



Fall Gardening - Bulbs

As you browse the garden centers looking for fall plants, be sure you know your "zone" as determined by the US Department of Agriculture. This information helps you select plants appropriate for Houston/Katy.

- ◇ Consider planting bulbs during the fall months. There are a wide variety of bulbs that are successfully grown in our area.
- ◇ Bulbs are planted at different depths. Be sure to research how deep to plant any bulb before digging.
- ◇ Be sure to give the bulbs the water they need. Do not let them dry out as this will cause them to go dormant.
- ◇ If the dying leaves bother you (because you should leave them), plant low growing foliage in front of the bulbs.

Where can you find bulbs?

- ◇ In the fall, most local nurseries will offer bulbs (they can be expensive).
- ◇ The Garden Club of Houston hosts an annual Bulb and Plant Mart in the fall.
- ◇ Watch for the "bulb societies" fall sale events.
- ◇ And you can purchase bulbs on-line. Be sure to research the site before ordering.
- ◇ Finally, ask your NCGC friends where they purchase bulbs or if they are thinning their bulbs, could you have one.



Caladium Bulbs — Q & A

Q: Do I have to dig up my caladium bulbs?

A: According to the Editor's experience, "No". According to A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast, "in the fall, lift and store in dry peat moss."

Q: When should I cut the leaves off?

A: According to A Garden Book...Coast, "It is important to allow the leaves to remain on the bulb until they are entirely dry, since the bulbs restore their food banks through these drying leaves."

TIP: Use a popsicle stick to mark the location of your bulbs as they will go dormant.

Q: Will my caladium bulbs come up next year or do I have to replace them?

A: No one can answer positively, but the Editor's experience is that they return. My bulbs (White Christmas) returned after the freeze of 2016 and early 2017.

