

BULBS FOR A LIFETIME

Plant a Story



SO



What is the number one reason flower bulbs do not bloom?

A Note from Chris

Gardens can change the world. I have a simple garden myself with as many bulbs packed in as my wife will allow, but this simple garden profoundly effects everyone who joins us for an evening on the patio, a garden tour with a refreshing drink in hand, or a late-night fireside chat.

Did you know that there is a flower bulb selection for blooms almost every week of the year? Did you also know many of these bulbs are perennials? The following pages take you through a calendar year and highlight some of our favorite, most reliable flower bulbs for your gardens.

We hope these bulbs are seen as investments in your garden and bring you as much joy, hope, and community as they have brought us.

Sincerely,

Chris Wiesinger

“The Bulb Hunter”



THE SOUTHERN BULB STORY

The Southern Bulb Company, situated on 40 acres in northeast Texas, cultivates resilient, low-maintenance bulbs perfectly suited for Southern US climates (hot and humid), designed to flourish and return each year.

Chris founded The Southern Bulb Company in 2004 along with several friends in an attempt to recapture that which was once “lost” to the Southern gardener: bulbs that thrive in warm climates. He began collecting bulbs when he was young. He used his bulb passion for a college project at Texas A&M University which then grew into a lifestyle and business. Chris sought out heirloom and rare flower bulbs like the red spider lily. He was featured in a New York Times story that affectionately dubbed him “The Bulb Hunter,” and Chris later used that as the title for his book in 2013 when he wrote “The Bulb Hunter” with his garden mentor Dr. Bill Welch. The book details his life as a bulb collector and farmer and highlights some of their favorite bulbs. These bulbs are available at www.southernbulbs.com.

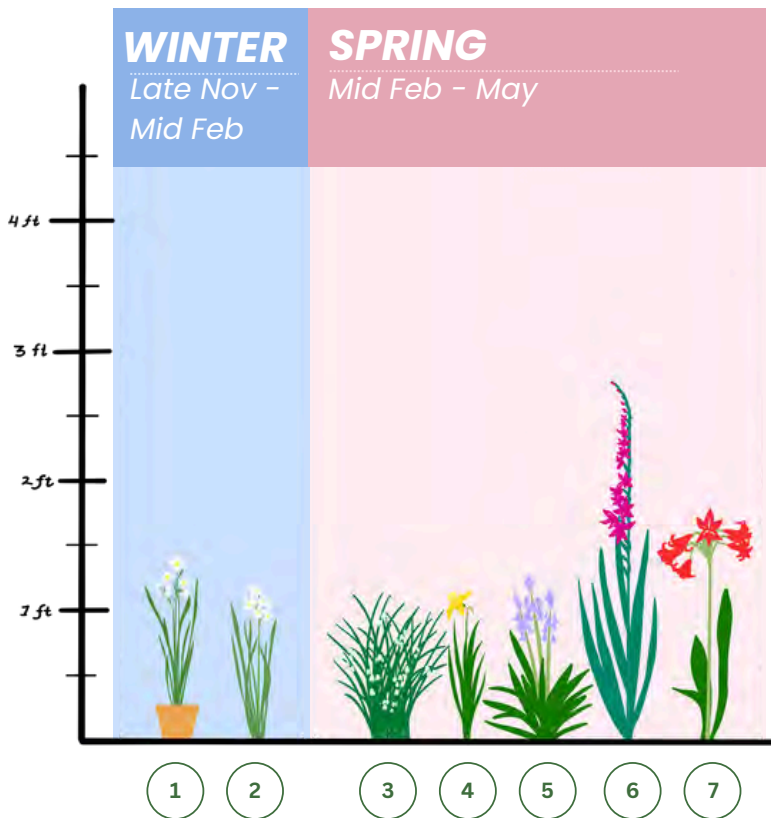
When you call, you will most likely speak with Audra, our office manager, who is always happy to spend time answering any questions that you may have.

We offer a weekly newsletter where you can learn our growing tips, discover our highlighted bulb of the week, access our sales, and see what's blooming now to help you plan your garden for the future! To sign up for our newsletter, either call Audra, visit our website, or use the QR code. All you will need to share is your email.



SCAN ME

BLOOM CALENDAR



WINTER

1. Paperwhites for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's
2. Narcissus Italicus

SPRING

3. Leucojum sp. (snowflakes)
4. Narcissi Campernelles, Jonquils, and Lent Lilies, etc.
5. Spanish Bluebells
6. Byzantine Gladiolus
7. Hardy Amaryllis

SUMMER

June - August

FALL

August - Nov.



