

LOOSE BUDS ON HYACINTH

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The term "loose buds" (spitting) describes what happens when Hyacinth buds abort. The stem (pedicel) is squeezed off just above the bulb plate. The break in the stem can be caused by physiological and mechanical problems within the bulb or in its cultural environment.

The physiological problem can be first observed by cutting a bulb longitudinally and observing the stem structure. Parts of the bulb will be off white in color or the stem will be broken from the rest of the bulb.

Mild wet weather with high temperatures after planting can lead to this problem.

Pink Pearl and Bismark are cultivars prone to this disorder.

The mechanical loose bud is observed when the flower cluster is wedged in the top of the bulb and is pulled loose by expanding leaves. It aborts at the bulb base leaving no stem stump. This occurs when there is a sudden change in temperature (i.e. when frozen pans are moved into a warm greenhouse).

If using ground beds to store bulbs, increase temperatures gradually to minimize this disorder.

On late forcings this problem can be quite severe on King of the Blues, L'Innocent, Pink Pearl, Ostara, and Bismarck.

Reference: Forcing Flower Guide
Netherlands Flower Bulb Institute