

Pot up some bulbs and dream of spring

In fall, gardeners settle bulbs under a blanket of soil and wait for spring to watch them flaunt their beauty.

"It's easy to create a stunning display that bursts into bloom in the spring or early summer," said Heather Stoven, an Oregon State University Extension horticulturist. "But bulbs don't have to be in the ground to be effective. A pot works just as well."

In fact, bulbs often do better in pots than in the ground because pots provide better drainage, critical for their long-term survival. Also, gophers and other underground creatures will be foiled since they can't find their juicy favorites, especially tulips.

Don't be afraid to pack a pot full of bulbs, Stoven said. Plant a lot of bulbs at different, overlapping levels. You can easily put 20 to 30 bulbs, sometimes even more, into a pot that is 14 to 20 inches across. Use bulbs of many different sizes for an interesting display and longer seasonal appeal.

"Although you can put each kind of bulb in a different pot, mixing them up provides an extravagant display," she said.

For longest bloom, look first for crocus. Tulips of all kinds work well. Some of Stoven's favorites are the "species tulips" and their cultivars. Species tulips, often available in garden



KYM POKORNY
Your Garden

centers, are sometimes shorter than the taller bedding tulips and tend to come back year after year unlike the larger, more familiar tulips that fade away after the first couple of years.

Narcissus and daffodils also are stellar pot bulbs. Choose both early and later blooming varieties for continued bloom. The taller alliums also work well, but shorter alliums can sometimes take over. "I avoid grape hyacinth, which also tends to dominate," Stoven said.

Branch out a bit, Stoven advises, and try brodiaea, hyacinths, fritillaria, dwarf iris or other bulbs. Dwarf iris, like tulips, often do better in pots than in the ground because of their high drainage requirements.

Plant bulbs with their tips pointing upward and, generally, follow directions for planting depth on the package. Use regular planting or potting soil, recently purchased if possible.

"If you reuse older planting mix, be sure to add bulb fertilizer, and be advised of the risk of potential carryover of plant diseases, which can affect

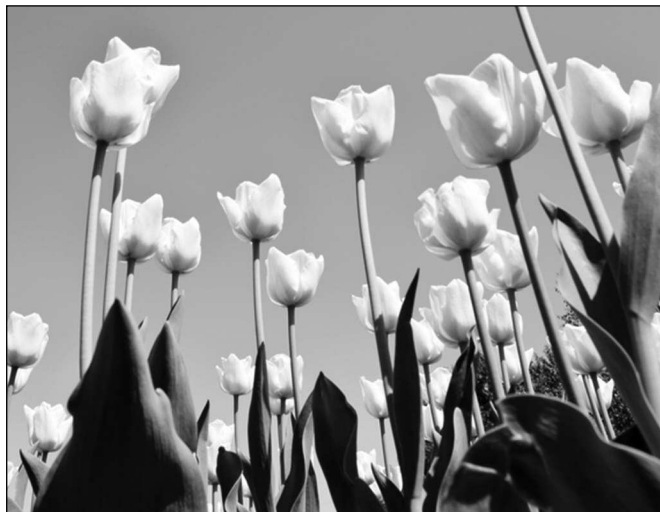


PHOTO: iclipart

Tulips grow great in pots, either by themselves or mixed with other bulbs.

the health of your new bulbs," Stoven advised.

"Fill the container a little more than halfway full of soil, then add a layer of large bulbs such as narcissus (daffodil). Leave only a little space between them; about half an inch is OK. Add more soil and plant the next larger bulb, such as tulip. Repeat adding soil and bulbs alternatively, placing the smallest bulbs like crocus at the top, covered with another inch of soil. Water well and place in a protected spot out of the rain."

It is best to leave the pot outside so that the bulbs get a cold period, which stimulates growth and flowering. Be sure to bring the pot inside temporarily when temperatures dip below about

28-30 degrees overnight. Bigger pots are safer than smaller ones because it takes longer for the soil mass to freeze all the way through.

