

RIVER & SHORE'S

COASTAL HOMES

ON THE WATERFRONT

Watching the
light and magic
in Stony Creek

- British Invasion in Guilford
- A little bit of Tuscany in Chester
- As charming as a Victorian potting shed
- A cottage finds true love



TIPTOE

Photo Janie McCabe.
Tulips put on a glorious show.

THROUGH THE TULIPS

Plant bulbs now for spring glory

By Janie McCabe

WHETHER YOU ARE JUST A BEGINNER or a more seasoned gardener nothing will feed your soul more than a fabulous display of spring bulbs. Planted en masse, the luscious colors and fragrances of bulbs create a wonderful prelude for the coming spring.

Luckily, autumn is the perfect time to plan and plant your spring bulb garden.

Plant a mix of early and late blooming bulbs to ensure a display that will span several months. The early bloomers of March and April are snowdrops, crocus, Scilla, Chionodoxa, followed by daffodils and hyacinths.

In late April and early May, tulips, the grand dames of the garden, lend

flirt and fancy in an abundant array of colors and shapes.

The dynamic and vertical lines of flowering onions or Alliums continue the show into June. The globe-like flowers of the allium may be allowed to dry in the garden, adding texture and interest to your perennial borders.

Fragrant and dramatic lilies, "the wings of the garden," take flight in late June and July.

You can find a multitude of hybrids in dazzling colors and shapes in all of these species. To encourage your bulb garden to flourish, select a site that has rich, well-drained soil.

If the soil needs work, start by enriching the area with good top soil or compost to a depth of about 6 inches. Plant bulbs with the pointed side up adding a tablespoon or so of an organic fertilizer that contains rock phosphate, which will ensure proper

root development.

To deter rodents from eating the bulbs, use a rodent repellent or add red pepper or garlic flakes to the planting hole. It is especially important to plant the bulb to the proper depth, about three to four times the bulb's length. For example, a tulip which is about 2 inches long needs to be planted about 6-8 inches deep.

Always purchase your bulbs from a reliable bulb importer. Avoid purchasing discount bargain ones that may result in inferior, disappointing blooms. For a fabulous spring bulb display, don't be stingy by only planting a limited number of bulbs. Rather, plant with abandonment and let your imagination fly—you will be blessed with a glorious show next spring.

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