



The WW Wire

If nothing goes right..... Try going left!

April 2014

Did you know: When most people eat chocolate Easter bunnies, they eat the ears first.

Emma's Easter Bonnet!



Never saw you look quite so pretty before
Never saw you dressed quite so lovely what's more
I could hardly wait to keep our date this lovely
Easter morning...
And my heart beat fast as I came through the door

For in your Easter bonnet,
with all the frills upon it
You'll be the grandest lady
in the Easter parade

*Easter Parade - by Irving Berlin
1933*



FUN FACT



Butterflies taste food with their feet!
Sweet substances are detected by chemoreceptors (special cells on their feet), which then signals the proboscis to unroll so they can draw nutrients from flowers or fruit.



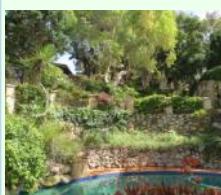
Perth Garden Festival—Perry Lakes Reserve
Floreat
3rd-6th April

Plant of the Month

Society Garlic
Tulbaghia violacea



- A low growing clump with dainty star-shaped, lilac-mauve flowers at the end of long stems. Flowers from October to April.
- Plant Height: 0.5m Plant Spread: 0.3m
- Use: Mass planting, border.
- Plant Pruning: Remove spent flowers & leaves as they form.
- Soil Moisture: Dry between watering to constantly moist
- Sunlight: Hot overhead sun
- Design: Suits Mediterranean, contemporary & cottage designs
- Garden Type: soft-wooded perennial
- Plant Seasonality: Herbaceous



Open Gardens-April

Paul's Garden—
11 Hawkins Ave
Sorrento
5th-6th April

Kerry's Garden
17 Nankeen Approach
Dudley Park
26th-27th April

Krannynook
9 Atoifi Gardens
Helena Valley
26th-27th April

BulbsA Quick Guide



- The best time to plant bulbs is April to May. This allows both the weather and soil to cool.
- Bulbs enjoy well drained soil, so avoid waterlogged soils.

• Planting the bulbs the right way up is important, however, if you are unsure, simply plant the bulb on its side and it will correct itself. A general rule of thumb is to plant the bulb at a depth twice its width with the pointy end facing up. The exceptions to this rule is **Ranunculus**— these bulbs look like a “bunch of bananas” and need to be planted with the “bananas” facing down. **Anemone** bulbs need to be planted with the pointy end facing down.

• Top dress the bulbs with a fertiliser high in phosphorus (for healthy roots and better flowering), and water in. A second dressing can be applied straight after flowering. This provides the nutrients for next year’s flowers.

• Bulbs like moist soils while they are actively growing and reasonably dry soils while they are dormant. Start watering when the green shoots start to appear and stop when the foliage starts to turn yellow.

• Growing bulbs in pots enables you to move the plant into a prime position while they are in full bloom.

• Always keep the bulbs away from the outer edges of the pot which gets very hot,

• Water regularly to keep moist

• Plant the bulbs in the garden the following years since most won’t flower consecutive years in a pot.

• Bulbs for sunny positions –Anemones, Freesias, Alliums, Hyacinths, , Ranunculus.

• Bulbs for shady positions (2-3 hrs of full sun) Crocus, Tulips, Daffodils, Bluebells, Cuban Lilies, Hyacinths

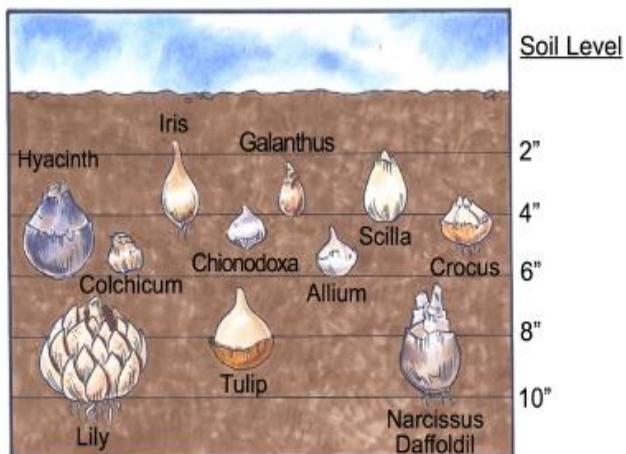
• Bulbs for rockeries– Bluebells, Dutch Iris, Rain lilies ,Babiana, Cuban Lillies.

• Bulbs for naturalising Aneones ,Ixias ,Bluebells Daffodils, Freesias, Sparaxis.

Happy Planting



Planting



Tulip Breaking Virus



This is a virus that causes a change in the colour of the tulip flower. This is referred to as “colour breaking”. In red and orange varieties streaks of light red, yellow or white appear on the petals. In yellow and white varieties, the streaks may be translucent or a slightly different shade. Sometimes streaks will occur in the unopened bud. Petals may also be serrated on the edge and appear “tattered”.

Transfer of the virus is caused by aphids. As the aphid bites into an infected plant, small amounts of the virus are left in its mouth-parts. When the aphid moves to another host the virus enters the plant's vascular system when the aphid once again starts to feed. The infection won't show up on the flowers in the season of infection, but only in the following season. Unfortunately the virus also has a detrimental effect on the bulb. Infected bulbs will often grow weak and stunted. As the virus progresses through each generation of the plant bulb, it reduces its vigour. Eventually the bulb has no strength left to flower, withering to nothing.

Tulip breaking virus is also notoriously difficult to control, although perhaps the best means of treatment is to remove and burn infected plants as you see them.

Ensure the aphid population is also controlled with aphid sprays or soap based sprays.

As a precaution, do not plant tulips next to lilies as they are also able to carry the virus.