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SUMMER

8. Pink Rain Lilies (Habranthus and Zephyranthes)
9. Crinum (seen here as Mrs. James Hendry)
10. Philippine Lilies
11. Caladiums (White, Pink, etc.)
12. Tuberose (Single and Double)

FALL

13. Schoolhouse Lily
14. Sternbergia
15. White Rain Lilies
16. Red Spider Lilies
17. Yellow Spider Lilies

What to Plan For

BEFORE BUYING

KNOW YOUR ZONE. *We want your bulbs to be successful, and the growing zone is the first place to start. Here is a wonderful free resource to help you determine your growing zone and pick the right bulbs. All you need to provide is your zip code!*

FIND MY ZONE
https://garden.org/nga/zipzone/index.php? img=seusa


APPRECIATE YOUR SUNSHINE. *Bulbs bloom best when they have the proper sunshine. Every bulb is unique so be sure to find out how much sun your bulb needs. Our website provides the sunlight requirements for each bulb, and you can also call the office for more information. 888-285-2486*

CHOOSE YOUR BULBS. *There are several additional factors to consider as you choose your bulbs: soil, shade, and water. You also want to think about how tall your plants will grow to be, what your landscaping vision is, colors that you want, companion plants, and when the bulbs bloom. We've provided a bloom calendar for you in this handbook to help you plan your garden. Our website often lists good companion plants below each bulb description.*

What to Plan For

BEFORE BUYING

WHEN TO PLANT. *If we have the bulbs available, then they are ready to plant. You should plant your bulbs as soon as you can. The bulbs don't mind the heat, but don't let them sit in direct sunlight. Don't plant them during a hard freeze.*

HOW TO PLANT. *As a rule of thumb, plant most bulbs at a depth of 2-3 times their height. However, be sure to check the website or plant tags, as this may not apply to all bulbs.*

PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE. *Now that you have planted your bulbs, it is time to let them do the work. While some bulbs, like rain lilies, often come up and bloom the same year, other bulbs, like spider lilies, may take a year or two to produce foliage and blooms. This period is crucial for establishing a robust root system. Always watch for foliage as it is the indicator of healthy growing bulbs.*

As always, feel free to give us a call or send us an email with any questions or concerns.

PHONE: 1-888-285-2486

EMAIL: info@southernbulbs.com



FALL

WE'RE GOING to start in the fall with our Southern Bulb experience. It's a good time to start because most people associate the fall with planting flower bulbs and in many ways that is true. Fall is a great time to plant many traditional flower bulbs like daffodils and tulips. It's also a great time to take a trip to your garden center or visit southernbulbs.com to see what's available and make a Saturday out of planting.

In the Garden: At this time of year, I am enjoying my fall fall blooming Salvia and Aster. I'm preparing to cut back my lantana and plumbago and other summer blooming perennials. I am doing this to make space for my spring blooming bulbs that I have planted along these perennials.

This is also a good time to mulch the garden, weed, and do fall color changes like adding pansies and violas and maybe dropping a pumpkin around here and there.



HEIRLOOM BULBS

THE RED SPIDER LILY

Our most iconic southern bulb is the fall-blooming red spider lily. When you see it, it's a great reminder that seasons are changing. No matter whether you call it the red spider lily, the hurricane lily, the naked lady, or the surprise lily, this beautiful bulb deserves a place in your garden. Red spider lilies are prolific multipliers and look best when planted together. The key to triggering their blooms is the onset of fall rains. Like the schoolhouse lily, the foliage provides great texture and color to your winter garden.

**for a full story on this flower bulb,
scan the QR code.*



SCAN ME





*No matter what you call it,
its beauty will make you glad
you have it in your garden!*



RED SPIDER LILY (*Lycoris radiata*)

HIEGHT:	12-16 Inches	BLOOM SIZE:	Softball Sized
COLOR:	Coral Red	ZONES:	7-10
BLOOM PERIOD:	Early Fall	LIGHT:	6 + Hours of Winter Sun

HEIRLOOM BULBS

SCHOOLHOUSE LILY

The schoolhouse lily, also known as the oxblood lily, is a welcome sight each year as we tire of the hot summer heat, and we prepare for children going back to school! Seemingly out of nowhere, a good late-summer rain will trigger these flower bulbs to pop up their blooms and display a deep red vivid show of flowers on naked stalks. The vermilion red against the dried summer grass makes for a striking display! The foliage provides great texture and color to your winter garden.

