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# Planting & Care Guide

*For Your Dutch Mill Bulbs Fundraising Items*

**⚠ CRITICAL TIMING: Do not store bulbs past their intended planting season. Spring bulbs must be planted in spring; fall bulbs must be planted in fall. Proper timing is essential for success!**

## Welcome!

Thank you for supporting your fundraiser with Dutch Mill Bulbs Fundraising! Since 1960, we've been helping communities grow beautiful gardens. This simple guide will help you plant and enjoy your bulbs and plants.

## Understanding Your Dutch Mill Bulbs Fundraising Products

### Spring Fundraiser Items (18 Varieties)

**Plant in Spring:** These items should be planted after your last frost date when soil has warmed and is workable. They will bloom in summer and provide color throughout the growing season.

*Your spring lineup includes:* Various bulbs and bare-root perennials perfect for summer blooms.

**⚠ SPECIAL NOTE FOR STRAWBERRY PLANTS: After receiving your strawberry plants, refrigerate them with the package open until you are ready to plant. Plant as soon as possible after receiving them in the spring!**

## Fall Fundraiser Items (17 Varieties)

**Plant in Fall:** These items must be planted in fall. They need cold weather to bloom beautifully in spring. Plant while soil is still workable.

*Your fall lineup includes:* Spring-blooming favorites like tulips, daffodils, crocuses, hyacinths, and more, including "The Works" Value Package with 6 popular varieties.

**⚠ CRITICAL TIMING:** Do not attempt to store bulbs past their intended planting season. Spring bulbs must be planted in spring; fall bulbs must be planted in fall. Proper timing is essential for success!

## Step 1: Know Your Hardiness Zone

Your hardiness zone tells you which plants will grow well in your area. Most of our items work in zones 3-9.

Find your USDA Hardiness Zone here: <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>

## Step 2: Choose Your Location

### Sunlight:

- **Full Sun:** 6+ hours of sun daily
- **Partial Shade:** 3-6 hours of sun
- **Shade:** Less than 3 hours of sun

### Drainage:

**Good drainage is very important!** Bulbs will rot in waterlogged soil. Make sure water doesn't sit in puddles where you're planting.

## Step 3: Prepare Your Soil

**Good soil preparation is the most important step for success!**

### Timing Your Soil Preparation:

- **Spring planting:** Prepare soil when ground thaws and is workable, but not muddy. Soil should crumble in your hand, not form a sticky ball.
- **Fall planting:** Prepare soil while it's still warm and easy to work.

### Simple Steps:

1. Clear the area - remove weeds, grass, and rocks
2. Loosen the soil 12 inches deep with a shovel or garden fork
3. Mix in compost or other organic matter if you have it (optional but helpful)
4. Break up clumps and make soil smooth

## Step 4: Planting Your Spring Items

**⚠ TIMING:** Plant spring items after your last frost date when soil is workable.

## Planting Bulbs - Easy Steps:

5. **Dig holes:** Make holes 2-3 times deeper than the bulb is tall
6. **Point up:** Place bulbs with pointy end UP and flat end DOWN
7. **Space them:** Leave 3-12 inches between bulbs (depends on size)
8. **Cover:** Fill hole with soil and pat gently
9. **Water:** Water right after planting
10. **Mark:** Remember where you planted!

## Planting Bare-Root Plants:

11. **Dig wide:** Make hole wide enough for roots to spread out
12. **Make a mound:** Build a small pile of soil in the center
13. **Set plant:** Place plant on mound and spread roots down. For strawberries, crown stays AT soil level. For others, plant 1-2 inches below surface.
14. **Fill and firm:** Add soil around roots and press gently
15. **Water:** Water well right away
16. **Mulch:** Add 1-3 inches of mulch around plant

## Step 5: Planting Your Fall Items

**⚠ CRITICAL TIMING:** Fall bulbs **MUST** be planted in fall. They require cold weather to bloom in spring. Plant while soil is still workable.

