

Bulbs and pots are perfect mates. In summer the very porous nature of a pot can be a pest, but because spring bulbs grow through the winter, the extra drainage is an advantage. If your soil lies wet and heavy in winter, planting your bulbs in containers will give the best results.



If you have only a few bulbs, the best way to make them stand out is to plant them in an attractive pot, and locate it in pride of place. Of course a whole cluster of pots filled with colourful spring bulbs, or matching pots all planted with the same variety and repeated through the garden, will also look spectacular.

Growing bulbs in containers means they can be moved from view once flowering has finished. Shorter growing daffodil varieties are ideal for

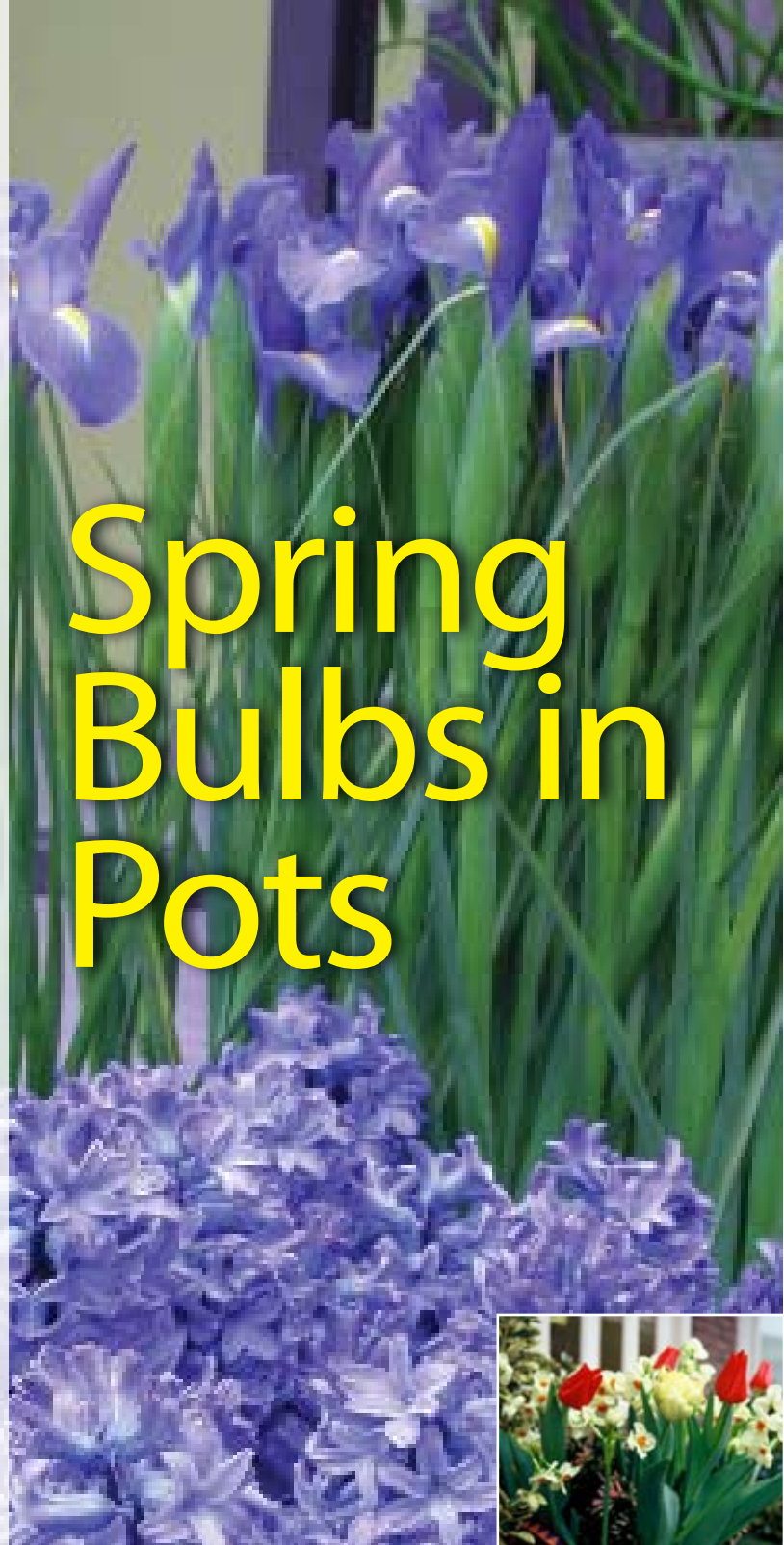
pots, especially if you cram them in. Other pot favourites are tulips, crocus, hyacinths, freesias, lachenalias, anemones and ranunculus.

Some bulbs also do well in hanging baskets. For a stunning show of golden lachenalias, plant bulbs around the entire basket with the point of each bulb facing outwards. The flowers will grow upright once sprouted.

Success in Pots

- Resist the temptation to use last years bulbs in pots. For best results buy fresh new bulbs each year, saving last year's divisions for the garden.
- Plant them into fresh potting mix containing slow release fertiliser. Debco Bulb Planting mixture is a premium grade formula that contains Saturaid for better drainage, and calcium to prevent rot plus trichoderma to reduce risk of bulb disease.
- Plant closely so that the pots look full. Large bulbs, such as tulips can be almost touching. Bulbs which have bushy foliage, such as freesias should be spaced about 2cm apart.
- After planting, place the containers in a cool spot outdoors.
- Keep the potting mix moist, but not wet, throughout the growing season. Drainage is improved by sitting pots on pot feet or bricks.
- Once the shoots appear, bring them out into the sun.
- Feed fortnightly with liquid fertiliser from the time the first shoots appear until the leaves start to turn yellow.
- Pots are a good way to grow warm climate bulbs in a colder climate, if you shelter them from the frost. Beware of potting mix freezing and thawing as this can lead to rot.

Spring Bulbs in Pots



Hint

To keep cool climate bulbs such as hyacinths really cool, sink pots into the ground until the shoots appear. Watch for slugs and snails though! Snail bait is highly recommended for emerging bulbs!

Bulbs indoors

Crocus, hyacinths dwarf tulips, freesias and miniature daffodils are beautiful in pots for indoors. Bulbs are planted in pots, then left in a cool place outdoors until shoots appear. Once shoots appear, gradually give them more sun by moving pots every few days, eventually bringing them indoors to flower. Ideally the room should have good light and even warmth - not too hot.