## GAILLARDIA

Gaillardias provide lots of colour in the garden from early summer into fall. They are perfect for planting with other summer-to-fall bloomers—such as black-eyed Susans, coneflowers and coreopsis—in the perennial border or in front of evergreen hedges. They also will brighten your home with long-lasting bouquets. Gaillardias do well in average, well-drained soil. Deadheading spent blooms will prolong the bloom period. After the first killing frost, cut back the stems of your gaillardias to 1" (2.5 cm). Although gaillardias are perennials and winter hardy, you may want to cover the roots with a 2–4" (5–10 cm) layer of mulch after the soil has frozen. Because your gaillardias will multiply, you can divide them for even more beauty around your home.

## **GALANTHUS**

(See SNOWDROPS)

## **GERANIUM**

(See HARDY GERANIUM)

## **GLADIOLUS**

(HARDY & BYZANTINUS)

Plant in well-drained garden soil in full sun. Fertilize when planting but avoid animal manure, since it may encourage rot. Hardy enough to be left in the ground from year to year in all but the coldest areas. We highly recommend adding mulch for extra winter protection.

## **GRAPE HYACINTH**

(MUSCARI & BELLEVALIA)

Plant grape hyacinths in sun or shade. If these bulbs are planted early, they will often produce foliage before freezing weather starts. This is their natural habit, so don't worry if you see foliage in the fall. Leave the bulbs undisturbed from year to year. They will multiply freely.

## **GRECIAN WINDFLOWERS**

(See ANEMONE blanda)

## **GUINEA-HEN FLOWER**

(See FRITILLARIA meleagris)

## **HARDY CYCLAMEN**

(See CYCLAMEN)

## **HARDY GERANIUM**

Very easy plants to grow and quite drought tolerant once established. Hardy geraniums grow well in any well-drained garden soil. After you plant them, they need to get established, so don't be alarmed if they don't bloom until fall their first year. Geraniums tend to go dormant in hot midsummer weather, and growth begins once the weather starts to cool. Be sure to keep them watered, and you will enjoy these plants for years to come.

## **HARDY GLADIOLUS**

(See GLADIOLUS)

## **HELIANTHUS MAXIMILIANI**

(See MAXIMILLIAN SUNFLOWER)

## **HEMEROCALLIS**

(See DAYLILY)

## **HIBISCUS**

(PERENNIAL & HARDY)

Plants thrive in medium to moist soil that is neutral to acidic. Do not let the soil dry out during its active growing period. Apply ample amounts of fertilizer during spring and summer for optimal results.

## **HOLLYHOCK**

(ALCEA ROSEA)

Grow in well-drained, neutral to slightly alkaline soil. Choose a sheltered location or stake the flower spikes to avoid wind damage. Good

air circulation helps prevent powdery mildew on the leaves in summer. Hollyhocks are biennial. By the end of their blooming season, these plants have used up all their energy, and they die. However, they produce and shed seeds that fall to the ground, starting the whole process over.

## HOSTA

Hostas bring beauty to shady areas where nothing else seems to grow. They are a delight on the north side of buildings, under large trees and in other areas where too much shade makes it difficult to grow other plants. It is especially important to keep your hostas from drying out during their first year of growth. Check the soil for moisture regularly.

## HYACINTH

Plant hyacinth bulbs in full sun to part shade in any well-drained soil. After your hyacinths have bloomed, cut off the flower stem, but allow the foliage to ripen and wither before removing. For increased blooming in subsequent years, give your hyacinths a topdressing of Breck's® Food for Bulbs and Perennials in the fall and early spring.

## IPHEION

(See SPRING STARFLOWER)

## IRIS

### Bearded Iris

(German Iris)

Plant in any well-drained soil in full sun

to part shade. To plant, dig shallow holes 10" (25 cm) across and 2-4" (5-10 cm) deep. Make a ridge of soil down the middle of each hole, dividing it in half. Place the iris rhizome on the ridge, spreading roots to both sides; cover with soil and firm with hands. In clay soil, the top of the rhizome should be slightly to half exposed. In sandy soil, it can be covered with 1" of soil maximum. Water thoroughly. Feed in early spring before blooming and again after flowering is done. As flowers fade, cut stems back to the rhizomes. When fall comes, trim away all dead foliage. Trim all other foliage to 4-5" (10-13 cm). Plants can be divided every 4-5 years. August is the best time to do this. Older rhizomes, which have few white feeding roots, should be discarded. Be sure each rhizome you replant has one or two leaf fans. Replant as you did your new irises.

