



Organic Newsletter

Fall Edition, 2010

Bulb Forcing

With fall approaching, we usually think of pumpkins, chrysanthemums, changing leaf color and planting bulbs outdoors for spring. Fall is also a great time to begin forcing bulbs into bloom, for some spring color in those cold barren winter months.

Bulb “forcing” is the stimulation of flowering out of season. Some of the most common and easiest bulbs to force include daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, muscari, and amaryllis.

The first step in bulb forcing is bulb selection; look for varieties that are recommended for forcing such as the ‘Delft Blue’ hyacinth or the ‘Tête-à Tête’ daffodil.



If you are purchasing from a garden center, check to make sure the bulbs are not sprouting and do not have soft spots.

When you’ve purchased your bulbs, if you do not have a location immediately available they can be stored in your refrigerator for several weeks. They will however, still require their rooting period. They should be stored in a mesh or paper bag with ventilation holes and should be checked from time to time for mold or drying out.

Before potting your bulbs you need to determine when you want them to bloom. Most spring flowering bulbs require about 12-16 weeks of temperatures around 41°F-48°F. However, amaryllis and paper whites do not require a cold period because they aren’t hardy in our region. Also once

the rooting period has been completed the bulbs will need an additional three to four weeks in an increased temperature (55°F-60°F) before flowering. So for instance, if you wanted them to flower for Valentine’s Day you should plant them in early to mid October.

The next step to forcing your bulbs into flower is putting them in cold storage. Some examples of places to store your potted bulbs are a refrigerator or cool basement. If using the refrigerator be careful not to place bulbs near ripening fruits and vegetables as the ethylene gas they emit will hinder flowering. (Note: Some bulbs are poisonous and this method may be dangerous if there are small children in the home.) To begin potting your bulbs for their rooting period, use a clean container (plastic or terracotta) and fill with potting soil. A good rule of thumb to use in figuring out how much soil to place in the bottom of the container is the top of the bulbs should be even with the rim when placed on the soil.

Place your bulbs on top of the soil –don’t push them down- while arranging them close to one another without touching. In the case of tulip bulbs place the flat side of the bulb facing outward; this side will sprout the first large leaf and help give you a uniform appearance around the



outside of the pot. When arranging your bulbs in your container it is better to not use different varieties in the same pot as they may require different rooting periods.

When you're satisfied with their placement fill the pot with soil, firm gently around the bulbs and water thoroughly. The last step is to label your container with the variety, the planting date and the date they are to be taken out of cold storage.

During their cold storage periodically check the soil in the containers to ensure it hasn't dried out.

When the shoots have reached about two to three inches remove the bulbs from cold storage and move them to a location with indirect light and 60°F temperatures for about two weeks. Once the shoots have reached four to six inches move them into direct light still maintaining the 60°F temperatures. When the flower buds have begun to show color move the bulbs back to indirect light and keep soil moist.

If you want to plant the spent bulbs outdoors in the fall, remove the flowering stem and leave the foliage in direct light until it withers. Then place the bulb in a cool dry location until ready for planting in the fall.

Fun Fact:

Mum's the Word!

The chrysanthemum received its name from the words Greek 'krus' and 'anthemon', meaning golden flower. It is also said in Japan around 800 AD, that the chrysanthemum was so revered only royal and noble families were allowed to cultivate it. The orderly opening of the mum "petals" was also believed by philosophers to symbolize the sun and the perfection of orderly life.



Do you have shrubs that you wish were in a different spot?

Do you have shrubs that are blocking walkways, windows or have just outgrown their original planting?

Fall transplanting is the answer!

Let Organically Green's team transplant those overgrown small trees and shrubs to help perfect the appearance of your landscape.

Call (631) 467-7999 to for an estimate!

Garden
Humor



How do you fix a broken pumpkin?

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With a pumpkin patch!

Organically Grown

Fresh Herb Organic Broccoli Tossed with Pasta, Toasted Pine Nuts & Parmesan Cheese



Try this delicious, kid-friendly vegetarian recipe for your meatless Monday! The garlic, pine nuts, and white wine pump up the flavor in this dish. And the parmesan cheese disguises the broccoli flavor for the kids

Ingredients:

6 tablespoons olive oil
6 garlic cloves
1 1/2 lb Organic Broccoli, cut into florets and small stem pieces
1/2 cup dry white wine
1/2 cup low sodium organic chicken stock
1/2 cup of pine nuts
1 cup fresh organic herbs
juice of 1 lemon
1/2 cup of parmesan cheese
salt and pepper

Method:

Cut broccoli from the stems and into small florets. Trim and shave off dry ends stems (if necessary) and slice thin.

Heat olive oil over medium high heat. Add garlic, broccoli, white wine, and chicken stock to pan and pinch of salt and pepper to taste. Simmer 30-45 minutes over medium high heat until fork-tender and broccoli is falling apart.

While broccoli is simmering, toast pine nuts in a dry pan over medium low heat until fragrant, 1-2 minutes. Remove from heat and cool.

Once broccoli is done, combine it in the food processor with pine nuts, herbs, lemon juice, and parmesan cheese. Blend until slightly chunky.

Toss broccoli mix with cooked pasta, add olive oil (if necessary) to loosen it up a bit. Taste for seasoning.

Note: We recommend using certified organic ingredients, when available, in all recipes to maximize flavors and nutrition while minimizing your risk of exposure to pesticides, chemicals and preservatives.

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**The Organically Green team
hopes you have a fabulous fall!**

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"Ere, in the northern gale,
The summer tresses of the trees are gone,
The woods of Autumn, all around our vale,
Have put their glory on."

- William Cullen Bryant, *Autumn Woods*

Services for 2010:

We offer the following services to help increase the enjoyment and beauty of your property:

Tree / Shrub:

- ❖ Shrub & Tree Spraying / Fertilization Programs
- ❖ Integrated Pest Management
- ❖ Soil Restoration
- ❖ Plant and Soil Stimulation Program
- ❖ Deep Root Feeding
- ❖ Root Growth Enhancement
- ❖ Mature Tree Restoration
- ❖ Air Spading
- ❖ Radial Trenching
- ❖ Vertical Mulching
- ❖ Anti-Desiccant Spraying
- ❖ General Tree and Shrub Maintenance Removal

Turf:

- ❖ Lawn Renovation
- ❖ Fertilization
- ❖ Overseeding
- ❖ Core Aeration
- ❖ Estate / Property Purification

Organic Pest Control:

- ❖ Flying Insect
- ❖ Deer / Geese
- ❖ Rodent Repellent
- ❖ Organic Tick & Flea Control

We also offer Outdoor Holiday Décor.

Call (631) 467-7999 for a free estimate!