**for a full story on this flower bulb,
scan the QR code.*





These exquisite flowers are known for their vibrant hues and delicate petals.

SCHOOLHOUSE LILY (*Rhodophiala bifida*)

HIEGHT:	10-16 Inches	BLOOM SIZE:	2" Trumpet
COLOR:	Red	ZONES:	7-10
BLOOM PERIOD:	Early Fall		
LIGHT:	6+ Hours of Winter Sun		

WINTER

WE LOVE *the transition from fall to winter. Winter typically spans from late November to early February. By December or January, we usually get our first freeze, but we start doing “winter” activities in the fall, such as:*

- 1. Planting paperwhites for Christmas blooms.*
- 2. Cutting back perennials like lantana and salvia.*
- 3. Mulching beds and removing summer annuals.*
- 4. Planting winter annuals like violas, pansies, and cyclamen.*

*Paperwhites bloom from December through January, unless hit by a hard freeze. Both old and new varieties behave similarly, with newer ones easier to force (bloom 3-5 weeks after planting). Plant them in the garden for November-December blooms, and try *Narcissus italicus* for blooms in your garden from January to early February, as it withstands freezes better.*

Winter passes quickly, and by late February, daffodils begin blooming. October and November are ideal for tidying up the garden, cutting back perennials, planting trees, spring bulbs, and squeezing in paperwhites for festive blooms throughout the holiday season!



HEIRLOOM BULBS

PAPERWHITES

During December and January, we fill every conceivable spot in our garden with paperwhites! There are heirloom paperwhites that bloom in gardens starting in late November and December, but we usually start with fresh bulbs so we can “force” them to bloom for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day! All we mean by “force” in this case is that we plant them and they will bloom very quickly, about 4-6 weeks later, so we time them for holiday color and we squeeze them into every open pot, flower bed, nook, and cranny to fill our winter gardens!

**for a full story on this flower bulb,
scan the QR code.*



SCAN ME





*Unique and lovely gift
for everyone!*



PAPERWHITE GIFT KITS

HIEGHT: 12-18 Inches
COLOR: White
BLOOM PERIOD: Winter-Early
Spring

BLOOM SIZE: Silver Dollar
ZONES: Indoor Forcing
LIGHT: Full Day or By
A Window

HEIRLOOM BULBS

ITALICUS

All daffodils are Narcissus, but not all Narcissus are daffodils! Daffodils (in the genus Narcissus) are large and trumpet shaped, and normally have yellow blooms that start appearing in late February through early April. Similar to the paperwhites, but with star shaped petals and a little more yellow in the petals and cup of the flower, we have the amazing garden selection of Narcissus italicus! In the “old world” it could be found along the banks of the French Riviera, and in the “new world” this belongs in your garden for January color!

