

Planting Instructions	<p>Dig a hole in the soil at least twice as wide and twice as deep as the bulb. Place the bulb with the roots down and the bud pointing up. Work soil in and around bulb, firming it with fingers making sure to leave the top third of your bulb exposed and above the soil line (see illustration). Do not cover the top of the bulb with soil, as it will rot when watered. Water thoroughly.</p>
Continuing Care	<p><u>Watering</u> - Adequate and consistent watering is essential during the plant's first year in your garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil surrounding the root zone are more effective than frequent light applications of water that may wet the top of the soil only.</p> <p>Due to individual plant needs, geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is hard to define; however, as a rule of thumb you should not allow the soil to completely dry out. During periods of drought or extreme summer heat, you may need to water as often as every day.</p> <p>Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant does not become a water-holding bog and that there is adequate drainage to move excess water away from the plant.</p> <p><u>Weeding</u> - Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost or other organic mulch around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures, and to discourage weed growth.</p> <p><u>Feeding</u> - Feed your plants once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water-soluble fertilizer such as Cottage Farms' Carefree Bud-N-Flower Booster. Discontinue feeding after September 1st so your plants can harden off for winter dormancy. Resume fertilizing when new growth appears in the spring.</p> <p><u>Pruning</u> - Clip off dead or unsightly growth to maintain attractive form and shape. Deadhead or remove flowers when blooms have faded, leaving as much foliage as possible. As long as the foliage remains green it will gather sunlight and transmit energy into the root system for the following growing season.</p>
Winterizing Instructions	<p>After frost causes the foliage to wither and die, cut the stalks to 2-3" above ground level (as a visual indicator of their location). These bulbs are winter-hardy perennials and will send up new stalks late the following spring/early summer. After you cut back to the ground in the fall you can still mulch if you feel that this is necessary. However, remove the mulch in the spring as soon as temperatures start to rise.</p> <p>For container planting, move plants next to your home's southern foundation for added warmth and protection. They may also be moved into an unheated, protected area such as a garage or cellar. If moved to a protected area be sure you water them well once every 7 to 10 days.</p> <p>In Spring, remove mulch from in-ground plantings and remove any dead or damaged parts on any plants. Also, bring containerized plants back out into the garden sunlight where they will immediately begin to repeat their yearly garden performance.</p>