

## Availability of Flowering Bulbs

Spring flowering bulbs are available from March until May. They include Dutch Iris, Freesia, Hyacinths, Daffodils, Ixia, Sparaxis, Anemones, Ranunculus, Waterblommetjies, Leucojums, Muscari, Chinchirincees, Tritonias and Tulbachia. Tulips become available in April.

Late May heralds the arrival of the summer flowering Lilioms.

Gladiolus, Begonias, Amaryllis and Arums become available in August followed closely by the Dahlias.

If the bulbs are well watered and the soil is correctly prepared, you will be rewarded with a breathtaking show of flowers!

Happy Gardening!

## Contact details:

For details and further information, come in to any GardenShop or call our GardenLine on 0860 100 403. Alternatively, e-mail us at [info@gardenshop.co.za](mailto:info@gardenshop.co.za) or log on to [www.gardenshop.co.za](http://www.gardenshop.co.za)

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# Seedlings, seeds, Bulbs

An expert guide to the planting and care of Seedlings, Seeds and Bulbs



## GardenCare



## Seedlings

Seedlings have many functions in a garden. They are most commonly used to add splashes of colour to a garden and sometimes as a source of cut flowers. Colour can help to lead the eye to a feature that you want to accentuate. Smaller growing seedlings can be used to edge beds. Seedlings look especially good when planted into pots, hanging baskets or window boxes. Using different colours can create different moods. For example, a garden can be made to look cooler by using white or blue colours. A warmer look can be achieved using reds and yellow colours.

## Soil Preparation

In order to achieve the best results the soil should be prepared correctly. This ensures the best use of water and sufficient nutrients for the plants. The soil should first be loosened to a spade depth (30 cm). Then add about half a bag of compost per m<sup>2</sup>. To this area, add 1 scooped handful of superphosphate and 2 scooped handfuls of 2:3:2. Alternately, you can scatter 200g of seedling food over the area.

## Watering

Seedlings enjoy good watering. Seedling like Pansy, Viola and Petunia do not like wet feet. Too much watering leads to fungal problems.

## Fertilising

A monthly feed with Multifeed will ensure that the plants bloom for longer. Other feeds that are very effective are Phostrogen and Seagro.

## Seeds

It is more economical to plant seeds but more time consuming and you will wait longer for a show in the garden. Seeds can either be planted in the area where they are to remain, or planted into sowing trays. Seeds that need a little more care should be sown into seed trays that have been filled with seedling soil. When they are large enough they can be planted out into the garden. The soil preparation will be the same as for seedlings.

When sowing the seeds, distribute them evenly over the soil surface. If the seeds are very fine, mix them with maize meal before you sow them. This will enable you to see more or less where they have landed.

Gently press the seeds into the ground. Once the seeds have been planted, it is essential to keep the plants well watered. If they dry out, the small seedlings will die. It is also advisable to cover the germinating seeds with some kind of bird net to protect them from being eaten by birds. Most seeds will mature and start to flower about 3 months after being planted.

## Bulbs

### Soil preparation

As a general rule, the soil should be well drained and rich in organic matter. The soil can be prepared in the same manner as for seedlings. Well-rotted manure can also be added to the soil. Hadeco have a specially formulated food which can be added to the soil.

### Planting

It is essential that bulbs be planted at the correct time for optimal flowering. Mass plant your bulbs to give a good show of colour. Any bulbs that are to be planted in pots should be planted in potting soil. Whether planting in pots or into the ground, use Hadeco bulb food when planting as this food contains all the nutrients that bulbs need.