## Dutch Iris

Plant in well-drained, average soil. Dutch irises bloom best when planted in full sun. Allow foliage to ripen through summer and then gently remove. For greater impact, plant in large groups. They do best when allowed to form thick clumps over 3-5 years, after which flowering will diminish. Lift while dormant and remove and replant offsets that form along mature bulbs.

## Dwarf bulbous

(reticulata & danfordiae)

Easy to grow in any well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Soil needs to stay relatively dry in summer, so bulbs will set buds for the following year. Let foliage yellow naturally before

removing.

### **Japanese Iris** (*Iris ensata*)

Plant in slightly acid to neutral, moisture-retentive soil. This iris is happy in shallow standing water but only during the summer months. It cannot tolerate dry conditions. Divide every 3–4 years in the fall as plants become crowded. Replant the divisions immediately; do not let them dry.

### **Louisiana Iris**

Requires normal to moist soil and benefits from a yearly gift of fertilizer. Louisiana irises are native to the southeastern part of the United States. It is said they prefer acidic soil, but we have found they do equally well under neutral to slightly basic conditions.

### **Siberian Iris** (*Iris sibirica*)

Their slender, but strong stems make Siberian irises ideal for sunny borders and waterside plantings. They do well in most average to moist garden soils. Avoid dry soil.

### **IXIOLIRION**

(See LAVENDER MOUNTAIN LILY)

### **KNIPHOFIA** (RED HOT POKER)

A tough and reliable clump-forming perennial, Kniphofia thrives in full sun and loves the heat. Drought tolerant, it requires only average soil and water. Deadheading, by cutting the flower stalk all the way back, often helps

promote flowering. In spring, once the danger of hard frost has past, the old foliage can be cut back to about 3" (7 cm).

### **LARKSPUR** (*CORYDALIS*)

Larkspurs are among the very best bulbs for woodland areas or partly to fully shaded beds and rock gardens. Easily grown in any well-drained soil, preferably rich in organic matter. Let foliage yellow before removing if you want the bulbs to flower next year. Foliage yellows quickly after flowering!

### **LAVENDER MOUNTAIN LILY** (*IXIOLIRION*)

Lavender Mountain Lilies prefer full sun and well-drained soil. Its foliage dies back in the summer, so grow with a ground cover or other perennials.

### **LEOPARD FLOWER** (*BELAMCANDA*)

Grows well in any well-drained soil. In areas that receive heavy winter precipitation, add gravel or sand to the soil to promote drainage because wet winter soil can kill the plant. Keep soil moderately moist during the spring and summer months. The Leopard Flower does not require a fertile soil, so do not fertilize excessively. A thick layer of mulch is suggested for Northern winters. For best results, divide every 3–4 years in early spring.

### **LEUCANTHEMUM** (See SHASTA DAISY)

## LILY

(LILIUM)

Take care not to break off any sprouts that may be on the bulb. Choose a sunny spot, preferably with light, porous soil enriched with compost. The ideal site is one where the plants get full sun at the tops and shade at the soil level to keep the ground moist. After flowering, remove only the blooms, NOT the stems or leaves. Allow the foliage to die back naturally. The stalk can be cut back carefully when the foliage has died back completely. For more in-depth information, visit Brecks.com/lilyguide.

## LUPINE

Lupines are easy-to-grow perennials that thrive in cool, moist locations. All they need is full sun to light shade and regular, well-drained soil. They will tolerate dry, sandy soil when established and dislike heavy clay soil. Lupines develop long taproots, so loosen the soil to a depth of 12–20" before planting. Deadhead spent blooms to ensure continued flowering.

## MAXIMILLIAN SUNFLOWER

(HELIANTHUS MAXIMILLIANI)

Offers the iconic colour of sunflowers but in a perennial that blooms year after year. Thrives in heat, drought and poor soil, including heavy clay. It is rhizomatous and spreads, so give it enough space. Attracts pollinators all season long.

## MOUNTAIN BELLS

(See ALLIUM)

## MUSCARI

(See GRAPE HYACINTH)

## NARCISSUS

(See DAFFODIL)

## NECTAROSCORDUM SICULUM

(See SICILIAN HONEY LILY)

## NEPETA

(See CATMINT)

## OENOTHERA

(OZARK SUNDROP)

Oenothera makes an excellent ground cover. It maintains a compact form in full sun and poor, well-drained soil. In fertile soil, it tends to spread. Hot, dry conditions are no problem for this plant. Yellowing foliage is most likely a symptom of overwatering. No pruning required.

