

Indoor Forcing Planting Guide

Warm Up Your Winter With Indoor Forcing!



STEP 1

Using potting soil, fill your pot to the first rim. Set bulbs close together in equal distance apart with pointed ends up.



STEP 2

Add the rest of the soil to partially cover the bulbs. Soak the entire pot thoroughly with water. Place the container in a cool place for a period of 12 weeks. During this period, the soil should be kept moist and the bulbs kept cool, with temperatures below 50° at all times.



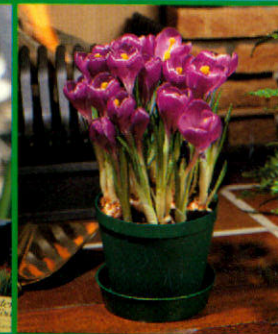
STEP 3

A cool cellar, unheated garage, or even a refrigerator are perfect environments except in the extreme South where refrigeration must be used. After 12 weeks of cool storage, the root system should be well established. With a strong root system and one inch sprouts, your pot is now ready to be moved indoor to a sunny location. The temperature indoors should not exceed 80°F. The pale shoots will quickly turn dark green.



RESULTS

Water once a day or every other day to keep the soil moist. You have just fooled Mother Nature into producing beautiful, natural blooms in your home!



Create Your Own Indoor Forcing Garden!

Of all flower bulbs the Hyacinth, Paperwhite Narcissus and Amaryllis are probably the easiest to bring into flower in an Indoor Garden. If you wish to enjoy the many colors and shapes of the total Spring Garden, you must try some of the other gems such as Tulips, Daffodils, Crocus, Iris Reticulata, Muscari, Scilla and others.

...

Coaxing Spring flower bulbs to bloom in the winter is commonly referred to as Indoor Forcing. Actually, a better term would be Gentle Persuasion. By the deceptive use of light and temperature you can cause the bulb to believe that in a period of 12-15 weeks, it has experienced a total winter.

Simple Planting Instructions

1. Fill your pot to the first rim with soil. Set bulbs close together with pointed ends up.
2. Add soil to partially cover the bulbs. Soak the entire pot thoroughly with water.
3. Place the container in a cool place for a period of 12 weeks. (Use the chart below to keep track of the time). During this period, the soil should be kept moist and the bulbs kept cool, with temperatures below 50° at all times. A cool cellar, unheated garage or even a refrigerator are perfect environments except in the extreme South where refrigeration must be used. After 12 weeks of cool storage, the root system should be well established. With a strong root system and one inch sprouts, your pot is now ready to be moved indoors to a sunny location. The temperature indoors should not exceed 80°F. The pale shoots will quickly turn dark green. Water once a day or every other day to keep the soil moist. You have just fooled Mother Nature into producing beautiful, natural blooms in your home!

START DATE: _____	WEEK 1 <input type="checkbox"/>	WEEK 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	WEEK 3 <input type="checkbox"/>	WEEK 4 <input type="checkbox"/>	WEEK 5 <input type="checkbox"/>	WEEK 6 <input type="checkbox"/>
WEEK 7 <input type="checkbox"/>	WEEK 8 <input type="checkbox"/>	WEEK 9 <input type="checkbox"/>	WEEK 10 <input type="checkbox"/>	WEEK 11 <input type="checkbox"/>	WEEK 12 <input type="checkbox"/>	FINISH DATE: _____

CUT & SAVE

Helpful Planting Tips

ROOTING

The potted bulbs now need a period of cold storage of at least 12 weeks to develop roots, stem and bud. Rooting should be at temperatures of 40° to 50° Fahrenheit.

FOR INDOOR ROOTING

Place the pots in a cool cellar, old refrigerator, garage or outdoor shed where they will not freeze. Pots rooted indoors must be kept in complete darkness and watered regularly.

FOR OUTDOOR ROOTING

Dig a bed deep enough to hold the pots and about 3 inches of sand. Spread an inch of sand or pebbles on the bed bottom for drainage. Set the pots and cover them with two inches of sand and a mound of about six inches of soil. Dig a small trench around the bed for water to run off. Water the bed regularly until freezing weather sets in. The containers can be buried in an outdoor trench properly protected against excessive cold.

CONTAINERS FOR FORCING

Choose containers that reflect your decorating tastes. Metal, ceramic, plastic or clay will all do. Use paint, paper, seashells, or any other material to transform containers into attractive settings for your flowers. If new clay pots are used, soak them in water 24 hours prior to use. Forced bulbs require well-drained soil, therefore, containers must have a drainage hold, and must be twice as deep as the bulb for roots to develop.

SOIL FOR FORCING

Light soil is the key especially for drainage. Combine equal parts of weed-free garden or potting soil, peat and sand. (Don't use soil in which bulbs have been grown before.) And don't worry about fertilizer - the bulb contains all its own food. Then, apply a mulch of hay, straw, evergreen branches etc. to prevent freezing and heaving.

FLOWERING

After a minimum of 12 weeks the bulbs will have adequate root and sprout growth. The roots will be visible through the drainage hold and sprouts will be one to three inches tall. At this stage, the containers can be placed in a warmer environment. Place rooted pots in a 60° semi-dark area. After four days the pots should be transferred to a well lighted 65° to 70° area for flowers to bloom. Water regularly and keep pots away from heaters and draughts. Potted bulb flowers in bloom prefer cool locations 60° to 65° for daffodils and crocuses, 65° to 72° for tulips and hyacinths - warmer temperatures will shorten their bloom. They enjoy full sunlight but should be moved to a cool location at night.