

# Bulb Forcing Tips

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When you receive this newsletter, the bulbs (tulips, daffs, hyacinths, etc.) will be planted and stored.

All references stress the importance of sanitation of bulbs, containers, media, holding flats, rooting rooms, etc. It is assumed that any apparently diseased bulbs were thrown away and not planted. This first sanitation precaution will prevent needless losses during forcing.

Calibrated thermometers should be placed within the rooting room to ensure that uniform temperatures are maintained.

Guidelines and forcing schedules as well as cultural recommendations are available from bulb suppliers or the *Holland Bulb Forcers' Guide*, 4th edition, which is available for \$30.00 from The Flower-Bulb Information Center, 162 Montague St., Brooklyn Heights, New York, NY 11201.

When bulbs are forced (check schedules for specific dates), a light shade may be needed above the crop to prevent foliar sun scald (burning). Do not leave the shade on longer than necessary, as flower stems may "stretch" and become weak.

Carefully examine bulbs in the rooting room and at forcing for diseases. Refer to the *1990-91 New England Greenhouse Pest Control and Growth Regulator Recommendations* or the *Holland Bulb Forcers' Guide* for control.

## References

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