## ORCHID IRIS

(See IRIS Dwarf bulbous)

## ORANGE GLORY FLOWER

(See ASCLEPIAS)

## ORIENTAL POPPY

(PAPAVER ORIENTALE)

Plant in deep, rich, fertile, very well-drained soil. It is especially important that the soil is not waterlogged in winter, which would spell death to the roots. Once planted, do not disturb because the long taproots can

easily break. Intolerant of hot, humid conditions, it thrives in areas with cool summers. Foliage often dies back after flowering but returns the following spring.

### **ORNAMENTAL ONION**

(See ALLIUM)

### **OXALIS**

(See SORREL)

### **OZARK SUNDROP**

(See OENOTHERA)

### **PAINTED DAISY**

(TANACETUM)

Painted daisies prefer dry conditions and are very drought tolerant, once established. Water one or two times after planting, and that should do it—they almost never need supplemental watering. Any well-drained soil is suitable. Cut back faded flowers to encourage a second flowering.

### **PAPAVER**

(See ORIENTAL POPPY)

### **PENSTEMON**

Grow in full sun or light shade and any fertile, free-draining soil. Sandy or gravelly soil is ideal. Easy-to-grow Penstemon is quite drought tolerant, once established. Deadheading helps promote a long season of flowering. Trim back to the ground when harsh

winter weather is over. We advise an annual application of fertilizer in the spring.

### **PEONY**

Peonies relish slightly acidic soils (pH 6.5–7.0) with good drainage. Avoid soils that become waterlogged from time to time. Position the roots so the eyes (pink buds) are about 0.5–1" (1–2 cm) below the soil surface. If planted deeper, it will take longer for your peonies to flower. Deadhead peony blossoms as soon as they begin to fade, cutting to a strong leaf so the stem doesn't stick out of the foliage. After the first frosts of fall blacken the foliage, cut to just above ground level and discard. Once your peonies are established, annual winter mulching is not necessary as winter protection. For more in-depth information, visit [Brecks.com/peonyguide](http://Brecks.com/peonyguide).

### **PEROVSKIA**

(See RUSSIAN SAGE)

### **PHLOX**

#### **Carpet Phlox**

(*P. subulata*)

Ideal for rock gardens, edgings, foundations or ground covers. Plant in humus-rich, medium-moisture, well-drained soil. Best flowering occurs in full sun, but plants generally appreciate some dappled sun in the hot summers of the Deep South. Quite drought resistant.

### Tall Phlox

(*P. paniculata*)

Strong, 2–3' (60–90 cm) stems make tall phlox ideal as background plants in borders and foundation plantings. Plants grow well in any well-drained soil. As flower heads fade, cut back old flower stems and you may enjoy a second flowering. After your tall phlox have finished blooming in the fall and foliage begins to die back, cut the plants to the ground and remove all foliage, although this is not necessary.

### PINCUSHION FLOWER

(See SCABIOSA)

### PUSCHKINIA

(See EARLY STARDRIFT)

### RANUNCULUS

(PERSIAN BUTTERCUPS)

Choose a spot with well-drained, sandy soil—preferably soil that is also slightly acidic. Before planting, soak corms for 3–4 hours in warm water. Plant corms with claws pointing downward. Ranunculus like cool nights and sunny but mild days. They grow best when soil around the crown is dry, but the roots are moist. Do not overwater. The tuberous roots are not easy to store successfully.

### RED HOT POKER

(See KNIPHOFIA)

### RUSSIAN SAGE

(*PEROVSKIA*)

Russian Sage is a low-care perennial that tolerates poor soil, drought and a wide range of soil pH. Although extremely drought tolerant, new transplants require regular watering. In areas with mild winters, prune after the flowers fade. If you don't want to see stems all winter long, cut the plants to 6–12" tall. Otherwise, wait to do a hard prune in late winter or very early spring. It is recommended you divide the plants every 4–6 years to rejuvenate them.

### SAGE

(See SALVIA)

### SALVIA

(SAGE)

Easy to grow in any medium to dry, well-drained soil. Tolerates drought. Plants may repeat bloom throughout the summer but need regular moisture to encourage this. Remove spent flower spikes to help extend the bloom period. Plants may become somewhat floppy and open up as summer progresses, particularly in humid climates. If plants flop or otherwise depreciate in summer, you can cut them back to the basal foliage.

