

Layered Bulb Container Gardens



Many bulbs can be combined to create lovely container gardens. These containers are ideal for balconies and patios, next to your door or even indoor. The secret is to plant your bulbs in layers inside the container. This layering method is also called 'sandwich-system'. Choose the species which will flower a few weeks after each other and you will get a pot that continues to flower for almost two months.

You should choose a container that is sufficiently wide and deep. 10 inches high is a nice size. Place gravel (or a medium to promote drainage) on the bottom of the container to help drain excess water. Then apply a layer of soil. The first layer of bulbs consists of the tallest and latest flowering type. Then some more soil, enough to totally cover the first layer. The second layer of bulbs has to be of an intermediary size and grow when the first layer has died back. If your container is deep enough, at least 14 inches, you can place a third layer. Really big pots can hold even a fourth layer. Keep in mind that the last layer should be covered with sufficient soil, as much as if planted in the garden.

Here are a few combinations to try:

Bulb	Planting Depth
Crocus	3"
Mini-Iris	3"
Early Tulips	5"
Mid Tulips	5"

Plant in two layers - add pansies or violas on top.

Bulb	Planting Depth
Muscari	3"
Early Tulips	5"
Triumph Tulips	5"
Early or Mid Daffodils	7"

Plant in three layers - add pansies or violas on top.

Bulb	Planting Depth
Muscari	3"
Crocus	3"
Mid Tulips	5"
Early or Mid Daffodils	7"

Plant in three layers - add pansies or violas on top.

