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The Renaissance of Naturalizing

KENNETT SQUARE, PA (September 2020) – A naturalistic garden emulates nature, in all her wild and free ways. The aesthetic appeals to people who enjoy a natural look *and* want to invite beneficial wild-life into their gardens.

Every naturalistic garden includes flower bulbs planted in a random way called naturalizing. Using flower bulbs for naturalizing isn't new, but it is experiencing a renaissance. It's a steadily rising trend with landscape designers.

If you want a natural look, now is the time to plant spring-flowering bulbs. Here is a list of the top performers for home gardens.

Spring Flowering Bulbs for Naturalizing – all but tulips are deer resistant

- Botanical tulips - Tulipa
- Chequered fritillary - Fritillaria meleagris
- Crocus - Crocus
- Crown imperial - Fritillaria imperialis
- Dwarf iris - Iris reticulata
- Glory-of-the-snow - Chionodoxa
- Grape hyacinths - Muscari
- Grecian windflower - Anemone blanda
- Mini daffodils - Narcissus
- Nodding star-of-Bethlehem - Ornithogalum nutans
- Short ornamental onions - Allium
- Siberian squill - Scilla siberica
- Snowdrop - Galanthus
- Spring starflower - Ipheion uniflorum
- Striped squill - Puschkinia libanotica

How to Naturalize

Select an area of the garden where the soil won't be trampled, mowed, or disturbed such as among groundcovers, under trees and shrubs, and even in the lawn. Choose a variety of small bulbs and mix them all in a bucket or wheelbarrow. Then, scatter them gently over the ground and plant them where they fall.

The beauty of naturalizing is that the tiny bulbs will multiply and produce more flowers every year. This is truly an investment for the long term. Imagine being rewarded every spring without having to lift a finger. They also provide an early source of nectar and pollen for bumblebees. Bulbs that naturalize are generally early-spring bloomers, and nothing is as precious as the first flowers of spring.

Flowerbulbs.com is a promotional agency for the flower bulb sector. Their goal is to educate and inspire new and experienced gardeners. They do not sell flower bulbs; they encourage consumers to visit their local independent garden centers. High-resolution images are available royalty-free when citing FlowerBulbs.com as the source.

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