### SCABIOSA

(PIN CUSHION FLOWER)

Scabiosa performs best in full sun and requires well-draining, organic-rich soil. The addition of compost or well-rotted manure will help enrich the soil. Scabiosa is most suitable to

temperate conditions. Deadheading spent blooms is necessary to keep the plants flowering and to improve their appearance. Overcrowded plants should be divided every 3–4 years in early spring.

### **SCILLA SIBERICA**

(See STAR OF HOLLAND)

### **SEDUM**

All sedums need well-drained soil, so avoid wet conditions. Other than that, these perennials are not fussy about soil. They are drought tolerant, once mature.

### **SHASTA DAISY**

(LEUCANTHEMUM)

Easily grown in any well-drained soil. Quite drought resistant, so watering is necessary only when soil is becoming very dry. Cutting the flowers encourages profuse blooming and provides long-lasting beauty in fresh bouquets. After the first killing frost, cut stems back to 1–2" above the soil line.

### **SICILIAN HONEY LILY**

(NECTAROSCORDUM SICULUM)

Plant in any fertile, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. When growing in clay soil, add grit to improve drainage. Sicilian Honey Lily is an excellent choice for perennializing because the bulbs come back year after year.

### **SNOWDROPS**

(GALANTHUS)

The sooner you plant the bulbs in the fall the better. The first spring flowering may be poor, but they will make up for their slow start in following years. Excellent for naturalizing under deciduous trees and shrubs, between perennials in the border and in the lawn. Do not cut off or mow over the leaves before they start to yellow!

### **SORREL**

(OXALIS)

Plant in well-drained soil, preferably in full sun. Some varieties are quite tender. Candy Cane Sorrel, for example, is hardy in zones 7–9 only. In zone 6, a heavy mulch might provide sufficient winter protection. In lower zones, however, you'll need to grow this tender variety in a greenhouse or otherwise protect. If unsure of which zone you live in, check the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map on page 25.

### **SPANISH BELLS**

(See WOOD HYACINTH)

### **SPRING STARFLOWER**

(IPHEION)

Considered one of the easiest bulbs to grow, Spring Starflower is readily cultivated in average, medium-moisture, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Tolerates a wide range of soils. Naturalizes rapidly by bulb offsets and self-seeding. Plants go dormant by late spring.

## STAR OF HOLLAND

(*SCILLA SIBERICA*)

Plant in average, medium-moisture, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Excellent for naturalizing. Let foliage yellow naturally before removing.

## SWEET WILLIAM

(*DIANTHUS BARBATUS*)

Considered a short-lived perennial or biennial, but prompt deadheading of spent flowers promotes perennial tendencies and a longer flowering period. Plant in rich, well-drained soil, preferably in full sun.

## TALL PHLOX

(See PHLOX)

## TANACETUM

(See PAINTED DAISY)

## TRILLIUM

For best results, grow trilliums in part to full shade (for example, under deciduous trees and shrubs) in humus-rich, well-drained soil with a medium to low pH. Plant rhizomes as soon as possible. Soak for half an hour in lukewarm water before planting. Trilliums do not like to be disturbed, so do not remove their foliage before it has turned yellow.

## TRITELEIA

Plant in rich, fertile, humusy, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Performs well in sandy loams. Grows

best with regular and consistent moisture during the growing season (spring to early summer) but needs dry soil during the post-bloom dormancy period.

## TULIPS

All tulips like the sun. However, the best locations are typically those providing maximal exposure to morning sun and minimal exposure to hot afternoon sun. This is particularly true for late-flowering tulips. For proper planting depth and spacing, see the chart on page 29 of this handbook or look on the bag in which your bulbs arrived. Cut flowers as they begin to fade to prevent formation of seed, which tends to weaken bulbs. Leave foliage uncut until ripened to ensure the bulbs receive the nourishment needed for future growth and blooming.

## WINTER ACONITE

(*ERANTHIS*)

Soak the small tubers overnight before planting. Plant in organically rich, medium-moisture, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. The tubers are lumpy and irregular, so don't worry about which side faces up. The tubers will grow however they are positioned. May self-seed and naturalize over time. Leave undisturbed, once planted.