Once green spikes of foliage being to poke through the soil make sure the plants get plenty of light. A good time to add fertilizer is when plants are blooming; preferably a slow-release type.

After the flowers have bloomed, leave the foliage to die back on its own. Then remove the bulbs and plant them in the garden in the fall, or simply leave them in the pot for the next year. The bulbs will remain dormant and need water only when the autumn cycle begins anew.

MI TOWN

The late President Lyndon Baines Johnson once said that people you could go to the well with were treasures above everything else. When pressed for an explanation, he spoke of the Texas frontier in the 1800s when there were dangers lurking everywhere, and when the early settlers went to the well for water, they depended on trustworthy people to protect them from wild animals and unsavory people. Their lives and the lives of their loved ones depended on it.

These days, when we need water it's simply a matter of turning on the tap, and the days are long gone when we fear wild animals or scary people when we're thirsty. When we want to read a book or the newspaper, a simple flick of a switch floods our room with plenty of light. Our communities are protected from dangers by police and firefighters and we can live safely com-



PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER
Columnist

pared to those folks who long ago bravely set out for lands unknown.

In MI Town, there are many people you can "go to the well" with. Our communities abound with men and women who are willing to lend a hand and help when it's necessary. People who stand up and do whatever it takes to help lessen a burden or walk a dark mile beside you. People who offer to work on their scheduled day off so a coworker can attend a funeral. People who roll up their sleeves and pitch in to do the heavy lifting when others are unable. No amount of money or fame can even begin to

compare to having people in our world who we can truly step up to the task at hand. We are blessed to live in our caring and giving community.

Unfortunately, there are those in MI Town who — for whatever reasons — don't take a few minutes to toss half-empty coffee containers or other debris in the nearby receptacle, and it ends up on the sidewalk or in a parking lot. Our merchants and their workers are busy providing good customer service, and certainly shouldn't have to pick up after everyone as well.

It doesn't take but a moment to properly dispose of trash and litter, and our community is better for our extra efforts. Remember when we used to keep litter bags in our cars? Let's all work together to keep our streets and neighborhoods clean and neat.

The return of the rains and the change of seasons give us even more reasons to be careful when driving, whether on city streets or on the nearby freeways. Recent crashes have caused even more heartache and tragedy for families of those killed or seriously injured. After even one drink of alcohol, our reflexes and actions aren't nearly as sharp as before, so if you choose to have a couple beers or a glass of wine, please arrange to have someone else do the driving.

It's time to sample and enjoy the best homemade soups and pies in our neck of the woods. Thursday is the soup and pie sale at the Monmouth Senior Center. Hours are from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. If you're looking for extra special gifts for friends, family or for yourself, Crafter's Corner will be open for browsing and buying during the day.

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

These Polk County groups would welcome individuals who have time or expertise to volunteer. Organizations that would like to be added to this list should call 503-623-2373 or email IOnews@polkio.com.

