

HOW TO FORCE BULBS

What Is Forcing

Forcing is a process which manipulates the bulb's environment to induce flowering before the bulb's normal blooming season. A bulb requires certain conditions to be met for each of its prebloom stages. By forcing you can meet these requirements in the shortest time possible.



Preparing Your Forcing Garden

Forcing depends heavily on the bulb's food reserve, therefore buying the largest top quality bulbs will produce the best results.

Depending in part on the type of bulb, you can "plant" in water alone, pebbles (or sand) and water, or potting soil. Most bulbs planted in soil will bloom in 17 to 20 weeks, however narcissus can take just 6 weeks.

Recommended Bulbs

Hyacinth, Paperwhite Narcissus and Amaryllis are probably the easiest to force. If you wish more variety try Tulips, Daffodils, Crocus, Iris Reticulata, Muscari, Scilla and others.



Hyacinth and **Crocus** can be grown in water alone using a special glass container designed for this purpose. Using this method you can expect blossoms in 3½ to 4 months.

Narcissus can be placed into a 3 to 4 inch deep container of pebbles. Keep water level at the base of the bulbs. These bulbs take 6 weeks to bloom. By planting at 2 week intervals until December, you can have flowering Narcissus over a 2 month period.

Procedure

Plant Bulbs close together; leave the tops above the soil. Soak pot thoroughly and place in cool dark area (40°F - 50°F) for 12 to 16 weeks. Keep the soil from completely drying out. Check for top growth after 12 weeks. When sprouts are 1" high moved to sunny indoor area, keeping the temperature below 80°F. Water every, or every other day to keep soil moist. **Congratulations, you have fooled Mother Nature!**