## WOOD ANEMONES

(See *ANEMONE nemorosa*)

## WOOD HYACINTHS

(HYACINTHOIDES HISPANICA)

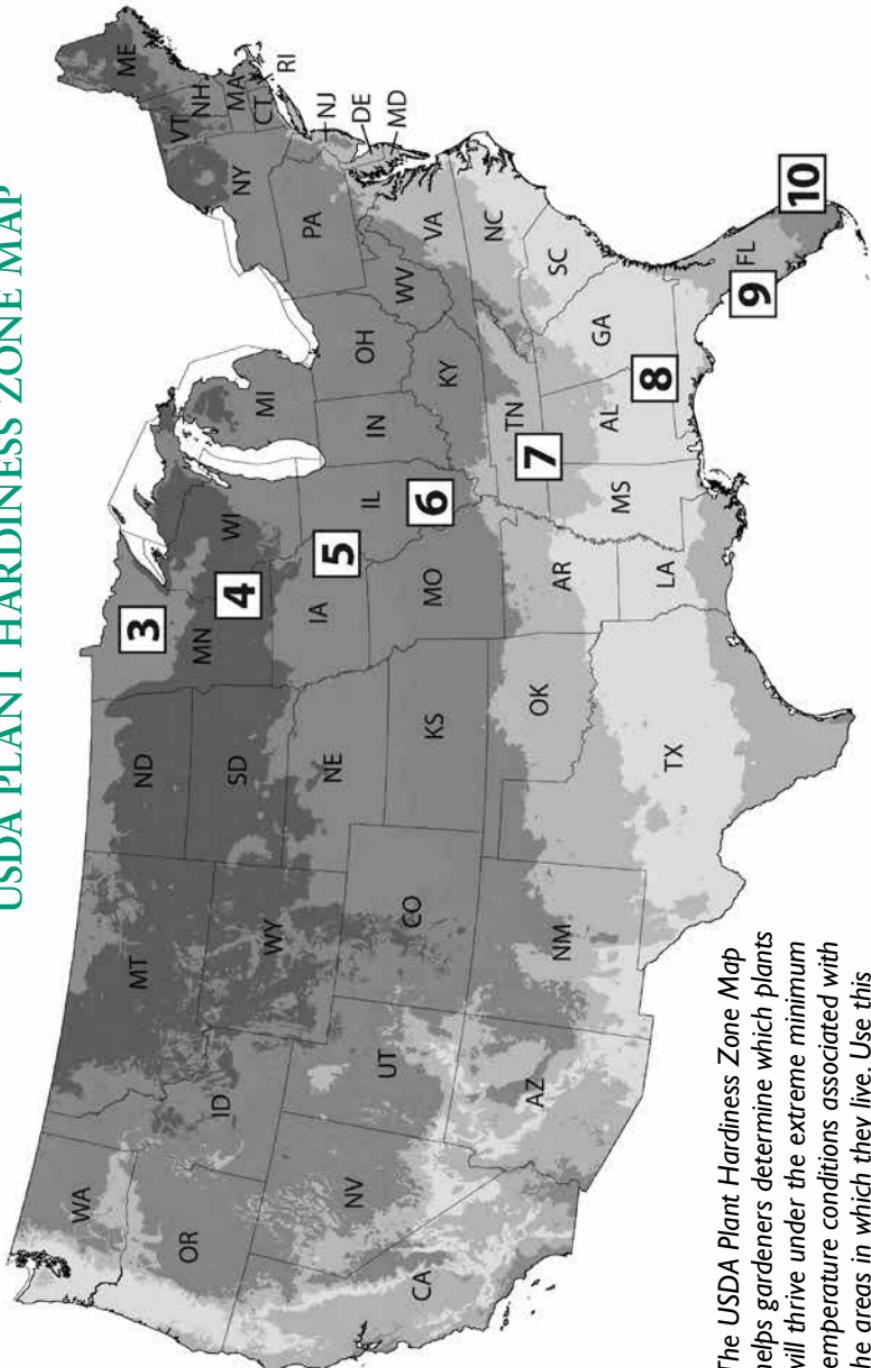
Easily grown in part to full shade (for example, under deciduous trees and shrubs) in well-drained soil, preferably with lots of organic material. Excellent for naturalizing. Let foliage yellow naturally before removing.