- AARP Foundation Tax-Aide — 503-930-7636
- After DARC — 503-623-9501
- American Cancer Society Road to Recovery — 1-800-227-2345
- Arc of Polk County — 541-223-3261
- Ash Creek Arts Center — 971-599-3301
- Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Polk County Inc. — 503-623-8473
- Central School District — 503-838-0030
- City of Dallas — 503-831-3502
- City of Independence — 503-838-1212
- City of Monmouth — 503-751-0145
- Crime Victims Assistance Program — 503-623-9268
- Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce — 503-623-2564
- Dallas Fire Department — 503-831-3532
- Dallas Food Bank — 503-623-3578
- Dallas Kids, Inc. — 503-623-6419
- Dallas Police Department — 503-831-3582
- Dallas Public Library — 503-623-2633
- Dallas Retirement Village — 503-623-5581
- Dallas School District — 503-623-5594
- Delbert Hunter Arboretum — 503-623-7359
- Ella Curran Food Bank — 503-838-1276
- Falls City Arts Center — 503-559-6291
- Falls City School District — 503-787-3531
- Family Building Blocks — 503-566-2132, ext. 308.
- Friends of the Dallas Library — 503-559-3830
- Gentle House Gardens, Monmouth — 503-838-2995
- Girl Scouts of Southwest Washington and Oregon — 1-800-338-5248
- H-2-O — 503-831-4736
- HART (Horses Adaptive Riding and Therapy) — 971-301-4278
- HandsOn Mid-Willamette Valley — 503-363-1651
- Heron Pointe Assisted Living — 503-838-6850
- Independence Health and Rehabilitation — 503-838-0001
- Independence Public Library — 503-838-1811
- Kings Valley Charter School — 541-929-2134
- Luckiamute Watershed Council — 503-837-0237
- Luckiamute Valley Charter School — 503-623-4837
- Meals on Wheels — 503-838-2084
- Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce — 503-838-4268
- Monmouth-Independence YMCA — 503-838-4042
- Monmouth Public Library — 503-838-1932
- Northwest Human Services — 503-588-5828
- Oregon Child Development Coalition — 503-838-2745
- OSU Extension Service - Polk County — 503-623-8395
- Perrydale School District — 503-623-2040
- Polk Community Development Corporation — 503-831-3173
- Polk County Community Emergency Response Team — 503-623-9396
- Polk County Museum — 503-623-6251
- Polk County Public Health — 503-623-8175
- Polk County Resource Center — 503-623-8429
- Polk Soil and Water Conservation District — 503-623-9680
- Relief Nursery Classroom — 503-566-2132
- SABLE House — 503-623-6703
- SALT (Sheriff's Auxiliary & Law Enforcement Together) — 503-851-9366
- Salvation Army — 503-798-4783
- SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) — 503-391-8423
- Salem Health West Valley Hospital — 503-623-8301
- Victim Assistance Program-Polk Co. District Attorney's Office — 503-623-9268 x1444
- Willamette Valley Hospice — 503-588-3600
- WIMPEG Community Access Television — 503-837-0163

Celebrating 35 Years of Service

Pastor Ron Sutter, his wife Marijo, and his family were honored at a special worship service at Bridgeport Community Chapel on October 8. We are blessed by his true heart for God along with his love and care for each and every one. Pastor Ron is a dedicated servant and it is a joy to witness his passion as he shares the beauty of Christ in a challenging world.

Planning a Holiday Bazaar?

We can help!

The Itemizer-Observer will be publishing a comprehensive list of all the holiday bazaars and art & crafts sales in Polk County on Wednesday, **October 25th**. This feature will be designed for our readers to keep throughout the holiday season. We will publish the information for your event at no charge. **Deadline** to submit your event information is Wednesday, **October 18th!** So get your bazaar information to our office today!

Event organizers who want more exposure than will be provided in the **October 25th** issue are encouraged to call **Karen Sanks** at 503-623-2373.

If you wish to have your bazaar published any other time during the holiday season you must purchase an advertisement. Call **Dawn Ohren** 503-623-2373 ext. 101 or e-mail: dohren@polkio.com

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Polk County **Itemizer-Observer**

Sudoku

Difficulty: ★☆☆☆☆

Row →

Three-by-three square →

Column ↓

4	3	2	8	1	6	7	5	9
5	6	9	3	7	4	8	1	2
1	7	8	9	5	2	4	6	3
3	4	7	2	8	5	6	9	1
2	1	6	7	4	9	3	8	5
9	8	5	1	6	3	2	7	4
7	9	1	4	3	8	5	2	6
8	5	3	6	2	1	9	4	7
6	2	4	5	9	7	1	3	8

How to do Sudoku

Fill in the grid so the numbers 1 through 9 appear just once in every column, row, and three-by-three square. See example above.

The Christian Science Monitor