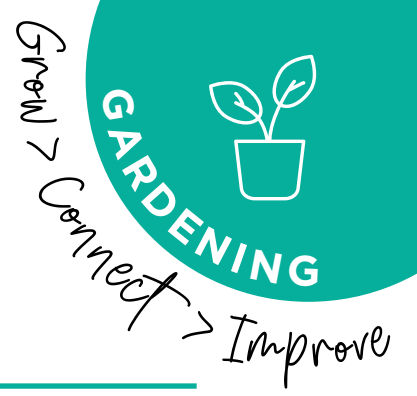




Week Seventeen



Flowering bulbs to brighten your day

Spring is here and the daffodils are in bloom. Such a cheery plant and one of the first to flower after the cold of winter. Yellow is the colour that springs to mind when thinking of daffodils but they do come in a variety of colours including white with a yellow or apricot centre, and both single or double flowers. It is too late now to be planting daffodils to have flowers this year but we can certainly enjoy the blooms in other gardens and decide just which ones we would like to grow for ourselves next year.

For a great display of flowers it is best to plant daffodils in clumps. They grow well under deciduous trees or roses. As with all bulbs, if grown in a pot they can be moved when in bloom to a spot where the flowers can be seen and appreciated, and then hidden away when the plant dies down after flowering. Let the bulb die down rather than cutting the dead leaves. This allows nutrients to be absorbed by the bulb to keep it healthy for next year.

Perennial bulbs such as the daffodil are great because they multiply and come back the next year with even more blooms. It is not necessary to lift the bulbs each year but if you find that you are getting less flowers then the bulbs will be too crowded and it is then time to lift and separate them.

There is quite a variety of different bulbs. Another one to flower early is the freesia. Such a tiny bulb with such a pretty perfumed flower!

Summer flowering bulbs include gladioli, dahlia. These can be planted in the spring once the frosts have gone. Bulbs can be soaked for twelve hours before planting which will allow the bulb to absorb moisture and enable it to commence growing immediately it is planted.

