# SUMMER BELBS NCONTAINERS



lindamyers.com

#### HOW-TO FROM LONGFIELD

#### OFTEN CALLED "BULBS", THIS GROUP INCLUDES CORMS, RHIZOMES, TUBERS & TUBEROUS ROOTS

#### SPRING PLANTED BULBS LIKE IT WARM AND ARE FROST SENSITIVE

- Wait for overnight temperatures to consistently hover around 60°F or warmer
- Jump start the season by starting them in containers in a warm, sheltered spot
- <u>Start the bulbs indoors, then transplant into the</u>
  <u>container</u>

#### SLOW START, BIG FINISH

- Enjoy the foliage early in the season, as a backdrop to other container gardens
- Then move them to the front to enjoy the big show mid-summer to fall

#### MATCH THE BULB TO THE GROWING CONDITIONS

- Sunlight
- Full sun bulbs need at least 8 hours, preferably all day sunlight
  - A little mid-day shade is welcome in hot Southern locations
- Partial shade bulbs prefer 4 to 6 hours of sunlight
  - Morning sun
  - Filtered light all day on a covered porch or beneath a tree may be enough
    - Monitor plant growth and move to a bit sunnier location, if needed

#### **RIGHT POT FOR THE PLANT**

- Size
- Pot should be <sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> to <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> the size of the mature plant (scale)
  - Suggested minimum diameter listed with each bulb
  - This gives plants the space they need to reach their full potential
  - Larger containers hold moisture longer and need less frequent watering
- Drainage
- Pot should have drainage holes or weep hole if self-watering
  - Allows excess water to drain helping to avoid root rot
- Material
- Consider weight, moisture holding, aesthetics
- Potting mix
- Quality mix that holds moisture, well-drained and doesn't compact
- Fertilizer
- Slow-release, like Milorganite
  - Apply at planting and again in 6 to 8 weeks
- Fast-release, all-purpose liquid applied every 2 to 3 weeks, according to directions

MIX THESE BULBS WITH OTHER ANNUALS, BUT MANY OF THESE PERFORM BEST WHEN GROWN IN THEIR OWN CONTAINER

#### Longfield Gardens

Longfield Gardens provides high quality flower bulbs and perennials to home gardeners. We offer plants for every region and every season, from tulips and daffodils to dahlias, caladiums and amaryllis.

Longfield Gardens is in business to help you enjoy a more beautiful yard and garden. Our family-owned company is located in Lakewood, N.J. and we have more than 80 years of combined experience in the horticulture industry. Selling bulbs and perennials is our passion as well as our livelihood.

We take pride in our products and in our service. As part of our commitment to quality products, we maintain our own trial garden for testing varieties and developing combinations. We also produce howto articles, videos and blog posts so you'll have the information and inspiration you need to create a beautiful yard and garden.

Shop our online store at <u>longfield-gardens.com</u> and let us help you grow a more beautiful garden.



#### CALLA LILY

#### Zantedeschia aethiopica

- Rhizome
- Hardy in Zones 8 to 10
- Sun (in the North) to shade (hotter locations)
- Moist soil, can be grown in water
- 1 to 3' (.3 to 1m) tall
- Flower early in the season
- Later in the season when planted in spring
- Spathe is the colorful leafy part spadix contains the true flowers
- Good cut flowers
- Foliage is plain green or speckled
- Attractive all season
- Deer and rabbit resistant
- Damaged at temps below 45°F (7°C)
- Planting
- 3 to 4" (7.6 to 10cm) deep, with eyes facing up
  - Plant 3 rhizomes in a 12" (30.5cm) diameter pot
  - Or, 4" (10cm) on center
- Water sparingly until new growth begins, then more generously
- Two or more weeks to sprout
- Winter storage
- Cure in a warm, dry location for 1 to 2 days
- Store in peat moss, vermiculite, sand or sawdust
- Dark, 50°F (10°C) location

#### CALADIUM

#### Caladium species

- Caladiums Brighten Shade Gardens All Season
- Landscaping Made Easy with Caladiums
- Tuber
- Hardy in Zones 9 to 10
- Part to full shade some are more sun tolerant

- Moist, well-drained soil
- 12 to 24" (30 to 61cm) tall
- Lance leaved narrower the leaves, usually more sun tolerant
- Fancy leaves colorful, may lose color vibrance in excess sun
- Planting
- Plant 2" (5cm) deep
  - Plant 3 tubers in a 10" (25cm) diameter pot
- Sprouts in 4 to 5 days
- Winter storage
- Cure for several days to 2 weeks
- Store dry or in peat moss
- Dark, 60°F (15.5°C) to 65°F (18°C) location

#### **ELEPHANT EARS**

Alocasia, Colocasia & Xanthosoma

- Tubers, corms, fibrous roots
- Hardy in Zones 9 to 11
- Sun (provide mid-day shade) or shade
- Consistent moisture a must for full-size growth
- Benefits from regular fertilization
- Variety of colors and sizes
- 1 to 10' (.3 to 3m) tall, depending on species and location
- Planting
- With pointed side up and tip 1" (2.5cm) below the soil surface
  - Plant 1 tuber/bulb in 18" (46cm) diameter pot
- Slow to sprout up to a month



#### About Melinda

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/ radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including Can't Miss Small Space Gardening, the Midwest Gardener's Handbook 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition released 2022, and Jackson and Perkins' Beautiful Roses Made Easy. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program airing on over 115 TV and radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda also hosts the internationally distributed Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and Instant Video, including the latest Food Gardening for Everyone DVD set. She is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine, writes the twice monthly "Gardeners' Questions" newspaper column and a nationally-distributed gardening column. She appears regularly as a guest expert on national and local television and radio shows.

