



September 2026 - *Designing Spring, One Bulb at a Time*

We all love drifts of snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils, and tulips as the harbingers of spring. But those bright moments don't happen by accident — September is planting season.

Bulbs shine brightest when planted with intention. Sweep bold, colorful drifts along walkways, frame patio edges, or tuck clusters into containers for a surprise pop next year. Don't forget to consider views from your favorite window when laying out your bulbs. Large drifts in simple, saturated colors read best from a distance. Save softer pastels for close-to-home moments near entries, paths, or against dark evergreen backdrops.

Layer bulbs with varying height and bloom time to extend the show. Choose perennial bulbs that naturalize to reduce replanting, waste, and expense — good for your wallet and the planet. In tight spaces, opt for well-behaved varieties that won't wander.

Plan for wildlife, too. Deer, squirrels, and rabbits love bulbs as much as we do. Plant resistant varieties like daffodils and alliums if wildlife frequents your yard.

When shopping, support local garden centers and growers and buy in bulk to reduce packaging. Improve soil with compost and natural amendments — skip synthetic fertilizers.

Thoughtful bulb selection and placement create reliable spring color with minimal water, fertilizer, and long-term maintenance. Plant now and let spring reward your foresight.



Backyard of Portland Client

Local Happenings

Landowner Options for Prescribed Burning on Private Property, ASLA, Virtual,
September 10, 12-1:30pm

Nibble, Leach Botanical Garden,
September 13, 4-7pm

Autumn Container Workshop,
Al's Garden Center, September
19, 10am

Olmsted Network's 2026 Annual Conference, The Power of Connection: Shaping Resilient Public Landscapes, ASLA
September 23-25

Fall Pottery Fair, Cornell Farm,
September 25-27, 10-4pm

Monthly Design Tip

1. **Plant in masses or drifts:** Groups of 10-25+ bulbs have much more of an impact than evenly spaced individual bulbs. For larger landscapes, repeating generous sweeps can look especially natural.
2. **Layer Bloom Times:** For a longer bloom season, combine early, mid and late spring bulbs so the display evolves. Think crocus or snowdrops > daffodils > tulips > alliums.

Plant of the Month: Camas Lilies

When planning your spring garden, don't forget to plant the bulbs of our beautiful native Camas Lilies. They shine when planted in generous drifts and allowed to naturalize - a show that delights both neighbors and pollinators alike.

