

Jenny Rose Carey @ Northwest Flower and Garden Show

PRO-TIPS – Spring Bulbs and Herbaceous Companions

February 21st 2026

Spring bulbs and their companion herbaceous plants are what we look forward to in the dark days of winter. Their emergence coincides with longer and warmer days and the perking up of our spirits. They bring us so much joy.

Whether you garden in the soil or in containers or both knowing which bulbs to plant together helps you to create pleasing garden pictures. They must be compatible with their growing requirements – sun or shade, and the amount of moisture needed. They should also look great together as they grow and flower. These combinations are sure to please you and your pollinators.

Some Spring Bulbs and Herbaceous Plants to Combine

Interplanting with herbaceous plants has several benefits. The growth of the non-bulb plants covers up the withering bulb foliage. The different leaf shapes and flower shapes create a pleasing spring picture both in the ground and in containers.

Some of these herbaceous plants are perennials, others are hardy annuals or biennials. When putting together containers or filling beds or borders you can plant some of these in the fall, and others are added in in the spring.

Jenny Rose Carey's Top 10 Spring Flowering Bulbs

Listed in order of blooming

- 1. Snowdrops**
- 2. Rock Garden Iris**
- 3. Crocus**
- 4. Daffodils**
- 5. Small Bulbs**
- 6. Fritillaria**
- 7. Hyacinth**
- 8. Tulips**
- 9. Alliums**
- 10. Camassia**

Jenny Rose Carey's Top Herbaceous Plants to plant with Spring Flowering Bulbs

1. Annual lobelia – *Lobelia erinus*
2. Bleeding Heart – *Dicentra* and *Laprocarnos*
3. Columbine – *Aquilegia*
4. Coral Bells – *Heuchera*
5. Creeping Phlox – *Phlox*
6. English Daisy – *Bellis*
7. Foxgloves – *Digitalis*
8. Forget-me-nots – *Myosotis*
9. Honeywort – *Cerinthe major*
10. Love-in-the mist – *Nigella*
11. Pansies and Violas – *Viola*
12. Pinks and Sweet William – *Dianthus*
13. Poppies – *Papaver*
14. Pot Marigolds – *Calendula*
15. Primroses – *Primula*
16. Snapdragon – *Antirrhinum*
17. Sweet Alyssum – *Lobularia maritima*
18. Wallflowers – *Erysimum*

Find out more about all of these bulbs and many more for spring in my book

The Essential Guide to Bulbs, 2025, Timber Press

And at my website jennyrosecarey.com

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Happy Gardening, Jenny Rose Carey