

# Size Matters...

Bigger is better in the bulb world. That's because large bulbs produce more or larger flowers than small bulbs. Why go through all the effort of planting only to spoil the end effect by using smaller bulbs.

Larger tulip bulbs simply produce superior plants with more impressive flowers. With daffodils, large bulbs will give you 2-3 flower stems in the spring, smaller bulbs just one.

The larger bulb appears to be more expensive, but it's actually more economical than a small bulb if you count the flowers you get. And isn't that the purpose of planting bulbs to have a great spring display with lots of flowers?

So the next time you go to purchase bulbs at Ocean State Job Lot or Christmas Tree Shops—you better think twice about the money you're really doling out!

So... How many bulbs per square foot?

This small chart will help you determine how many bulbs you should purchase per square foot to have a dense, full, flower packed display!

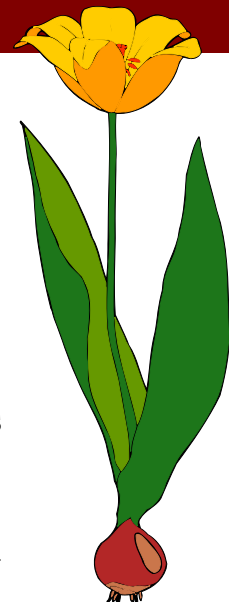
Not sure how to figure out the square footage? Give us a call, we'll help you out! 508.888.0044

Bulb Type	Quantity
Tulips	5
Daffodils (lg.)	4-5
Daffodils (sm.)	7-10
Allium	1-2
Crocus	8-10
Hyacinths	3-4
Muscari	15

**Don't Spread bulbs too thin** — *It is much more effective to plant thickly in one area than it is to scatter bulbs all over the garden.*

## A Spring-flowering bulb's growth cycle

Spring-flowering bulbs have a growth cycle that sets them apart from most others. They make their roots in the fall, sit idle in the winter, emerge and bloom in the spring, and go completely dormant in early summer. During their time above ground, the plants must store up enough energy to survive their long dormancy (yes, the bulbs are very much alive in their dormant state), produce roots, and send up leaves and flowers again the following spring—in that order. That is why it is important to let the leaves die back naturally after bloom. If you cut the leaves too early, you are robbing the bulb of much needed food and energy it needs to store for the long winter. This means you could be sacrificing flowers next spring.



# The Beauty of Bulbs~

**ONCE** upon a time, there was a golden trumpet daffodil named King Alfred. It became so popular that people came to think of it as *the* golden trumpet. King Alfred was soon superseded by other varieties that grew better and had larger and arguably more attractive flowers, but demand for King Alfred, based mostly on name recognition, persisted even as production steadily declined. Today, people still ask for King Alfred. Bulbs bearing the name King Alfred are almost always those of another variety.

For those seeking an all-gold daffodil today, we offer Dutch Master.



Simple rules you should know:

- *Bulbs that flower in spring must be planted in Fall.* There is no getting around this simple rule.
- *Bulbs should be planted when the soil has cooled to about 55 degreesF.* Bulbs need cool soil to make roots before the winter sets in. Mid to late September is a good time to start.
- *You can plant bulbs until the ground freezes.* Generally this is right though mid November.



## Tulips come from where?

Most people associate tulips with Holland, but they didn't originate there. Some species are native to Turkey, where they have been cultivated for centuries, but the majority hail from the forbidding mountainous regions of central Asia, where they can still be found growing wild today. They may look small next to today's big hybrids, but you have to admire their beauty and origins.