



# Bulb Forcing Guide

## Forcing Narcissus in Stones and Water

### Materials:

Clean non-draining container  
Small gravel or stones  
Horticultural charcoal  
Large bulbs

- Place a small amount (1/3") charcoal in bottom of container.
- Fill container to about 1" below top of pot with gravel.
- Nestle bulbs into gravel until bottom 1/4 of bulb is covered.
- Add water to base of bulbs.
- Place container in a cool (40-50°F), dark spot (so roots can grow) about 2-3 weeks until shoots appear. Check water level often and refill as needed to base of bulbs.
- When shoots are 2-3" tall, move pot gradually into bright light.
- Other bulbs that can be forced this way include Hyacinths and Crocus.



**Tip: To keep narcissus compact so they won't tip over, when the shoots are a few inches tall, start giving them boozy water! A 5% solution of 80 proof booze (vodka, whiskey, tequila etc.) is just right. Simply mix 1 part booze to 7 parts water. Drain the existing water, replace it with the boozy water and use the boozy water for refills.**

## Forcing Hyacinths in Vases

### Materials:

Hyacinth Glass, Glass Vase with neck  
Large Bulb

- Place bulb in glass.
- Fill with water to just touching base of bulb.
- Place glass in a cool (40-50°F), dark spot (so roots can grow) about 4 weeks until shoots appear. Check water level often and refill as needed to base of bulb.
- When shoots appear, move glass gradually into bright light.
- Other bulbs that can be forced this way include Amaryllis, and Paperwhite Narcissus.





# Bulb Forcing Guide

## Forcing Tulips in Pots

### Materials

1-6" to 8" red clay pot

Piece of screen or shade cloth

Gardner & Bloome Bulb Planting Mix or Potting Soil

6 - to 8 tulip bulbs (preferably pre-chilled 6 weeks or more)

Dr. Earth Bulb Fertilizer

- Pre-soak red clay pot so it will not draw water from soil.
- Cover drain hole with screen.
- Fill pot with soil, tamping it down as you go until pot is 2/3 full.
- Add 1/2 cup fertilizer to top of soil.
- Place bulbs on fertilizer with their flat side against wall of pot. Tips of bulbs should be level (or nearly so) with lip of pot.
- Add soil to top of pot, tamping it down gently.
- Water thoroughly or soak in basin of water.
- Place pot in very cool (40 – 50 F), dark location for about 12 weeks until shoots appear. Check soil moisture weekly and water as needed.
- When shoots appear, move pot gradually into bright light. They should finish in a sunny window indoors or outdoors in morning sun.
- Keep soil moist throughout bloom.
- Other bulbs that can be forced this way: Daffodils, Dutch Iris & Hyacinth.

**Tip: Choose tulip bulbs that are plump and firm, preferably with their skin intact. Chill the bulbs in a paper bag in the crisper of your refrigerator. Do NOT put them in the freezer.**

