



Fall gardening brings spring colour

Toronto, Ont. (September, 2010) – Don't pack away those gardening tools yet! If you would like your garden full of colour next spring, fall is the perfect time to plant bulbs that yield spring flowers, such as daffodils, tulips, hyacinth, crocus and snowdrops.

Hardy fall bulbs *must* be planted in the fall, as they need to rest dormant during the long, cold winter. Ideal planting time is from September to December, even after the first frost, as long as the ground can still be worked.

"Fall is one of a gardener's favourite seasons, because it is when you get to plan and create what your garden will look like for the next year," said Denis Flanagan, public relations manager for Landscape Ontario.

Landscape Ontario has provided some tips for when preparing a garden bed with fall bulbs:

- **Prepare the bed**
When preparing a bed, double digging will help to make a well-drained planting bed. Also, be sure to use top quality bulbs that are now available at Green for Life garden centres. Find one near you at www.landscapeontario.com.
- **Condition the soil**
Improve soil by adding three inches of peat moss and one inch of composted manure. Then work the amendments in 30 cm deep. Add one kg of bonemeal for every 1,000 sq. ft.
- **Plant, the sooner the better**
When planting ensure the pointy end of the bulb faces upwards. Read the instructions for each bulb to ensure you use the correct planting depth. Also, add a sprinkle of bloodmeal to deter squirrels from stealing your bulbs for food. After planting water to settle the ground and initiate rooting.
- **Add 2-5 cm of mulch**
Adding mulch will help prevent winter weeds, retain moisture and insulate against severe winter cold and temperature fluctuations.

When choosing bulbs for your garden this fall, keep in mind that for spring 2011 bold colours such as red, orange and yellow will be in style, in addition to the traditional white.

If you plan on travelling in the next year consider visiting some of these gardens for inspiration:

Canada Blooms, March 17-20, 2010, Direct Energy Centre, Toronto, Ont.

Thousands of spring bulbs are forced for show visitors.

Canadian Tulip Festival, Ottawa, Ont. Hundreds of thousands of tulips are on display each year, as a representation of the friendship between Holland and Canada.

Via Rail Garden Route From Victoria to Halifax, the Garden Route is an invitation to discover 18 magnificent gardens and 27 Communities in Bloom, all winners of the prestigious Five Bloom award

Since Holland is one of the largest bulb producers in the world, and one of Canada's primary suppliers, consider visiting some of the famous Dutch gardens, including:

Keukenhof Boasts an impressive display of a staggering 7-million spring bulbs

Palais Het Loo Often called the "Versailles of Holland" because of its axial layout, fountains, parterres and statues

Appeltern Provides a changing exhibition of garden design, with over 150 model gardens. There is a large plant collection and examples of design by well-known Dutch garden designers, landscape architects and authors.

About Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association

Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association is one of the most vibrant associations of its kind, comprised of over 2,000 members, ten sector groups and nine local chapters. Its trade mission is to promote the horticulture industry in Ontario, and its public mission is to promote the joys and benefits of green spaces. For more information on the association and Green for Life, visit: www.landscapeontario.com.



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