



Evergreen Garden Club

WILD IRIS



OCTOBER 2020

Greetings EGC Members,

The fall garden is here! Isn't it fun to hear the elk bugling in the background as we do our fall gardening chores?

As I plant my fall bulbs, I dream of the beautiful flowers to come. Bye until then and I hope we can all get out to enjoy the beauty that is our golden aspen leaves.

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower"
Albert Camus

Peace, love and gardens,

Cherie Luke
EGC President

NEXT EGC MEETING

OCTOBER 13, 2020 VIA ZOOM

Watch your e-mail for details on how to join in.

Tuesday October 13, 2020 is Workday

to Winterize Our Community Gardens

Check with your garden team leader to see if your team will be working.

Don't have an assigned garden but would love to help?

Contact Annell Hoy at Annell517@yahoo.com

Evergreen Garden Club
General meeting
September 8, 2020

The meeting was called to order on Zoom format at 9:15am by President, Cherie Luke. 18 members were present.

Secretary Report by Janice Theobald

Minutes from the June General Meeting were approved as stated in the Wild Iris.

Technology Officer Report by Julie Ann Courim

Positive feedback has come in from the board members on the new format for the website. The new format is updated and easier to make changes to, and less expensive from an administrative aspect.

Encouraging everyone to continue to send garden photos so that they can be put on the Facebook page. It is working to increase awareness of our club.

Treasurer Report by Helen McLeman

The Evergreen Garden Club has been registered as a charity organization with the State of Colorado.

Budget update was reviewed. Income is down from last year due to membership numbers down and a previous donation that has not been received this year.

Emphasis on the Garden Tour as our major fund raiser and very important to our financial success. The board will be deciding on timing for the Garden Tour of every 2 or 3 years.

2nd Vice President Report by Donna Moore

We have one new member Janet Gluskoter. Welcome Janet!

Membership renewal forms have been sent by email - thanks to Julie Ann for her help.

Renewals are due by September 30th. Encouraged everyone to please send them in promptly.

Committee Report from Annell Hoy

We are now maintaining 9 public gardens. We recently added the "Flowers for a Friend" garden at Hiwan. Pam Finish is the garden lead and is in need of 2 volunteers to help.

We also need volunteer help at the Fire Station garden.

We continued the meeting with a brief discussion on bulbs and other current garden questions.

Today's program was presented by Christine Crouse CSU Extension Agent for Clear Creek County.

The topic was "*Top 10 things to putting your Mountain Gardens to Bed*"

Thank you, Christine, for a very informative presentation!

The meeting concluded at 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted by Janice Theobald, Secretary



It's time to put our Community Gardens to bed!

Hello Garden Club Members,

It's just about time for us to "Put our Gardens to Bed" for the winter. Official Workday is Tuesday, October 13th. If you have not been assigned to one of our now 9 public gardens, please contact me, Annell Hoy annell517@yahoo.com for assistance.

The 'Flowers for a Friend' garden, located at Hiwan Homestead park and the Fire Training Center garden, located in Bergen Park at the Fire Training Center both desperately need volunteers. If you are free to assist in these gardens and need help contacting their leaders, again, please contact me.

Many thanks to all of you who have worked regularly in our Public Gardens; we couldn't do it without you!

Annell Hoy
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720-438-5502 (text/cell)
Annell517@yahoo.com





PLANTS THAT SCREAM - HALLOWEEN!



Rafflesia Arnoldii – is a leafless and rootless parasitic flower that boasts the largest blooms; it feeds off other plants, can grow to a diameter of three feet and weigh as much as 24 pounds. Found in forests of southeast Asia, its stinky smell attracts carrion flies.

***Hydnellum Peckii* or Devil's Tooth** – is an inedible fungus that 'bleeds' from its spores and has tooth-like projections that hang from its undersurface.



***Dracunculus Vulgaris* or Dracula Plant -**

In early spring, beautifully patterned foliage arises, from which ascends a huge, lurid purple spathe, which can be more than 2 feet long. Although it smells like rotting meat, which are its efforts to attract pollinating flies, it nevertheless makes a unique addition to the average garden. Very few large fertile seeds are ever collected.



Bixa Orellana or Annatto – This creepy looking plant was probably added to your cheese for color.



Aseroe Rubra or Sea Anemone Fungus – Not only does this fungus smell horrible, it also attracts flies; which in turn help it grow.



Tacca Chantrieri or Chinese Black Bat Flowers – There's a reason people don't like bats much. Pretty much the same reason they don't like this flower much!