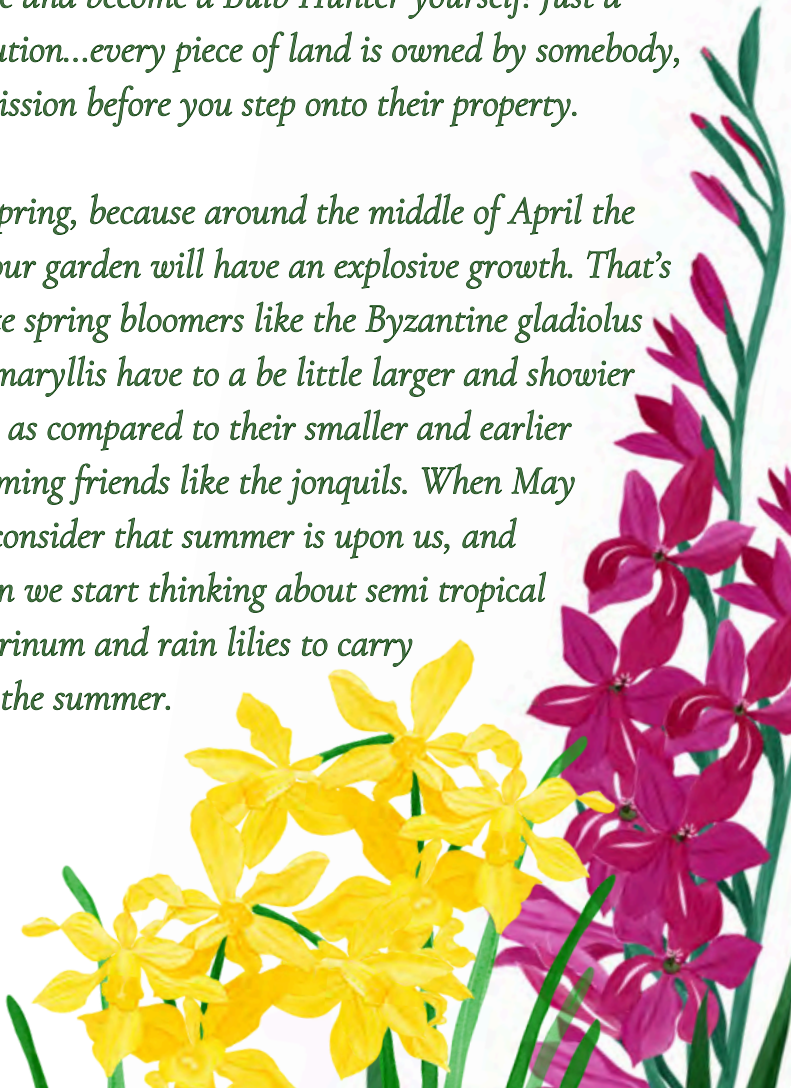
**for a full story on this flower bulb,
scan the QR code.*



SPRING

SPRING STARTS in many states in the Southern United States around late February. Yes, there are still dangers of freezes and snow, but soon the earliest daffodils (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*) start to bloom. They are quickly followed by jonquils, campernelles, snowflakes (*Leucojum aestivum*) and more! Spring is the time to take a drive around the country side and become a Bulb Hunter yourself! Just a word of caution...every piece of land is owned by somebody, so get permission before you step onto their property.

Enjoy the spring, because around the middle of April the weeds in your garden will have an explosive growth. That's why the late spring bloomers like the Byzantine gladiolus or hardy amaryllis have to be a little larger and showier to compete, as compared to their smaller and earlier spring blooming friends like the jonquils. When May comes, we consider that summer is upon us, and that is when we start thinking about semi tropical bulbs like crinum and rain lilies to carry us through the summer.



HEIRLOOM BULBS

SNOWFLAKES

*Termed "Snowflakes" by the gardening public, the *Leucojum aestivum* is by far one the most adaptable bulbs ever offered in wamer climates. This is the bulb that we suggest people try when they aren't sure if they can grow perennial bulbs. During a season when people only consider daffodils to be early spring bloomers, this unusual bloom will steal your heart and captivate your attention. This diminutive bloom deserves to be prized and plentiful in our modern gardens.*

**for a full story on this flower bulb,
scan the QR code.*





*The Leucojum aestivum is
one of the most versatile
perennial bulbs.*

SNOWFLAKES (*Leucojum aestivum*)

HIEGHT: 12-14 Inches

COLOR: White

BLOOM PERIOD: March

BLOOM SIZE: Dime Sized Cluster

ZONES: 6-10

LIGHT: 6+ Hours of
Winter Sun

HEIRLOOM BULBS

CAMPERNELLES

Often dubbed the "Giant Jonquil" or simply the "campernelle daffodil," gardeners treasure the campernelle for the wonderful fragrance and golden blooms. Clusters of small rich-colored dark yellow trumpets top the foliage, and look like a vein of gold going through the landscape. Their lengthy bloom time in late February, low-maintenance, and pest resistance make them worth their weight in gold.

**for a full story on this flower bulb,
scan the QR code.*





*Gardeners treasure the
Campernelle for its wonderful
fragrance and golden
blooms.*

CAMPERNELLES (*Narcissus x ordorus*)

HIEGHT:	12-14 Inches	BLOOM SIZE:	Silver Dollar
COLOR:	Yellow	ZONES:	6-8b
BLOOM PERIOD:	Late Feb to Early March	LIGHT:	6+ Hours of Winter Sun

HEIRLOOM BULBS

BYZANTINE GLADIOLUS

One of the best performers in April is the true heirloom Byzantine gladiolus. Despite their small and delicate corms, these bulbs make a monumental impact in your spring garden. This rapidly multiplying bulb thrives in all kinds of Southern soil types and can be used to spruce up ditches and other hard-to-garden areas. The striking magenta blooms cluster on a 2-3 foot stalk, creating a show-stopping display that demands attention in your April garden.

