

Bulb Growing

By: Melinda Sperl

With my Spider Lilies Blooming it reminds me of just how much I love bulbs. They are like little surprises that come up when you are least expecting it. Here is a brief summary for bulb growing to help you.

Lilies are one of the most popular bulbs for our area. This includes Daylilies, Liliiums, Easter Lily, Lily of the Valley and the larger Philippine Lily. They are all relatively easy to grow and come in a huge variety of colors. Most will tolerate moderate soil conditions and enjoy part shade and sun. They do not survive in over-wet soil conditions and will develop fungus and rot in these conditions. Lilies are great for borders, specimen plants and are great for areas that erode easily.

Agapanthus or Lily of the Nile, is a great filler plant for flower beds and blooms with a ball-like cluster of blue flowers once per year. The remainder of the year the wide arching leaves give beds a nice texture and variety.

Amaryllis is popular to grow indoors in the fall as a large bulb that gives spectacular large blooms with a variety of colors. After blooming they can be planted in the ground and as with most bulbs, will divide to give you many more plants for the future.

These are just a few of the choices available to grow here. In our climate most bulbs can be left in the ground all year and come back year after year. Some bulbs, like tulips, will grow here but cannot survive our summers so they need to be dug up and refrigerated after they bloom. Most bulbs will divide themselves and spread which makes them great to share with friends.

If you are interested in learning more about bulbs there are many clubs in the Houston area or you can go to the Houston Garden Club's Bulb Mart in October. Look it up at www.gchouston.org.

Happy Gardening!

Melinda Sperl is a Horticulturalist and the owner of Dream Landscape Design, Inc. You can reach Melinda at Melinda@dreamlandscapedesign.com or www.dreamlandscapedesign.com