Hydnora Africana or jakkalskos – If you're still not averse to smelling flowers, *this* will change your mind! It's a parasitic plant that lives off the roots of euphorbia plants and can take up to two years to flower. The fruit smells like rotten meat which attracts Jackals, who feast on the fruit; thus, the name. The local tribes 'nama' eat this as delicatessen.





Cuphea llavea or Bat Faced Cuphea – Also known as bunny ears, is known as the vampire's favorite flower for the striking resemblance of its blooms to the face of a bat.

Nelumbo Nucifera or Lotus Nuts – If you've ever had makhana, you now know what you were eating.



Citrus Medica or Citron – This plant only looks horrible. Fun fact: this fruit is one of the first four citrus fruits from which other citrus fruit developed.

Dionaea Muscipula or Venus Fly Trap – We've all seen cartoon versions of this flower. This is what the real deal looks like.





Sarracenia Purpurea or Purple Pitcher Plant

– The largest of the carnivorous plants. Insects, attracted by the colorful pitchers and nectar around the lip, will fall into the large hollow pitcher tubes and find it impossible to climb back out due to fine downward pointing hairs. Eventually, the insects will succumb and are slowly digested by the plant to provide nutrients for further growth. Too bad it doesn't eat voles!

Xylaria Polymorpha or Dead Man's Fingers – Are actually a mushroom. Mushrooms are the fruiting bodies (reproductive stage) of fungi. This mushroom arises in spring. It may be pale or blueish with a white tip at first. The fungus matures to dark grey and then black. Creepy!





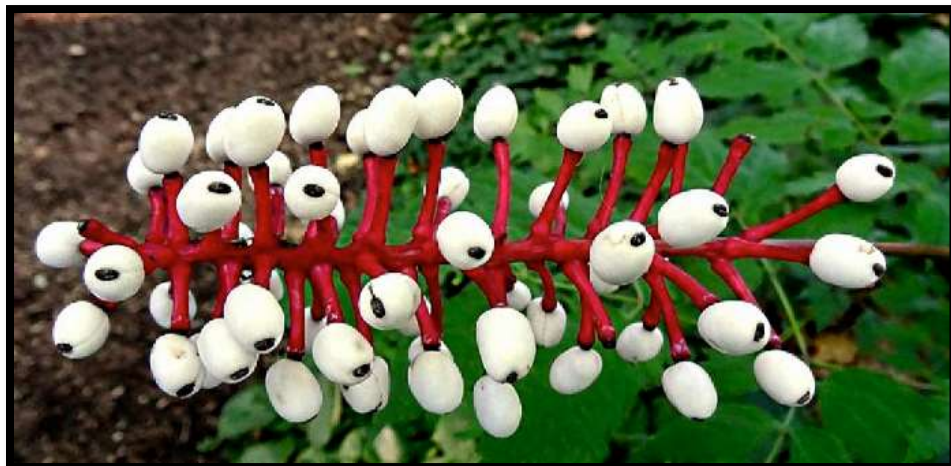
***Acmella oleracea* or Toothache Plant** – Is actually a medicinal herb that's been used for generations to manage the pain of toothaches. Both the leaves and the flower can be used as a natural anesthetic. Simply chew the leaves or flowers for a few seconds and you'll experience a tingling and numbing sensation in your mouth. An infusion or tincture made from this plant is said to promote gum and throat health due to its strong antibacterial properties. Also called *Spilanthes oleracea*.

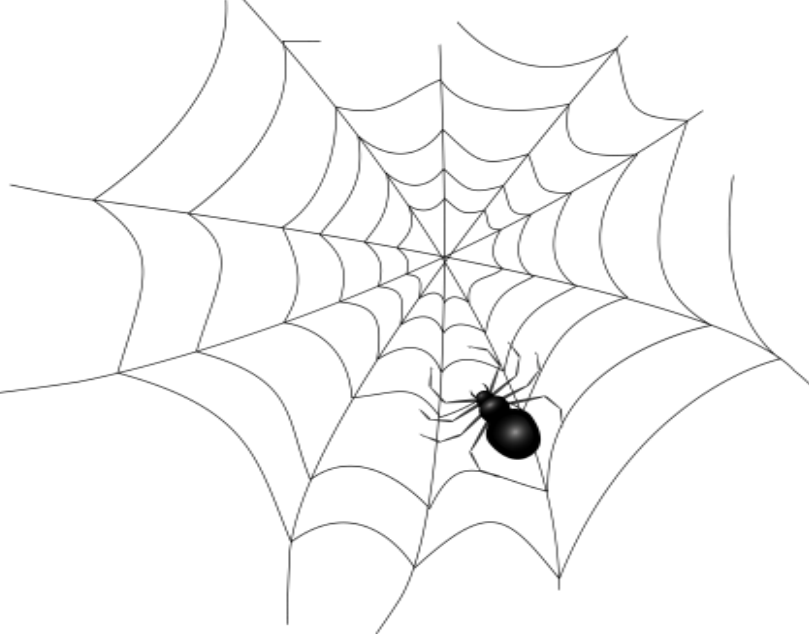
***Monotropa uniflora* or Ghost Pipe Plant** –