**for a full story on this flower bulb,
scan the QR code.*



SCAN ME





Start with a few, have fun, and get hooked on this bulb!

BYZANTINE GLADIOLUS (*Gladiolus byzantinus*)

HIEGHT: 2-3 Feet

COLOR: Magenta

BLOOM PERIOD: Mid April

BLOOM SIZE: Stock of Silver Dollar
Sized Blooms

ZONES: 6-10

LIGHT: Full Winter Sun

SUMMER

CRINUMS AND rain lilies define the summer landscape, and the white spider lilies and Philippine lilies add fireworks of their own! Some crinums, like the “Milk and Wine Lily”, bloom in late April and May, while others, like the Crinum ‘Ellen Bosanquet’, bloom in June. Finally, others like the ‘Summer Nocturne’ bloom in late summer and early fall. For a clever garden design, add a skirt to these the large clumps of flowers, by using other perennials like salvia or plumbago, or plant them behind well trimmed border hedges of dwarf yaupons to add formality to these more free flowing spirits.

Tuck the smaller rain lilies along borders and put them in pots. They survive the summer by lying quiet in your garden until a summer rain shower pops up. Two to three days later they will all be blooming! My old academic advisor in college used to say that rain lilies are like old friends – they just pop back into your life suddenly and you’re always glad to see them.



HEIRLOOM BULBS

HABRANTHUS ROBUSTUS

This larger rain lily with its elongated trumpet-like blooms is elegant in the garden or cut and brought inside. It is perfectly at home in both formal and naturalistic settings, rapidly filling your garden as it multiplies both by bulb and seed. The delicate pink Habranthus blooms offer a showy display that will carry you from spring through early fall.

**for a full story on this flower bulb,
scan the QR code.*



SCAN ME





*Few rain lilies can match the show of the *Habranthus robustus*.*



PINK RAIN LILIES (*Habranthus robustus*)

HEIGHT: 9-12 Inches
COLOR: Pink
BLOOM PERIOD: Summer

BLOOM SIZE: Half Dollar
ZONES: 7-10
LIGHT: Full Sun to Part Shade

HEIRLOOM BULBS

CRINUM MILK AND WINE

The Crinum Milk and Wine is one of the first crinums to bloom every summer. The flowers have a subtle, pleasing fragrance, and their white trumpets with burgundy stripes create a striking feature in your garden. Once established, crinums are among the toughest bulbs you can grow. Unless exposed to harsh chemicals or extremely cold climates, they are very hardy. As Dr. Bill Welch said, "No crinum in the South has ever died."

**for a full story on this flower bulb,
scan the QR code.*





*This is one of the first
crinums to bloom every
summer.*



CRINUM MILK AND WINE (*Crinum x herbertii*)

HIEGHT:	2-3 Feet	BLOOM SIZE:	Large 3-5 Inch Trumpet
COLOR:	White and Burgundy	ZONES:	7-10
BLOOM PERIOD:	Early Summer	LIGHT:	Full Sun to Part Shade

CONCLUSION

I'M OFTEN asked: "*When is the best time to plant bulbs?*" My answer is: "*When you have time!*" So make some time this week and I hope you can get in the garden and plant some bulbs.

Here is the answer to my trivia question: "What is the number one reason flower bulbs do not bloom?" *Because people don't plant them!* I am always surprised at my own family and friends who tell me the bulbs I gave them two years ago are still in the garage unplanted. Life is busy, so don't wait for the perfect time! Head out into the garden and enjoy.

BULBS ON COVER:

Red Spider Lilies, Snowflakes, Jonquils, Campernelles, Byzantine Gladiolus, Habranthus Pink Rain Lilies, and Crinum Milk and Wine

*Artwork by Anna Bertino of The Southern Bulb Company. Photos are property of The Southern Bulb Company.



HOW TO ORDER

FROM THE SOUTHERN BULB COMPANY

SHOP ONLINE AT
southernbulbs.com

Not sure what bulbs to purchase? Not sure what questions to ask? Our folks in the office are available and happy to assist in any way!

PHONE (888) 285-2486

EMAIL info@southernbulbs.com

SOCIAL





THE
SOUTHERN
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