



Question of the Week

Q. Is it too late to plant spring-flowering bulbs?

A. You can plant bulbs any time in the fall before a deep frost hardens the ground. Select only healthy, firm bulbs and plant them in well-drained soil. To prepare the soil remove weeds and stones and loosen the soil. If your soil has a high clay content, add a 2-inch layer of sand, peat or vermiculate and work it in to a depth of 12 to 18 inches. If soil is too sandy, work in peat or compost. At the same time you are modifying the soil, add 2 lbs of 5-10-10 fertilizer or 7 lbs. of bone meal per 100 sq. feet. If you haven't added limestone during the past three years, mix 5 lbs. of agricultural lime per 100 sq. feet into the soil. Set bulbs firmly but gently into the soil, pointed end up, then cover with soil and water thoroughly. Plant daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths 6 to 8 inches deep and 6 inches apart. Plant crocuses 4 inches deep and 2 inches to 3 inches apart. Plant bulbs in clumps of at least 5-7, or in masses, rather than lining them up in a row. Around Thanksgiving, when the soil freezes, cover bulb beds with a 3-inch mulch of straw, shredded leaves, or pine bark. In the spring, remove the mulch before shoots develop more than an inch or two. Remove dead blooms, but leave foliage until it has died back.

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension's Family, Home & Garden Education Center Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., or e-mail us at answers@unh.edu