

Yards to Paradise

By Max Phelps

When's Bulb Planting Time? (And what should you plant?)

Most of us think of spring daffodils and other bulbs when we see them peeking through the snow or covering the yard or hillside where an old house once stood. But to enjoy blooming bulbs at your home next spring, you have to think in advance and plant some bulbs this fall.

So, when is bulb planting season? Must be like Christmas, since the big box stores seem to have them on display right after Labor Day anymore, one might think. While many bulbs in more northern climes will be OK with early September planting, it would be better to have later harvested bulbs cured out good, and plant them after the nights have gotten chilly.

It's time to plant bulbs when you see squirrels spending the day burying walnuts or acorns, it's time to plant bulbs when you start getting up in the night to look for a blanket, and it's time to plant bulbs when the winter keeping apples are ripe out in the orchard. You don't want to dig in snow or frozen soil, so don't procrastinate too late if you have more than just a handful to plant this year.

Kentucky, Tennessee and gardeners in neighboring states would be safe planting bulbs from the first day of fall until about Thanksgiving most years. December will probably work also so long as the ground isn't frozen hard.

Deciding what to plant can be harder. The picture books and bulb catalogs try to entice you to buy a lot of rare and beautiful (and expensive) bulbs. The truth is, since bulbs don't keep from one year until the following one, most stores and garden centers just carry a few bulbs which are the most requested. So, they have thousands of daffodils and some packages of tulips, a small quantity of two or three other itmes usually. Be first to shop the new bulb crop at your garden center—or be left with only narcissus bulbs to pick from—maybe pale yellow and dark yellow.

The other main way to order bulbs is mail order catalogs or online. Even here, they may sell out of the hottest items early, so pre-ordering even before summer digging season is over might be wise. Planting time is a bit late if you are choosy, for early shoppers will have bought the hottest plants and the best bargain lots.

Let's look at some popular bulbs you might plant this fall in your yard or garden. I've not done a study to see if daffodils or tulips are more popular with folks. But, I can say one thing, it's the daffodils/narcissus that win when it comes to longevity and the 'perennializing' of the planting. Deer and mice and moles and other critters love tulips, as do you and I do. You will wonder what happened to your tulip bed with so many not coming up and blooming the second and third seasons. The narcissus and daffodils on the other hand seem to double or tripple their presence in your garden year by year, becoming more numerous. (Daffodils are poisonous, and the wild animals know this and won't eat them.)

Hyacinths (and I guess we can add muscari or grape hyacinths here too) smell so good and are among the first bloomers in spring, often ahead of the daffodils. Sometimes they get frozen because of putting up their noses to the chilly air so early!

Crocus seem to be blooming under the snow when it melts it seems. There are spring blooming anemone or windflowers that result from small bulbs planted in the fall. (There are more fall blooming anemones.)

Crown Imperials or fritillaria and the guinea hen flowers are lovely choices, if you can afford several dollars per bulb. The results will amaze, except in the deep south, when these bulbs bloom in a prominent spot in the bed or garden.

Iris are planted in late summer or early fall, and are excellent choices for most gardeners. Dutch iris and South African iris are only hardy where it's warm in winter with only a few dips

of the thermometer below the freezing mark.

Alliums should be planted more often. These are members of the onion family. Most onions will bloom if replanted as the bulbs become larger and larger. But the choices in colors, height and size, along with much variation in hardiness, means there are super onion, or allium, choices for gardens almost anywhere.

Paperwhites are such powerfully fragrant narcissus bulbs, and are often 'forced' to bloom in the winter for indoor tabletop decorations. Paperwhites are not hardy in winter if the temps outside reach 15 to 20 degrees.

Scilla, or Spanish bluebells, also called Squill, come in many varieties and most are zone 6 hardy. Try some if you can find bulbs to plant!

Lily: there is convallaria (Lily-of-the-valley), and there are lots of big and bold lilies such as madonna lily, asiatic lily, oriental hybrid lilies. All of these are hardy in zone 6 and probably where you live too.

Summer snowflakes, glory-of-the-snow, winter aconite, plus camassia for the spots that stay soggy, are all listed for further consideration. You may have to search more zealously to find these bulbs for planting this fall.

Having something different blooming at your place might make the effort rewarding next spring!

With these and other spring blooming bulbs and roots to choose from, not to mention color, size and blooming time differences among each group, your bulb garden options are almost endless. For that spot of early flowers next spring, fall is the time to put in the bulbs and make it happen. A few months from now you can have lovely daffodils, tulips and many other flowering bulbs showing themselves off around your home.

I know winter's coming, but I hope it's not a really bad one. I am already thinking of spring flowers.

Perhaps, now you are, too.

The author is a freelance writer and landscape professional. Send inquiries to waterfallsinyards@yahoo.com



On Saturday, friends and family of Christene Morris gathered at First Christian Church for a surprise birthday party for her. People came from Mt. Vernon, Livingston, London, Manchester, Richmond, and Taylorsville to celebrate. It was a wonderful day filled with fun and good food.



Flu Shot Clinics

GET IN – GET ONE – GET OUT!

Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a yearly flu vaccine. The Rural Health Clinics at Rockcastle Regional want to make it easier on you to get vaccinated this year – get in, get one, and get out – during hours that are convenient for you.

Get your flu shot during October at any of these locations:

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FAMILY CARE

Tuesdays 7-9 a.m.
(606) 256-2961

160 East Main Street
Mt. Vernon, KY

ROCKCASTLE
FAMILY WELLNESS

Mondays 5-7 p.m.
(606) 256-5176

140 Newcomb Ave
Mt. Vernon, KY

RockPeds
ROCKCASTLE
Pediatrics & Adolescents

Mondays 5-6 p.m.
By appointment only
call: (606) 256-4148 opt. 5

140 Newcomb Ave
Mt. Vernon, KY



Make time for your Mammogram

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Early detection and treatment provide the best chance of surviving breast cancer – and getting a mammogram is the first and most effective step for early diagnoses.

If you are age 40 or older, take that step! (Speak with your healthcare provider about when to get your mammogram; if you have certain health risks or a family history of breast cancer.)

As a special offer for self-pay patients, a digital mammogram and radiologist reading will be \$100 during the month of October.

Call today to schedule your digital mammogram. No referral necessary.

256-7878

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2014 Dodge Charger R/T

#23071W, msrp \$33,585.....SALE

2013 Dodge Challenger R/T

#22501X, msrp \$36,720.....SALE

2013 Town & Country

#13016, msrp \$30,990.....SALE

2014 Jeep Gr Cherokee Latitude

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200

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4x4



#26006W

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with bed



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MSRP: \$52,420

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2014 Jeep Patriot

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2013 Dodge Journey

#55520D, msrp \$22,040.....SALE

2013 Ram 1500 Crew 4x4

#26004W, msrp \$37,025.....SALE

2013 Ram 1500 4x2

#26022W, msrp \$27,255.....SALE

2013 Ram 2500 Crew 4x4

Auto, #26513W, msrp \$39,180SALE

2013 Ram 3500 4x4

#26800W, msrp \$43,935.....SALE

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