



Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

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Spring Is Really Three Seasons!

Netherlands Flower Bulb Information Center

Has this ever happened to you? Your spring garden—featuring dozens of daffodils, tulips and other flower bulbs that were planted with care the previous fall—bursts into bloom. It's a riot of glorious spring color that sweeps away the gray of winter. It lasts for up to three weeks, depending on the weather, and then ... nothing. No more flowers, no more color, nothing but leaves and empty stems in your yard. Yet elsewhere, spring's colorful march continues. What happened? Simply put ... poor planning.

When planting bulbs this fall, avoid disappointment next spring by redefining Spring! Think of spring as three seasons, instead of one. Call them EARLY, MID and LATE. Now choose spring bulbs that bloom in each. Tulips and daffodils, for example, are labeled at Johnson's as early-season bloomers, mid-season bloomers, late-season bloomers and sometimes even early mid-season, late early-season and so on. All you need to know is that blooming times are relative. Blooming times may vary slightly depending on the weather each year, but the early / mid / late relationship will stay the same.

So, to have a great spring garden that blooms from early season through late, read flower bulb labels and select a range of bulbs that bloom across all three spring seasons. Exactly when the flowers bloom will depend on nature and the spring conditions next year, but by taking a few easy steps, you should have a terrific garden that satisfies for months on end! ■