## YARROW

(ACHILLEA)

Yarrows do well in any well-drained soil. Although drought tolerant, water them well the first few weeks after planting to help them get established. Throughout the growing season, remove spent flowers of *Achillea millefolium* cultivars to ensure as many repeat blooms as possible. Very easy, low-maintenance perennials.

## USDA PLANT HARDINESS ZONE MAP



The USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map helps gardeners determine which plants will thrive under the extreme minimum temperature conditions associated with the areas in which they live. Use this map to find your hardiness zone.



# BRECK'S® BULB & PERENNIAL PLANTING HANDBOOK

Description	Planting Depth	Cut Flower	Deer Resistant	For Naturalizing
Allium:				
Giant	6"	×	×	×
Small	3"	×	×	×
Anemone:				
Grecian Windflowers	3"		×	×
Poppy	2-3"		×	
Wood	3"		×	
Arum italicum	5-6"		×	×
Asclepias	SB	×	×	
Aster	SB			
Astilbe	SB	×	×	
Astrantia	SB	×		
Autumn Daffodil	3"		×	×
Bleeding Heart	SB		×	
Camassia	3-4"		×	×
Campanula	SB	×	×	
Canterbury Bells	SB	×	×	
Carnation	Level		×	
Catmint	SB		×	
Colchicum	6"		×	
Columbine	SB	×	×	
Coneflower	SB	×	×	
Coreopsis	SB		×	
Crocus	3"			×
Crown Imperial	6"		×	×
Cyclamen	SB		×	×
Daffodils	6"	×	×	
Daylily	SB			

Description	Planting Depth	Cut Flower	Deer Resistant	For Naturalizing
Dichelostemma	3-4"		X	X
Dog's Tooth	2-3"		X	X
Dragon Flower	5-6"		X	
Early Snow Glories	3"		X	X
Early Stardrift	3"		X	X
English Bluebells	4"		X	X
Fair Maids of France	1/2"			X
Fern	SB		X	
Firecracker	3-4"		X	X
Foxglove	SB		X	
Foxtail Lily	6"	X	X	
Fritillaria	3"		X	X
Gaillardia	SB			
Gladiolus:				
Byzantinus	4"			
Hardy	6"		X	
Grape Hyacinth	3"		X	X
Grecian Windflowers	3"		X	X
Guinea-Hen Flower	3"		X	
Hardy Geranium	SB		X	
Hibiscus	SB		X	
Hollyhock	SB	X	X	
Hosta	SB			
Hyacinths	6"	X	X	
Iris:				
Bearded	SA	X	X	
Dutch	4"	X	X	
Dwarf	3-4"		X	X
Japanese	SB	X	X	
Louisiana	SB	X	X	
Orchid	3-4"		X	
Siberian	SB	X	X	



# BRECK'S® BULB & PERENNIAL PLANTING HANDBOOK

Description	Planting Depth	Cut Flower	Deer Resistant	For Naturalizing
Larkspur	3"		X	
Lavender Mountain Lily	3"		X	X
Leopard Flower	Level	X		
Lily	6"	X		
Lupines	SB	X	X	
Maximillian Sunflower	SB	X	X	
Mountain Bells	3"	X	X	X
Orange Glory Flower	SB	X	X	
Oriental Poppy	SB	X	X	
Ornamental Onion (Millenium Ornamental Onion)	Level	X	X	X
Ozark Sundrop	SB			
Painted Daisy	SB			
Penstemon	SB	X	X	
Peony	SB	X	X	
Phlox:				
Carpet	SB		X	
Tall	SB	X		
Pincushion Flower	Level	X		X
Ranunculus	2-3"	X	X	
Red Hot Poker	SB	X	X	
Russian Sage	SB			
Salvia	SB	X	X	
Sea Holly	SB		X	X
Sedum	SB			
Shasta Daisy	SB			
Sicilian Honey Lily	6"		X	
Snowdrops	3"		X	X

Description	Planting Depth	Cut Flower	Deer Resistant	For Naturalizing
Sorrel	1½–2"			×
Spanish Bells	4"		×	×
Spring Starflower	3"		×	×
Star of Holland	3"		×	×
Sweet William	Level		×	×
Trillium	1"			×
Triteleia	4"	×	×	
Tulips	6"	×		
Winter Aconite	3"		×	×
Wood Hyacinth	4"		×	×
Yarrow	SB	×	×	

**SB:** Top of plant should be just below soil level

**SA:** Top of plant should be just above soil level

**Level:** Top of root ball level with the soil surface

# NOTES

# NOTES

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