This fascinating plant is definitely one of nature's weird wonders. Because it has no chlorophyll and doesn't depend on photosynthesis, this ghostly white plant is able to grow in the darkest of forests.



***Actaea pachypoda* or Dolls Eyes Plant** – Clearly refer to the berries of this plant, which is indigenous to North America. The berries and all the other parts of the plant are poisonous to humans. They have been known to cause gastrointestinal inflammation or, worse, cardiac arrest.





Fall Watering Reminder!



If we go into the winter season with dry soils (Colorado is normally dry in the fall without landscape irrigation), woody plants can lose around 20 degrees of hardiness.

That is a tree, which would normally go down to -20 degrees F, would be damaged at only 0 degrees.

Even without extreme cold, winter injury can occur on woody plants due to a dry fall/winter season. To help ensure a healthy return the following spring, be sure first-season trees, shrubs and perennials are well watered throughout the fall season.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Janet Gluskoter





Hannah Bullen-Ryner composes beautiful birds using only natural materials found locally and no permanent fixings. Scavenging her surroundings, she puts together flowers, leaves, twigs, and berries to form delicate portraits either on the woodland floor or under one small oak. When she's done, they last only a few moments before nature starts reclaiming them. Luckily, that brief period of time is enough for Hannah to photograph her artworks, or as she calls it, offerings to Mother Nature. Soon after, they get taken by the breeze, rearranged by the rain, or wriggled through by an insect and leave no trace behind. To see more of Hannah's artwork, visit:

<https://www.boredpanda.com/plant-flower-birds-hannah-bullen-ryner/?afterlogin=savevote&post=2466673&score=-1>

Submitted by EGC Member Barbara Stanton





IT'S TIME TO RENEW!

Membership dues are now due*
for the 2020-2021 year!

Please send checks to EVERGREEN GARDEN CLUB,
PO Box 1393, Evergreen, CO 80437

You may also PAY ON LINE or use Pay Pal at our website:

www.evergreengardenclub.org

Personal yearly membership is \$30.00

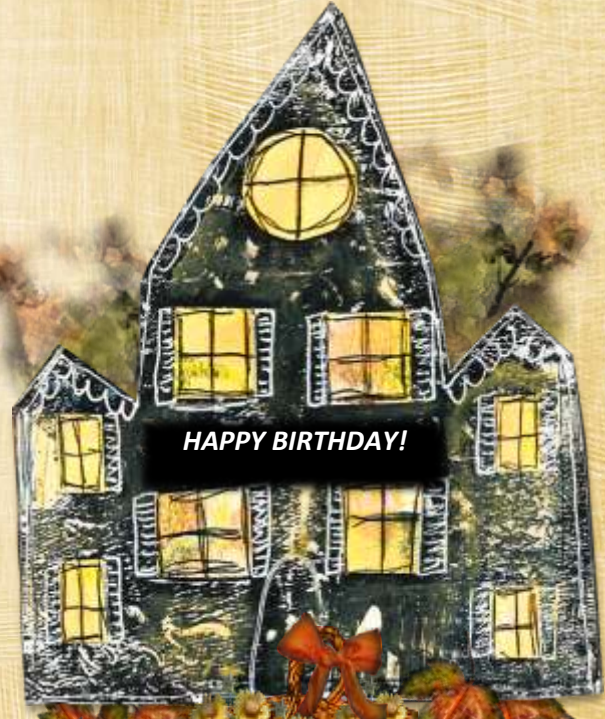
Family membership is \$40.00

Business membership is \$60.00

****Dues must be received by
October 31, 2020 to ensure
inclusion in the EGC Directory
Thank you!***



***Best Wishes to all
our EGC October
Birthday
Boys and
Girls!***





FALL REMINDER! **Protect young trees from** **Winter Sun Scald!**

Sunny winter days heat the tree bark and are typically followed by rapid temperature drops at night. This causes the bark to split and can kill the tree.