### When to Plant Fall Bulbs:

- Colder areas: Plant earlier (September-October)
- Warmer areas: Plant later (November-December)
- **Ground must be workable:** You should be able to dig easily

### How Deep to Plant:

- **Large bulbs:** 4-6 inches deep
- **Medium bulbs:** 3-4 inches deep
- **Small bulbs:** 2-3 inches deep

**Spacing:** Space bulbs as needed for your desired garden design.

### Planting Steps (same as spring):

17. Dig holes with pointed end up
18. Cover with soil and pat gently
19. Water after planting
20. Add light mulch after ground freezes

**💡 TIP:** For "The Works" package, plant all 6 varieties in groups for a beautiful spring display!

## Step 6: Watering

- Water well right after planting
- Keep soil moist for first 2-3 weeks
- After that, water when soil feels dry
- Reduce watering when leaves start to yellow after blooming

## Step 7: Ongoing Care

- Water regularly during growing season
- Remove dead flowers
- **Let leaves turn yellow naturally before cutting them off** - this feeds the bulb!
- Keep weeds away

## Step 8: Winter Care

Most Dutch Mill Bulbs Fundraising items can stay in the ground all winter.

### Items That May Need Special Care in Cold Zones:

- Check your zone - some items may need to be lifted in very cold areas
- To winterize: Add mulch after first hard frost
- To lift: Dig after leaves die, let dry for 1-2 weeks, store in cool dry place

## Keys to Success with Dutch Mill Bulbs Fundraising

- **Plant at the RIGHT TIME:** Spring items in spring; fall items in fall
- **Prepare soil well:** Loose, well-draining soil is most important
- **Plant at right depth:** 2-3 times deeper than bulb height
- **Water well:** Especially after planting
- **Let leaves die naturally:** Don't cut them too early
- **Be patient:** Remember - crawl, walk, run! Plants get better each year!

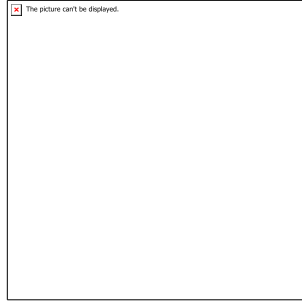
## Questions? We're Here to Help!

### Dutch Mill Bulbs Fundraising Customer Service

Visit: [www.dutchmillbulbs.com](http://www.dutchmillbulbs.com)

Email: [info@dutchmillbulbs.com](mailto:info@dutchmillbulbs.com)

*Thank you for supporting your fundraiser with Dutch Mill Bulbs Fundraising!  
Fundraising Since 1960*



# Planting Checklist

*Quick Reference for Your Dutch Mill Bulbs Fundraising Items*

**⚠ REMEMBER: Spring items plant in spring after frost. Fall items plant in fall while ground is workable. DO NOT store bulbs past their intended season!**

## Before You Plant

- Find your hardiness zone at <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>
- Check that it's the right season (spring items in spring, fall items in fall)
- Check that soil is workable (not frozen or too muddy)
- Pick a location with right amount of sun
- Make sure water drains well (no puddles)

## Gather Your Supplies

- Shovel or trowel
- Compost (if you have it - optional)
- Mulch (1-3 inches)
- Water source
- Plant markers (optional)
- Gloves (optional)
- Ruler for measuring depth (optional)

## Prepare Your Soil

- Clear away weeds, grass, and rocks
- Loosen soil 12 inches deep
- Mix in compost if you have it
- Break up clumps
- Make soil smooth

## Plant Your Bulbs

- Dig holes 2-3 times deeper than bulb height

- Space bulbs apart (3-12 inches depending on size)
- Place bulbs pointy end UP
- Cover with soil and pat gently
- Water right away
- Mark where you planted

## **Plant Bare-Root Items**

- Dig wide hole for roots to spread
- Make soil mound in center
- Set plant and spread roots
- Fill with soil and press gently
- Water well
- Add 1-3 inches of mulch

## **Take Care of Your Plants**

- Keep soil moist for first few weeks
- Water when soil feels dry
- Pull weeds
- Remove dead flowers
- Let leaves turn yellow before cutting

## **End of Season**

- Cut back dead leaves
- Add mulch after first hard frost
- Lift bulbs if needed in very cold zones
- Plan for next year's fundraiser!

## **Happy Gardening!**

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or email [info@dutchmillbulbs.com](mailto:info@dutchmillbulbs.com)