#### Visit Melinda's website, melindamyers.com

- Winter storage
- As a houseplant in colder regions
  - Especially smaller varieties that tend to have fibrous roots
- Tubers or corms
  - Clean, cure and store in peat moss
  - Dark, 60°F (15.5°C) location
- Colocasia vs. Alocasia vs. Xanthosoma
- Colocasia and Alocasia are native to tropical Asia, Malaysia, New Guinea, parts of Australia and the Pacific Islands.
- The similar looking *Xanthosoma* is native to tropical America.
- Alocasia foliage tends to point upwards like an arrowhead while
- *Colocasia* foliage tends to point downward to form the shape of a heart.
- Xanthosoma leaf tips tend to point downward with a vein running all around and just inside the edge of the leaf.
- The straight species of Colocasia esculenta is invasive along parts of the Gulf Coast

#### **TUBEROUS BEGONIA**

#### Begonia (Tuberous Group)

- Tuber
- Hardy in Zones 8 to 11
- Shade to part shade
- Drainage is a must, making containers a good option
- 14" (<mark>36cm)</mark> tall
- Planting
- 1" (2.5cm) deep, with indented side facing up
  - Plant 2 tubers per 10" (25cm) diameter pot
- Winter storage
- As a house<mark>plant</mark>
- Or cure tube<mark>r for s</mark>everal days

- Store in dry pe<mark>at mo</mark>ss
- Dark, 50°F (10°C) location

#### DAHLIA

#### Dahlia species

- Tuber (tuberous root)
- Hardy in Zones 8 to 11
- Full sun to light shade
- Moist, well-drained soil
- 1 to 5' (.3 to 1.5m) tall
- Flowers of white, pink, lavender, red, orange and yellow
- Various sizes and shapes of flower and plants
- <u>Growing dahlias in containers</u>
- Match the container to the dahlia you are growing
  - Border dahlia 1 tuber in 10" (25cm) diameter pot
  - Decorative dahlia 1 tuber in 15" (38cm) diameter pot
  - Dinnerplate dahlia 1 tuber in 18" (46cm) diameter pot
- Keep the height of the container in scale with the mature size of the plant
- Taller ones may need staking
- Dahlias make excellent cut flowers
- Pick dahlias at their prime, before the petals begin to soften. They do not continue to open once removed from the plant.
- Use sharp scissors or hand pruner and cut back to main stem (same for deadheading)
- Winter storage
- Cure for several hours
- Store in dry peat moss, vermiculite or sawdust
- Dark, 45°F (7°C) location

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#### **CANNA**

Canna species

- Rhizome
- Hardy in Zones 8 or 9 to 10
- Prefers full sun
- 1.5 to 5'+ (.45 to 1.5m) tall
- Green, bronze, purple-black and striped foliage
- Pink, red, orange, yellow and white flowers
- Many choices of flower and foliage combinations and colors
- Attract hummingbirds
- Planting
- Plant 1 rhizome in 18" (46cm) diameter pot
  - Plant rhizome 3 to 4" (7.6 to 10cm) deep
- Keep height of pot in scale with container
- Growing Canna in Water Gardens
- Remove plant from soil
- Rinse off soil
- You can line pot with burlap or weed barrier to keep soil in pot wth drainage holes
- Plant the crown of the plant below the rim of the pot
- Fill pot to 2: (5cm) below rim with water garden potting mix
- Top with gravel or small stone to keep soil in place
- Lower pot slowly into water leaving top few inches of pot above the water
- Winter storage
- Cure overnight
- Store in dry peat moss
- Dark, 45°F (7°C) to 50°F (10°C) location

#### GLADIOLUS

Gladiolus species

- Corm
- Hardy in Zones 7 and warmer
- Full sun to light shade
- 1 to 5' (.3 to 1.5m) tall
- Flowers available in a wide range of colors

- 60 to 120 days from planting to flower
- Attracts hummingbirds
- Planting
- Plant corms 3 to 6" (7.6 to 15cm) deep
- Plant 5 corms in 12" (33cm) diameter pot
- Stagger plantings by 2 weeks or use various varieties to extend the bloom time
- Winter storage
- Cure for 2 weeks
- Store uncovered with good air circulation
- Dark, 40°F (4.5°C) location

