

OGA Information Sheet - 3

Spring-Flowering Bulbs

<u>Bulb Care after purchase</u> - Store purchased bulbs in a cool area (60 - 68 degrees) - garage, basement or refrigerator (not by fruit as ethylene gas from fruit can prevent blooming) until ground temperatures are 55 - 60 degrees. This is usually mid-November thru December in central Oklahoma. Check mesonet.org for soil temperatures in your area.

<u>Planting Location and Soil</u> - Good soil drainage is very important to keep the bulbs from rotting in the ground over winter. If you have heavy clay soil, amend with compost, humus or organic matter to a depth of 10-12 inches for good root growth. Plant in full sun to partial shade. Daffodils need at least 6 hours of direct sunlight.

Planting -The general rule for planting bulbs is to plant at a depth of 3 times the bulb's height. Plant bulb with pointed or sprout side up and flat or root side down in hole. Mulch after planting to retain moisture and maintain cool temperatures of soil.

<u>Fertilizing</u> - Fertilize bulbs very lightly with a low-nitrogen fertilizer, preferably organic, just as the shoots emerge in early spring.

<u>After Blooming</u> - Leave foliage up until it browns to help feed the bulb for next year's blooms. When dividing is needed, wait until foliage has turned brown before digging and separating bulbs for replanting. Replanting can be done immediately or bulbs can be stored in cool area for planting in the fall.