

Quick-Look Guide to Planting Day

21st October 2024

If you are unable to take part on this day,
please choose a suitable date as close as you can to Planting Day.

Before Planting Day

- Prepare an area of the school grounds to plant 20 bulbs in the ground. The minimum area is 75 x 60cm (2'5" x 2') and can be in a raised bed or a planter or directly in the ground.
- Purchase compost using the £20 garden centre voucher. Three bags of all-purpose compost, preferably peat-free, should be enough for a class of 30 children (100-120L).
- Go to www.edinatrust.org.uk/bp-resources and download the "Planting Your Bulbs" PowerPoint presentation.
- Find the "Spring Bulbs for Schools" calendar in the box with your bulbs and pots, and use it to divide the participants into groups/teams. Each group will have different responsibilities during the project, so be sure to refer to the calendar regularly!



On Planting Day

- Talk through the presentations with the class on how to plant and take care of daffodil and crocus bulbs.
- Discuss how to make the Bulb Project a fair test. All of the bulbs should be treated with equal care. Make sure children plant the bulbs at the same depth by following the instructions carefully.
- Set up the rain gauge and thermometer close to the bulbs. If you can, leave the bulbs in pots near to the bulbs in the ground as well for the best comparison.
- Some teachers prefer to divide the class into small groups to organise the planting. We have a number of other activities that small groups could rotate through until their turn to plant:
 - Play the **Bulb Project Board Game** - included with resources for new schools (returning schools will have received this last year).
 - Design a Poster about "What Daffodils Need to Grow".
 - Make your own mini-origami booklet.*
 - Create your own plant labels.*
 - Research and name the parts of a daffodil flower.*

*Activity resources can be found on the National Museum Wales website - <https://museum.wales/spring-bulbs/> - scroll down to the teaching resources section.

Tips

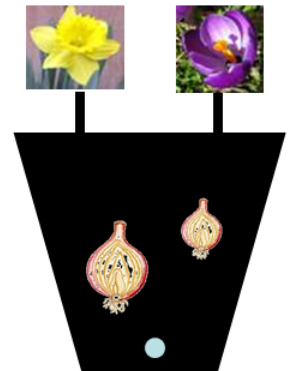
- Avoid watering your bulbs after planting day – we would like to measure the effect of rainfall on the growth of the daffodils and crocuses.
- Refer to the Spring Bulbs calendar to check for events. Each group should be responsible for making sure their tasks are completed.

Instructions for Planting Bulbs

Try to follow these as closely as possible so we can minimise the differences between all of our schools! This will make the Bulb Project a fair test when we compare the weather results and flowering dates across all schools later.

Bulbs in Pots

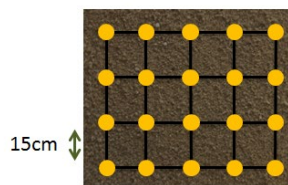
- Fill the pot to 4cm deep with compost.
- Collect a daffodil bulb and place on top of the compost in the pot. Make sure it is the right way up! You can put a sticker on the pot to remember which side the daffodil is on after it's buried.
- Add more compost until the daffodil bulb is half-buried.
- Collect a crocus bulb and place on top of the compost in the pot. Make sure it is the right way up and use the sticker to remember which side is the daffodil and which side is the crocus!
- Sprinkle compost until both bulbs are buried.
- Add the plant labels to the pot.



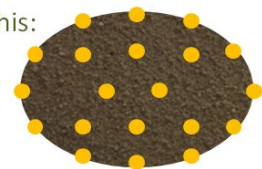
Bulbs in the Ground

- There probably won't be enough room for everyone to crowd around your bulb plot, so you may wish to take turns or have a dedicated Ground Group who will plant the bulbs in the ground.
- Bulbs should be planted 15cm apart to give them space to grow.
- Dig a hole 20cm deep and place your bulb in the hole. Make sure it's the right way up!
- Fill up the hole with soil and place a plant label to mark where it is.
- Water the bulb plot and top up any holes with more soil if necessary.
- Don't forget to add the Edina Trust Bulb Project sign (if you have one) and take a picture for the Planting Day Photo Competition!

You could plant them like this:

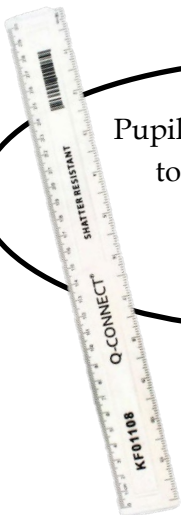


Or this:



It's up to you!

Pupils will need to use a ruler to measure the distance, to make this a real science investigation!



Take short video clips of the project to submit to our Bulbcast competition! Share your videos via email or on X: https://x.com/professor_plant