#### PINEAPPLE LILY

Eucomis

- Bulb
- Hardy in Zones 7 to 10
- Full sun (shade mid-day in hotter locations)
- 18 to 24" (46 to 61cm) tall
- Florets open from bottom to top
- Start flowering 6 to 8 weeks after planting
- Flowers in white, pink and violet
- Leaves can be green or burgundy
- Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds
- Planting
- 3 to 4" (7.6 to 10cm) deep
  - Plant 3 bulbs in a 12" (30.5cm) diameter pot
- Can take 3 to 6 weeks to sprout
- Winter storage
- Cure in ventilated area until leaves are dry
- Store bulbs in a plastic ventilated bag
- Or, leave bulbs in contain<mark>er for w</mark>int<mark>er</mark>
- Dark, 45°F (7°C) to 50°F (10°C) location

#### SPIDER LILY, PERUVIAN OR SUMMER DAFFODIL

Hymenocallis festalis 'Zwanenburg' species

- Bulb
- Hardy in Zones 8 to 10
- 2' (.6m) tall
- Planting
- Plant 1 bulb per 8" (20cm) diameter pot
- Or plant 3 bulbs per 15" (38cm) diameter pot
- Neck of the bulb even with the soil
- Water sparingly until bulbs sprout
- Winter storage
- Store in container
- Dark, 55°F (13°C) to 60°F (15.6°C) location

#### PEACOCK LILY

#### <u>Gladiolus murielae</u> (syn Acidanthera bicolor)

- Also known as Abyssinian, fragrant or peacock gladiolus, peacock orchid or sword orchid
- Corm
- Hardy in Zone<mark>s 7 to 10</mark>
- Full sun
- Heat loving
- 2 to 3' (.6 to .9m) tall
- Grassy foliage
- Planting
- Plant corms 4 to 6" (10.6 to 15.24cm) deep
- Plant 5 corms in 8" (20cm) diameter pot
- Stagger planting to extend bloom time
- Tall plants, so consider height of pot
- May be a month before foliage is visible
- Winter storage
- Cure for several weeks
- Dark, dry 60°F (15.5°C) location
- Or leave in pot and let soil dry for winter storage

#### HARDY LILY

Lilium species

- True scaly bulb
- Needs chill to flower
- Purchase and plant chilled bulbs in spring
- Purchase in fall and force bulbs for 15 weeks at 35°F (2°C) to 45°F (7°C)
- Asiatic and Oriental lilies are best types for containers
- Hardy in Zones 4 to 9
- Best in full sun, will tolerate some shade
- Planting
- 3 to 4 bulbs in 8" (20cm) diameter pot
- Or 2 to 3 gallon (7.5 to 11liter) pot
- Winter storage
- Move bulbs to garden in fall
- Sink pot in the ground for winter
- Store pots in unheated garage in cold climates or refrigerator
  - May not be as floriferous the following year if used for cutting
- MAJOR PEST <u>Red Scarlet Lily Leaf Beetle</u>
- Overwinter as adults in the soil, plant debris or sheltered location
- They emerge with the lilies and begin feeding and mating
- Lay eggs on the underside of leaves
- Larvae most destructive stage
- Pupate than adults emerge and feed until they hibernate for the winter
- All About Lilies
- Types of Lilies
- Eight Tips for Growing Better Lilies
- Plant Lilies for a Summer Garden of Elegant and Fragrant Blooms
- Growing Lilies in Nursery Pots

#### MORE ON OVERWINTERING BULBS

- Winter Storage for Summer Bulbs and Tubers
- Digging and Storing Tender Bulbs

#### **UPCOMING APPEARANCES & WEBINARS**

Check often as more appearances and webinars continue to be added.

March 7<sup>th</sup>

Wauwatosa Public Library Help Plants, Trees, Shrubs and Your Lawn Thrive After Winter! More Information

> March 13<sup>th</sup> Webinar Hydrangea Selection, Pruning and Care

March 14<sup>th</sup> Webinar How to Select Rain Garden Plants

March 20<sup>th</sup> Webinar Maximize the Beauty and Your Enjoyment in Any Small Space

March 23rd REALTORS Home & Garden Show Designing with Four Season Foliage -High Voltage Color Gardens Without the Flowers Incorporating Native Plants into the Landscape for You and the Pollinators More Information

> March 27<sup>th</sup> Webinar How to Start a Garden for Beginners

April 3<sup>rd</sup> Franklin Public Library *Garden Trends* <u>More Information</u>

April 10<sup>th</sup> Webinar Container Gardening Throughout the Year

April 11th Webinar Seven Steps to Managing Water Where It Falls in Your Yard

April 20<sup>th</sup> The Why and How of Pruning Hydrangeas and Other Shrubs More Information

April 27<sup>th</sup> Ridges & Rivers Book Festival First Steps to Creating an <mark>Eco-friendly, Low Maintenance La</mark>ndscape

> Question and Answer Session Book Sale and Signing More Information

April 28<sup>th</sup> Ebert's Greenhouse Village Flowering Trees and Shrubs for Your Garden <u>More Information</u>

MORE WEBINARS & APPEARANCES

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