The other main contributing factor is water stress. Trees that are well hydrated during the winter months are less likely to get sunscald. This is one reason why it is critical to keep newly planted trees well-watered.



Plastic drain pipe tree guard, split down the side, by Robert Pavlis



When planting new trees and shrubs, be sure the 'dog-leg' is facing north.



Tired of losing bulbs to rodents?



7 Praestans Fusilier Tulips
12 Blue Grape Hyacinths

7 Purple Sensation Alliums
12 Allium neapolitanum

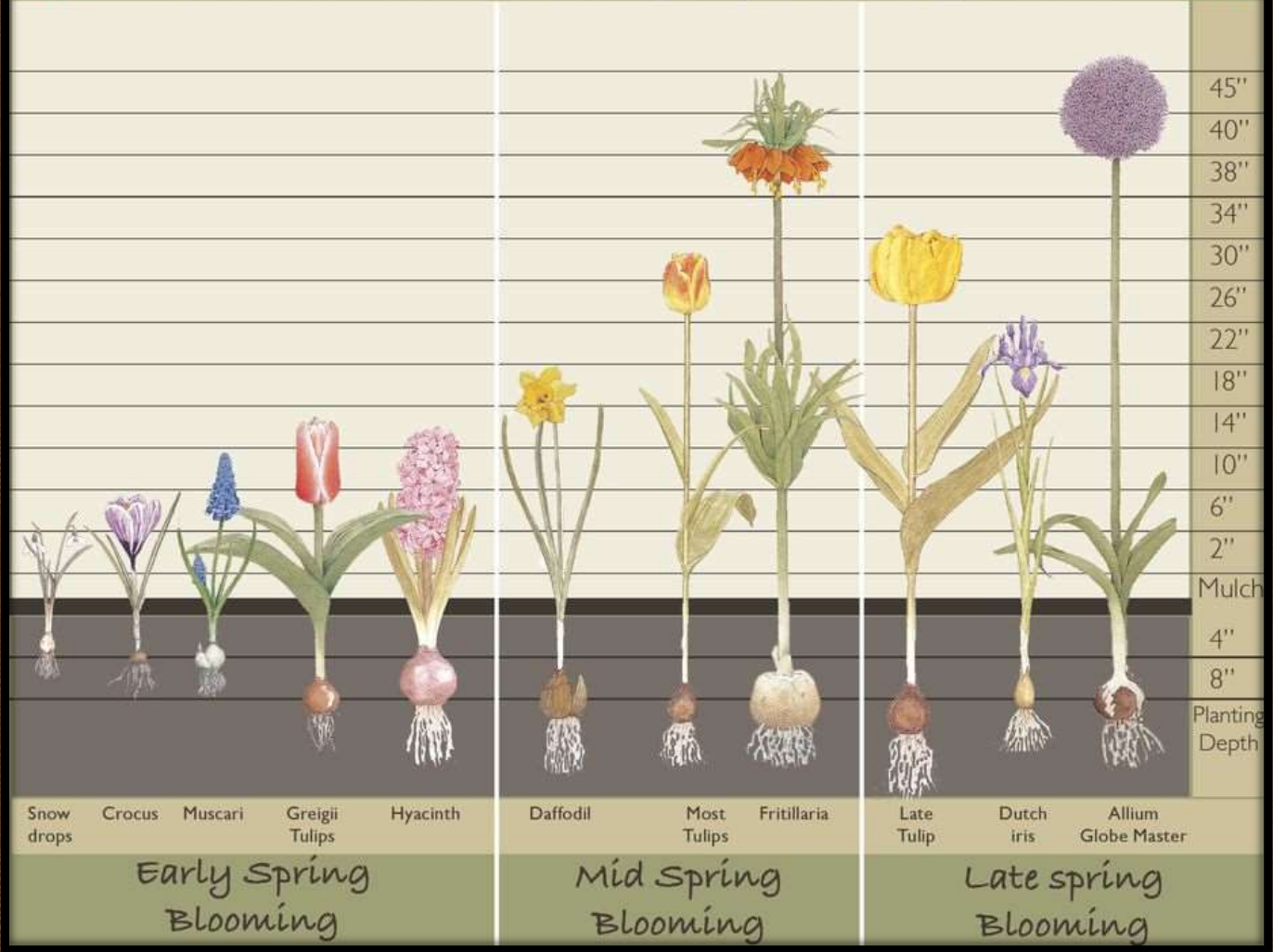


Flower bulb trays come in different sizes and make planting bulbs in pots and in the ground, much easier!





