

Best Fall Planted Bulbs for Perennializing

Carl Wilson 10/7/16

Origins, Climate, Soil and Bulbs

Origins (Mediterranean and Eurasia) / association with Holland (due to Dutch merchants), Keukenhof Gardens at Lisse and the bulb field in SW Holland

Seasonal moisture

Soil and drainage

Bulb life cycle and care

Life cycle – vernalization (cold/moist period in winter)

Sun / shade requirements – north side, under trees before leaf out

Irrigation requirements – Fall & Spring

Drought tolerance – desired dry summer dormant period for bulbs
(bulbs are drought avoiders)

Cutting back and division of bulbs in a clump that have multiplied (after foliage dries)

Species

Galanthus – Snowdrops G. elwesii, G. nivalis (dull foliage), G. woronowii

Crocus (corms) – Dorothy (early golden-yellow, Gipsy Girl (light yellow), “tommies” including Ruby Giant, Blue Pearl

Iris reticulata – dwarf iris

Chionodoxa – glory of the snow, blue and pink varieties

Narcissus - daffodil

February Gold, Carlton

Ice Follies (yellow cup, white petals)

Salome (apricot cup), Actaeae (pheasant’s eye), Thalia (all white)

Muscari – grape hyacinth, deadhead to avoid seed spread, inexpensive blue for the garden, Muscari armeniacum Blue Spike - large flowers, sterile so no seeding

Scilla – Siberian squill, good blue flower (also white form)

Hyacinthoides – bluebell or wood hyacinth (good for shade)

H. hispanica – Spanish bluebell more drought tolerant than English bluebell

Tulipa – tulip, note they are “deer candy”, perennializing types:

Kaufmaniana - Ancilla, Scarlet Baby, Stresa

Fosteriana – Madame Lefeber (Red Emperor), Yellow Emperor, Orange Emperor, Purissima (White Emperor), Sweetheart, Juan

Greigii - Red Riding Hood, Fur Elise

Darwin hybrids – Golden Apeldoorn, Apeldoorn, Beauty of Apeldoorn, Blushing Apeldoorn

Reds: Big Chief, Parade, Hollands Glory, Come-Back

Ivory Floradale, Pink Impression, Apricot Impression, World Peace, Banja Luka

Botanical (wildflower) types – albertii, turkestanica, clusiana, praestans Fusilier, bakeri Lilac Wonder, maximowiczii (red poppy-like), batalinii Bronze Gem, Lady Jane, Little Princess

Allium – ornamental onion – moly (golden garlic or lily leek), karataviense (Turkestan), aflatunense ‘Purple Sensation’, caeruleum (blue globe), sphaerocephalon (drumsticks), christophii (Star of Persia – show seedhead), ‘Millenium’ (clump former for late summer bloom)

Deadhead to avoid seed spread, note foliage dieback tendency when in bloom

Colchicum and Fall crocus – foliage spring, dormant summer, bloom in fall

Planting perennial beds, berms (with cacti) - Kendrick Lake Gardens, Jewell & Hoyt, in Lakewood

Bulbs in meadows and lawns

Fine (Hard) Fescue meadows at any elevation, in Buffalograss or buffalo/blue grama lawns (not over 6500' elevation)

Bulb Sources

- High Country Gardens
- Dutch Gardens
- Brent and Becky’s Bulbs – good online source for many species and varieties
- Tulipworld.com
- Local nurseries and garden centers

References

Daffodils for North American Gardens – Brent and Becky Heath, 2001
Tulips for North American Gardens – Brent and Becky Heath, 2001
The Tulip – Anna Pavord, 1999, Bloomsburg Publishing, Great Britain
The Tulip Gallery - <http://www.thetulipgallery.com>