



**Marigold Nurseries**  
7874 Lochside Dr, Saanichton, BC  
Open: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Seven Days A Week  
Ph: 250-652-2342

## Tips for Planting Summer Bulbs

### Dahlia Tubers

1. Preping the site.
  - a. Work in a 2" layer of compost along with some bonemeal and an organic based 6-8-6 to an area about 12"-14" wide and deep.
  - b. Make sure the soil has a good mixture of sand and peat and that the soil mixture is nice and loose.
  - c. Mix the compost and fertilizer well into the soil so that the tuber does not rest directly on any.
2. Planting the dahlia tuber.
  - a. Lay the tuber flat in the hole about 6" deep.
  - b. Make sure the eyes are facing UP.
  - c. If the soil is dry water once on the day the tuber was planted. You do not need to water the tubers again until the shoots are up.
  - d. Place a stake where you planted the dahlia with the colour and name of variety.
3. Spacing
  - a. A recommendation to spacing your dahlia is  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{1}{3}$  of its height. Varieties range so check the package for details.
4. Staking
  - a. You should stake your dahlias with stakes about 1-2ft shorter than the expected height of the plant.
5. Fertilizing
  - a. Dahlias are heavy feeders so once the plant is about 6-8" high supplement them with an organic based fertilizer. This should be repeated every 3 weeks.

### Gladiolas

1. Preping the site
  - a. Find a well drained location in full sun to plant your glads
  - b. Ammend your soil with organic matter such as compost and peatmoss
2. Preparing the corms.
  - a. Before planting your glads place them in a sack and soak them in 1 oz of Lysol to a gallon of water for  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour. This will prevent thrip on your plants.
3. Planting
  - a. Plant your glads 4-6" below the surface.
  - b. Plant the corm flat side down.
  - c. For most impact plant in clumps spacing them about 3" apart.
  - d. Most people plant them in 2 week intervals to extend the blooming time.
  - e. After planting soak the bulbs well.
4. Cutting.
  - a. Glads make an excellent cutflower but make sure when you are cutting them to leave enough foliage so the bulb can store energy for the next season.

## Begonias

1. Preparing the site
  - a. Start your begonia tubers indoors 4-6 weeks before planting outdoors usually at the same time in which you plant your tomatoes outdoors
  - b. Find a well-drained location in a spot that receives morning sun only.
2. Planting and caring for your tubers
  - a. Make sure to plant your tubers the right depth. Depths can vary from variety to variety so check the package before discarding it.
  - b. If starting inside plant begonia in a 4-6" pot.
  - c. Begonias like a real peat soil mix in a slow release fertilizer such as 14-14-14 or bulb food.
  - d. Make sure to plant your begonias the right way up.
  - e. Once planted give an initial good drink of water.
  - f. When your tubers begin to show from the soil start watering moderately but frequently.
  - g. Feed your begonias with Fish Fertilizer. They love it!

## Callas

1. Planting and caring for your callas
  - a. Callas are best started in containers
  - b. Plant your rhizomes in a rich, hummus soil.
  - c. Plant callas outside after all danger of frost is gone, they cannot tolerate any frost and sometimes even low temperatures can cause some damage.
  - d. When placing your callas outside find a protected area which receives full sun and is well drained
  - e. Callas do fantastic in containers. If planting callas into your garden beds keep them in the container so it is easier to dig up and store them during the cold months. It is also easier to remove them and let them go dormant in a less visible sight. Do not cut the leaves off when going dormant they are what gather energy from the sun for the rhizome to become a stronger bulb next season.
  - f. Do not let your callas dry out during there active growing stage.
  - g. Feed your callas with a slow release fertilizer and when flowering once every two weeks with a water-soluble food.
  - h. Callas make an excellent cut flower.
  - i. Store dormant bulb in a dry frost-free place.

## Cannas

1. Planting and caring for your Cannas
  - a. Cannas make an excellent focal point in gardens or in containers.
  - b. Plant your cannas in full sun and protect them from strong winds. They are best started in containers before transplanting them into the ground.
  - c. Start your canna rhizomes in peat and then transfer them to a rich well-composted soil.
  - d. Before planting your cannas make sure the area is well dug.
  - e. Plant your cannas outside after all danger of frost has passed.
  - f. Water your planted rhizomes sparingly until foliage develops then keep soil evenly moist.
  - g. Feed your cannas with a slow release fertilizer and once every two weeks with water soluble when flowering.
  - h. Cannas need to be lifted before the first frost and stored in a frost-free place.
  - i. Clean and divide your Cannas the following spring before planting.