Netherland Bulb Company Planting Guide



Since there is typically still snow on the ground in April and even May, and freezing snow has been known to arrive in early September, planting later blooming bulbs, and earlier blooming perennials helps high altitude gardeners enjoy their blooms longer.

BULBS 101 – WHEN AND HOW TO PLANT BULBS AN INFORMATIVE ARTICLE BY LINDA HAGEN OF GARDEN DESIGN

A note from the Editor. This informative article has been reprinted from Garden Design. Parts of the original article that pertain to warmer climates have been eliminated. Please keep in mind that while much of the information in this article is helpful, some timelines may have to be adjusted due to our higher altitude and shorter seasons.

Bulbs are little packets of flower power that make us wait weeks, sometimes months, for results – but boy, are they worth it. The term ‘bulb’ often refers not only to true bulbs, but also plants with tuberous roots, tubers, corms, and rhizomes; the information here can be applied to all of these. With a little basic knowledge, anyone can grow beautiful bulbs.

TYPES OF BULBS

Bulbs can be separated into two main types: spring and summer.

Spring bulbs: Also called hardy bulbs - These bulbs are planted in fall, spend winter in the ground, and flower in the spring. Some of the more common spring bulbs are tulips, irises, daffodils, hyacinth, allium and crocus. These bulbs need several weeks of cold temperatures to break their dormancy and flower to their full potential.

Summer bulbs: Also called tender bulbs - These bulbs are planted in spring and flower or leaf out in summer. Gladiolus, lilies, caladiums and elephant ears are common examples of summer bulbs. Some will bloom later in summer or for a longer time, like dahlias that bloom into fall. Summer bulbs are not tolerant of cold temperatures and are planted only after the ground warms up and there is no longer a threat of frost. If purchased before planting time, store them in a cool, dry spot until planting.



PLANTING BULBS

WHEN TO PLANT BULBS

ZONES 4 TO 7: In colder climates, spring bulbs can be planted as soon as the ground is cool, evening temperatures average 40 to 50 degrees F, and it is at least 6 to 8 weeks before the ground freezes. If timed right, this should be as soon as possible after purchase. However, bulbs can be stored in the refrigerator if needed until planting. (See Helpful Hints below for more important information on storing bulbs in the refrigerator.)

Summer bulbs should be planted in mid to late spring.

Average planting times for spring bulbs: September to October – Zones 4 and 5

Average planting times for summer bulbs: May to June – Zones 4 to 7

PLAN BEFORE YOU PLANT

Bulbs can be grown in many ways – formal gardens, meadow gardens, scattered in lawns, under trees, or strategically planted throughout beds and borders. Many bulbs will naturalize in an area and multiply, coming back year after year, so plan carefully and you can have years of enjoyment from one planting.

Plant in clusters for greater visual impact.

- Take into account bloom time – plant a combination of early, mid-and late-season bloomers to extend the season.
- Hide dying foliage of low-growing bulbs that are past their prime with taller bulbs planted in front or with companion plants.
- Layer plant heights from front to back when planting varieties that will bloom at the same time.
- Many bulbs are perfect for container planting – bring them into view when blooming and move out of the way when foliage is wilting and when dormant. Plant closer together in containers than specified for in-ground planting.
- Bulbs can provide bright, vibrant color – think about how those colors will blend with their surroundings.

Companion plants keep the planting area going when bulbs are dormant. Some good perennial companions are sedum, coreopsis, thyme, cranesbill, daylilies, coral bells, brunnera, hosta, hellebores, or bleeding heart.



WHERE TO PLANT BULBS

As long as you ensure that your bulbs have good drainage and sunlight, you can plant them just about anywhere. Drainage is critical to keep bulbs from rotting. They like loamy or slightly sandy soil because it provides the drainage and nutrients they need. Early-spring bloomers can be planted under deciduous trees where they'll get enough sun to bloom before the tree's leaves block it out. However, they'll only bloom well the first year, as they'll need sunlight later for the leaves to gather enough energy for the next year's bloom.

HOW TO PLANT BULBS

Bulbs can be planted in layers by digging up an entire area down to the proper depth, placing the bulbs and covering; or in individual holes dug for each bulb. Individual planting is made easier with a bedding plant auger (see photo below).

