

# A Guide to Growing and Preparing Bulbs for the Horncliffe Spring Bulb Show

There is no mystery or secret to growing bulbs for the show. Its all in the timing. Order or buy your bulbs in August while stocks are fresh, for planting before the end of September or soon after.

There is no need to buy expensive bulb fibre as ordinary potting compost is adequate as long as the container is free draining. A 50/50 mix of potting compost and leaf mould or garden compost plus some grit and a sprinkling of slow release fertiliser can be used.

Check the Show Schedule for Rules, options and for pot size restrictions.

## HYACINTHS

1 or 3 bulbs in any size pot. Fill  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way with compost and plant bulb(s). Top up with more soil, leaving top of bulb(s) showing. Water and leave in frost free, dark, and cool shed or garage. Keep soil damp and slug free until after Christmas.

or  
Grow a single Hyacinth in a suitable glass vase, with water barely touching the base of the bulb. Leave as above.

## TULIPS

5 bulbs in any size pot, unlimited amount of dwarf tulips in a 10" diameter pot or less. Fill pot with soil and plant bulbs half way down. Water and store outside in sheltered position. Protect from mice, birds and slugs until after Christmas.

## DAFFODILS

Most classes have pot diameter restrictions ie. 6" or 10".

Apart from singly grown trumpet Daffs and paper whites, all others can be planted in several layers. To achieve this, choose deeper containers.

Place about 1" of compost in base of pot and place as many bulbs that can be accommodated without touching. Just cover with soil and repeat the process until pot is full. It doesn't matter if the top layer of bulbs is protruding. Water and store outside in a sheltered spot..

## CROCUS

4" and max 10" pots. (4" container for mini crocus/species and 10" for larger flowering varieties). Plant as closely as possible, without touching, one inch deep, topping with gravel and a sprinkling of pepper to deter mice. Keep outside near at hand so that pepper can be reapplied regularly before bringing inside after Christmas

## **IRIS**

Any size pot and plant as above. Top with gravel and pebbles and keep outside as with the Crocus.

## **AMARYLLIS**

Follow supplier's instructions, planting about 8 weeks before the show, about early December. Leave in a warm place such as an airing cupboard until shoots appear, then on to a warm sunny window sill. Give support to flower stems as they grow. Be careful not to over-water.



After Christmas bring the emerging bulbs into the house or conservatory. Keep them cool to start with but in good light. Move to a warmer spot nearer show time to encourage blooms. Keep watered and stake where necessary.

## **Suitable Varieties**

### **Hyacinths**

Pink	Fondant, Pink Pearle
Blue	Delft Blue, Blue Jacket
White	Alolos, Carnegie, L'Innocence
Special	Jan Box
other colour	Purple sensation

### **Daffodils**

Trumpet	King Alfred, Dutch Master, Gigantic Star
Cup	Ice Follies, Pink Charm, Johann Strauss
Mini	Tete a Tete

### **Tulips**

Mini	The First
Normal	Apricot Beauty

### **Iris**

Purple Gem, Blue Bird, Katharin Hodgkin, Reticulata, Gypsy Girl, Sheila Ann Germany

### **Crocus**

4" pot mini	Firefly, Cream Beauty
10" pot	Vanguard, Pickwick, King of the Striped

### **Amaryllis**

Aphrodite, Alfresco, Apple Blossom, Flower Record

