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General Instructions  
for  
Forcing Hardy Flower Bulbs Indoors

Ingredients

Flower bulbs	Plant labels
Pots	Cool place (35-48 degrees F)
Potting medium	Water
Sunlight	

1. Select flower bulbs that are good for forcing. (See attached.)
2. Schedule delivery of your flower bulbs for early to mid-October.
3. Open and examine your flower bulb order to make sure that your bulbs are firm and healthy. If any of your bulbs have a blue-gray "transportation" mold, remove it with a paper towel or put the bulbs in a single layer in the sun. If any bulbs are soft, please discard them and do not prechill them with your other bulbs.
4. Select the proper sized pots with good drainage. Use a good, sterile potting soil. You want a potting medium that will support the growing flower bulb and that will hold enough moisture for proper root growth.
5. Place a broken pot shard in the drainage hole at the bottom of the pot to prevent soil seepage when the pot is watered.
6. How many bulbs per pot? As many bulbs as will fit in the pot! We like nice, full pots of flowers!
7. Fill each pot 1/2 the way up with potting soil. Place the flower bulbs (root side down) in the pot. Fill the rest of the pot up with the potting soil to 1" underneath the top of the pot. (So that the water and soil won't slosh over the side when you water.)
8. Tamp down the soil to secure the bulb in the pot. Fill to within 1" of the top of the flower pot if necessary.
9. Insert plant labels in each mark which identify the variety being forced as well as the date that you are putting it in to cool. Keep a record of which varieties force well for you for future years!
10. Place the flower pots in a refrigerator or cooling unit that maintains a consistent temperature between 35 degrees and 48 degrees F. Never put them in the freezer! Do not prechill bulbs with apples or pears which release ethylene gas as they ripen.

You may also put the flower pots into an unheated cellar or garage that stays at a consistent temperature between 35 and 48 degrees F. Install a minimum-maximum thermometer to monitor the temperature. Cover the pots with newspaper to keep them in the dark. Flower bulbs prefer consistent temperatures during the prechilling period, in fact, they hate freezing and thawing cycles and any type of temperature spiking.

Temperature spiking reduces the bulb's viability and adversely affects mature root development. (You may also sink the pots into an outdoor cold frame or into a trench and cover them with a six to eight inch layer of salt hay or sand.)

11. Check the flower pots once every week or so to see if they need to be watered. If the soil is bone dry to the touch, water moderately.

12. Cool the flower pots for eight to twelve weeks depending on the variety. We recommend keeping the pot prechilled for the maximum time period. During this time, the bulb should develop a good root system which should anchor the bulb into the soil. Small shoots will also sprout through the soil which will be pale in color due to lack of sunlight.

13. At the end of the cooling period, bring the flower pots out into filtered sun light in a relatively cool spot to permit the new sprouts to acclimate themselves to the sun and warmer temperature.

Gradually move the pots into filtered sun light for three to five weeks. Water as necessary. Once the bud emerges, move the pot into direct sun light in an area about 50 to 65 degrees F. Once the flower buds color up, the pots may be placed virtually anywhere for maximum viewing and enjoyment. Just remember, that the cooler the indoor temperatures, the longer the flowers will thrive.

#### APPROXIMATE FORCING TIMETABLE\*

Allium:           Cooling period: Six to eight weeks.  
                  Total weeks to flowering: Ten to twelve weeks.

Anemone         Cooling period: Six to eight weeks.  
Blanda:         Total weeks to flowering: Ten to twelve weeks.fs

Crocus:           Cooling period: Eight to ten weeks.  
                  Total weeks to flowering: Twelve to fourteen.

Fritillaria:     Cooling period: Six to eight weeks.  
                  Total weeks to flowering: Ten to twelve weeks.

Hyacinth:       Cooling period: Ten to twelve weeks.  
                  Total weeks to flowering: Fourteen to sixteen.

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Iris:             Cooling period: Six to eight weeks.  
                  Total weeks to flowering: Ten to twelve weeks.

Lilies:           Cooling period: Twelve to fourteen weeks.  
                  Total weeks to flowering: Fourteen to sixteen.

Miscell.         Cooling period: Six to eight weeks.  
Bulbs:           Total weeks to flowering: Ten to twelve weeks.

Muscari:         Cooling period: Six to ten weeks.  
                  Total weeks to flowering: Ten to fourteen.

Narcissi:       Cooling period: Ten to twelve weeks.  
                  Total weeks to flowering: Fourteen to sixteen.

Scilla:           Cooling period: Six to eight weeks.  
                  Total weeks to flowering: Ten to twelve weeks.

Tulips:          Cooling period: Twelve to fourteen weeks.  
                  Total weeks to flowering: Fourteen to sixteen.

\*The total weeks to flowering includes the cooling period.

## Flower Bulbs Good for Forcing

### Tulips

Species Tulips  
Double Early Tulips  
Single Early Tulips  
Triumph Tulips  
Parrot Tulip Lemon Snow Parrot  
Parrot Tulip Snow Parrot  
Parrot Tulip White Parrot

### Narcissi

Trumpet Daffodil Marieke  
Trumpet Daffodil Mount Hood  
Miniature Trumpet Daffodils  
Large Cupped Narcissus Flower Record  
Large Cupped Narcissus Fortune  
Large Cupped Narcissus Ice Follies  
Species Miniature Narcissi  
Tazetta Narcissi  
Cyclamineus Narcissi

Allium cowanii  
Allium karativiense  
Allium moly Jeannine  
Anemone blanda  
Brodiaea Queen Fabiola  
Chionodoxa  
Crocus: Species and Large Flowering  
Eranthis hyemalis  
Fritillaria meleagris  
Galanthus  
Hyacinthus orientalis Blue Jacket  
Hyacinthus orientalis City of Haarlem  
Hyacinthus orientalis Delft Blue  
Hyacinthus orientalis Gypsy Queen  
Hyacinthus orientalis Jan Bos  
Hyacinthus orientalis L'Innocence  
Hyacinthus orientalis Pink Pearl  
Hyacinthus orientalis Sky Jacket  
Ipheion uniflorum  
Lilies, Asiatic Hybrid  
Lilies, Longiflorum-Asiatic Hybrid  
Lilies, Oriental Hybrid  
Multiflora Festival Hyacinths

Muscari armeniacum  
Muscari armeniacum cantab  
Muscari botryoides album  
Muscari comosum  
Muscari comosum plumosum  
Ornithogalum nutans  
Ornithogalum umbellatum  
Puschkinia libanotica  
Rock Garden Iris  
Scilla siberica alba  
Scilla siberica Spring Beauty  
Scilla tubergeniana

Flower Bulbs for Pot Culture: No Precooling Required; Amaryllis,  
Anemone, Calla aethiopica, Freesias, Paperwhite Narcissi, Ranunculus,  
Scilla peruviana