



Flowering Bulbs

# Crash Course for Beginners

2025 Northwest Flower & Garden Festival

Thank you for joining our bulb presentation at the 2025 Northwest Flower & Garden Festival! We hope you enjoyed it and learned more about the fun of planting flowering bulbs in your garden.

As with anything, there is always more to learn beyond the “basics” and we’re excited for you to continue on your gardening journey! Below are a few notes from our DIY Stage presentation and other information we thought might be helpful for you. You can always reach out to us at the contact info listed on the back page.

Good luck and happy gardening!

~ Sean and Allison McManus, Spoken Garden

5 types of Bulbs - Examples	
True Bulbs	Daffodils, Tulips, Alliums
Corms	Gladiolus, Crocosmia, Crocus, Anemones
Tuberous Roots	Dahlias, Tuberous Begonias
Tubers	Colocasia, Potato, Oxalis
Rhizomes	Iris, Canna Lilies

### A Few of Our Favorite Spring-planted Bulbs

- Dahlias
- Gladiolus
- Crocosmia
- Tigridia
- Elephant Ears
- Caladiums
- Tiger Lilies
- Canna Lilies



### 5 Types of Bulbs - Definitions

**1) True Bulbs:** Underground stem base containing overlapping, modified leaf tissue

**2) Corms:** Swollen underground stems composed of solid tissue instead of overlapping modified leaf tissue.

**3) Tuberous Roots:** Thickened, underground storage root where roots grow in a cluster radiating out from a central point.

**4) Tubers:** Underground stem base, with no basal plate and roots grow from all sides.

**5) Rhizomes:** Horizontal, thickened stem growing partially or entirely below ground

## Forecasted Frost Dates for Surrounding Area

**Tacoma** – 1st frost-free date: 3/17

**Bremerton** – 1st frost-free date: 4/7

**Seattle** – 1st frost-free date: 3/21

**Olympia** – 1st frost-free date: 3/19

**Kent** – 1st frost-free date: 3/29

**Vancouver, WA** – 1st frost-free date: 3/29

**Yakima** – 1st frost-free date: 5/15

**Spokane** – 1st frost-free date: 5/1

## 3 Bulb Growing Mistakes to Avoid

- 1) Don't forget where you planted your bulbs and then plant other plants over them. No need for your bulbs to compete with other plants for space, light, or water.
- 2) Don't plant bulbs in poor draining soil or where water pools regularly for more than an hour.
- 3) Don't plant dead or diseased bulbs – do the squeeze test.

### After Flowering Tip:

If the foliage is brown, cut it down!

Otherwise, leave the green!



# Thank you!

Where to Connect with Us:

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Owners of Spoken Garden, Authors, Garden content creators, YouTubers, Garden tool co-inventors

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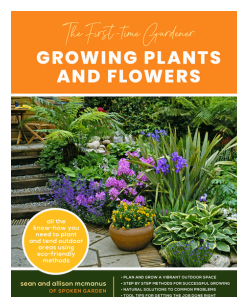
**Dibby Tools:** Sold on Etsy and Amazon

**Book:** "The First-time Gardener: Growing Plants and Flowers," *Cool Springs Press, 2021*



*Scan me*

Ease your seed sowing this year!  
Head to our Etsy Shop and pick out  
your favorite color Dibby tool!



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