

Popular Spring/Easter Flowering Plants

Forced Spring Bulbs and Lilies:

Hardy, perennial types (daffodils, crocus, tulips, hyacinth, etc.) To be enjoyed indoors in any light and temperature, understanding that the more light and heat the bulbs are exposed to the faster they will bloom and complete their bloom cycle. Keep the soil moist to the touch and plant out doors after blooming with Bulb-tone. They can tolerate light frosts and can be stored in the refrigerator at night to keep blooms fresh! May be used in early spring container gardens with pansies, violas, primrose and other cold tolerant plants & early perennials.

Tender, annual types (calla lilies, ranunculus, Easter lilies)

These require bright indirect light indoors to part sun outdoors. Average moisture is required both inside and out. They cannot be planted outside until after the danger of frost. After blooming, take care of the foliage (keep green & healthy) until the fall. Dig and lift the bulbs, remove excess soil and let dry out for several days. Store in a cool (50-60 degrees F), dry place over winter. Replant in fresh potting soil early spring and start watering and lighting and feeding to force new growth. Use Osmocote to fertilize in containers and beds during the growing season. *Easter lilies can be hardy in Zone 5, but need to be in a protected environment with well drained soil.

Hydrangea:

Lace cap hydrangea / *Hydrangea macrophylla* are hardy hydrangea. They grow best in part sun, average to moist soils and fertilized with Plant-tone and Ironite in the spring. Their color can be manipulated to purple/blue with an acidic fertilizer like Holly-tone. They can grow anywhere from 3-6' tall (average growth is 4'x4'.) Be aware that the bigger Hydrangea, the better the flowers are that they produce. Plan for adequate space in the garden! They do require dead heading and pruning old wood in the spring. Enjoy them indoors in bright indirect light, average moisture and plant outdoors when blooms fade. Do not place outside before last frost or you will burn the forced flowers and foliage. We suggest wrapping the stems in burlap and mulching 4-6" for winter protection.

Gerbera Daisies / Martha Washington Geraniums are annuals that can be grown indoors in bright, indirect lighting to some direct sun. Outdoors, plant on the east or north to elongate the bloom cycle. Watering should stay on the dry side indoors and out. They are safe to plant outdoors after frost in containers or gardens. Fertilize with Osmocote for the growing season.