

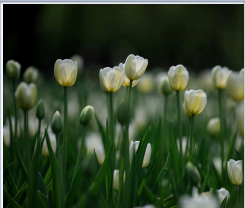
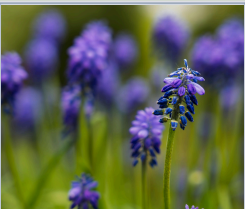
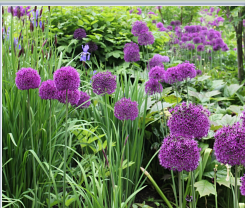


DESIGN. CRAFT. PRESERVE.

FALL BULB PLANTING GUIDE

Bulb Varieties & Flower Species Guide

Selecting cold-hardy bulbs tailored to Northland microclimates ensures reliable spring color across varying soil types and freeze depths.

Flower Photo	Bulb Variety	Flower Description & Color	Regional Suitability	Bloom Window
	Siberian Squill (<i>Scilla siberica</i>)	Vivid cobalt-blue, nodding bell-shaped blossoms. Naturalizes easily across lawns and tree skirts.	Both (Iron Range Zone 3 & Twin Ports Zone 4)	Very Early (Early April)
	Snowdrops (<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>)	Delicate, drooping white bell flowers with fine green inner markings. Pushes through late snowpack.	Both (Iron Range Zone 3 & Twin Ports Zone 4)	Very Early (Early April)
	Daffodils (<i>Narcissus spp.</i>)	Classic trumpet-shaped blooms in bold yellow, bright white, and peach. 100% critter proof.	Both (Iron Range Zone 3 & Twin Ports Zone 4)	Mid-Spring (Late April/May)
	Botanical Tulips (<i>Tulipa tarda</i>)	Star-shaped wild blossoms in bi-color yellow and white. True perennials that endure deep frost.	Both (Iron Range Zone 3 & Twin Ports Zone 4)	Mid-Spring (Late April/May)
	Grape Hyacinth (<i>Muscari armeniacum</i>)	Tight, urn-shaped royal blue clusters resembling tiny grape bunches. Sturdy spring border plant.	Twin Ports (Zone 4) & Protected Zone 3 microclimates	Mid-Spring (May)
	Globe Alliums (<i>Allium giganteum</i>)	Architectural 4-inch spherical purple blooms atop tall stems. Naturally deters deer and rodents.	Both (Iron Range Zone 3 & Twin Ports Zone 4)	Late Spring (May/Early June)

WHEN TO PLANT IN ZONES 3 & 4

- **Timing Window:** Plant between late September and mid-October when nighttime air temperatures consistently hover in the 40s and soil temperatures drop below 60°F.
- **Iron Range (Zone 3):** Target late September through early October. Cold snaps arrive fast, and roots require at least 3 weeks in unfrozen ground to anchor properly.
- **Twin Ports & Lake Superior (Zone 4):** Plant through mid-October. The thermal mass of Lake Superior keeps coastal soil workable slightly longer into late fall.
- **The Vernalization Requirement:** Bulbs must experience 12 to 16 weeks of sustained freeze under snow cover to break dormancy and trigger spring flowering.

HOW TO PLANT: STEP-BY-STEP FIELD GUIDE

Depth and Orientation

- **The 3x Depth Rule:** Dig planting holes to a depth three times the height of the bulb. Large bulbs (Daffodils, Alliums) require a 6 to 8 inch depth; smaller bulbs (Scilla, Snowdrops) require a 3 to 4 inch depth.
- **Pointy Tip Upward:** Position each bulb with the pointed stem tip facing up toward the sky and the flat root base resting on the soil bottom. If uncertain, plant on its side.

Soil Preparation & Root Growth

- **Drainage Correction:** Standing water rots dormant bulbs over winter. In heavy red Duluth clay or dense Iron Range ground, loosen soil 10 to 12 inches deep and incorporate organic compost.
- **Phosphorus Boost:** Mix bone meal or a slow-release bulb fertilizer into the bottom of the planting hole to fuel early root development before the frost sets in.

Watering, Mulching & Pest Management

- **Initial Hydration:** Water beds deeply immediately after planting to settle soil, eliminate air pockets, and hydrate roots.
- **Delayed Mulching:** Wait until the top inch of dirt freezes solid in early November before spreading 2 to 3 inches of shredded hardwood mulch. Premature mulching keeps soil unnaturally warm.
- **Rodent Barriers:** To protect classic tulips from digging squirrels, lay 1/2-inch hardware cloth flat over the soil bed, anchor with staples, and cover with mulch.

DESIGN STRATEGY: THE MULTI-LAYER 'BULB LASAGNA'

Maximize color density in small garden beds, entryways, and patio borders by stacking bulbs at varying depths in a single trench:

- **Base Layer (8 Inches Deep):** Place large, late-spring bloomers like Daffodils or Alliums.
- **Middle Layer (5 Inches Deep):** Cover base layer with 3 inches of soil, then plant Botanical Tulips or Grape Hyacinth.
- **Top Layer (3 Inches Deep):** Cover middle layer with 2 inches of soil, then scatter early snow-melters like Siberian Squill or Snowdrops.
- **Final Finish:** Fill remaining trench with soil, water thoroughly, and mulch after the first freeze for continuous April through June blooms.

Bring this guide to your local nursery, and contact us when you are ready to design your multi-season landscape!