1. Determine the planting depth for the type of bulb you're planting. Depth is important for bulbs. If planted too deep, they will bloom late or not at all. If planted too shallow, new growth may become exposed too soon and risk damage by cold temperatures. If you are unsure of the planting depth, a good general rule of thumb is to plant the bulb 2 to 3 times as deep as the bulb is tall.
2. Prepare the soil by loosening and mixing in organic material if needed for added nutrients or to improve drainage. Special bulb fertilizer can be added; follow the package directions.
3. Place the bulbs with the pointy-end up and with the roots down. If you're not sure of the top or bottom of the bulb, plant it on its side and it will find its way to the surface.
4. Cover with soil and a light layer of mulch.
5. Newly planted bulbs should be watered well to get settled in.
6. If needed, protect bulbs from critters by staking down wire mesh or chicken wire over the beds or planting them in bulb baskets or wire cages.

Augers vs digging



Plant bulbs in wire baskets from the Dollar Store. Cover with hard wire cloth until growth appears; remove hard wire cloth and then spray.



Bulb Baskets from Brecks
1 for \$9.99 or 3 for \$24.99



LASAGNA PLANTING

Not only good for Sunday dinner, lasagna (planting) is great for bulbs. The idea is to plant bulbs with different sizes and staggered bloom times in layers for a continual bloom. This works great in large containers that are deep and wide enough. Here's a sample plan, working from the bottom up in a container.

- A good layer of potting soil for a planting depth of about 8 inches
- A few late-spring blooming bulbs such as daffodils or tulips
- Another layer of potting soil for a planting depth of about 6 inches
- Add mid-spring-blooming bulbs such as more tulips or hyacinth
- Another layer of potting soil for a planting depth of about 4 inches
- Add early-blooming bulbs such as galanthus, scilla, muscari or crocus
- Another layer of potting soil for a planting depth of about 2 inches
- Add more early-blooming bulbs such as freesia or anemones
- Top with more potting soil and a thin layer of mulch
- Overplant with pansies, heuchera, hardy cyclamen or dusty miller if you'd like a filler while waiting for the bulbs to grow.

This planting method can be used in-ground as well for a concentrated area planting. It can also be adjusted to fewer layers in smaller pots.

To view a video on 'Planting a Layered Bulb Pot' you can visit this article's website at: <https://www.gardendesign.com/bulbs/how-to.html>

AFTER-CARE AND DIGGING UP BULBS

For all bulbs, after blooming, cut only the flower stem back. Leave foliage intact until it turns yellow and wilts to the ground; the leaves are gathering and storing energy for next year. If the foliage is cut back too soon, bulbs may not perform well – or at all – the following year.

Spring bulbs: For colder climates, they can stay in the ground. Many will multiply and return year after year.

Summer bulbs: In colder climates, bulbs need to be dug up and stored until the following spring.



DIGGING UP BULBS

- Cut any remaining stems and foliage back to a couple inches above the soil level.
- Loosen the soil around the bulbs carefully and remove them.
- Shake as much soil as possible from the bulb and roots.
- Spread them out on newspaper in a cool, shady place and allow them to dry for a few days. Make sure they are out of reach of animals and children as some bulbs are poisonous.
- Store in an aerated paper or mesh bag or cardboard box with holes. You can add slightly damp vermiculite or perlite so they don't dry out too much.
- Store in a cool, dark, and dry location with temperatures 50 to 60 degrees, such as a basement or garage.
- Check bulbs monthly for any signs of mold or rot.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Don't store fruit (especially apples) or vegetables in the refrigerator at the same time bulbs are being stored or pre-chilled. They emit ethylene gas that can kill the plant inside the bulb.
- Soil pH of 6 to 7 brings out better color in blooming bulb flowers.
- Plant bulbs in the same season they are purchased, they won't last until next year.
- If bulbs are to be left in the ground while dormant, place a marker so that you remember where they are after you've cut the foliage back.
- Bulbs need to breathe, so store them in aerated paper or mesh bags, never in plastic.

BUYING BULBS

Here are a few tips to help you pick the best bulbs:

- Bulbs should feel firm to the touch, not soft or spongy.
- Choose bulbs that don't have any signs of disease, mold or severe damage.
- At the time of purchase, bulbs should show little or no root growth or sprouting. Lilies are an exception, as they often have fleshy roots attached.
- The old saying, you get what you pay for, holds true with bulbs. Quality bulbs will make the difference between lackluster blooming and an impressive show.

Please send any corrections or submissions for The Wild Iris to louiseheern@gmail.com

