

# 3 Easy Ways to Force Bulbs

## 1. In Pebbles and Water

The bulbs that work best for this method:

- Paper white narcissus
- Grand Soleil D'Or narcissus

Nestle the bulbs in a shallow container. Keep the water level at the bulb's bases. They should bloom about 6 weeks from the time of starting.

## 2. In Water

The bulbs that work best for this method:

- Crocus
- Hyacinths

Use the special containers made for this purpose. Nestle the bulb into the cup and fill with enough water to touch the bulb's base. Keep the water level at this point during the growing and blooming process. Place the container in a cool dark place until the roots are well developed and top growth begins. Then transfer the container to a bright cool room. They should bloom about 4 months from the time of starting.

## 3. In Soil

The bulbs that work best for this method:

- Tulips
- Crocus
- Daffodils
- Hyacinths
- Muscari
- Miniature Iris

**Step 1:** Choose a light moisture-retentive soil mix and a clean pot. Put a layer of soil in the bottom of the pot. Place bulbs close together, pointed end up. Cover them with at least a half inch of soil. Water thoroughly. Place them in a cool but frost free spot (35°-50°). A garage or covered porch will work. If on a porch, place them next to the building and cover with straw or a blanket. Allow 12 to 16 weeks for the roots to grow.

**Step 2:** Move the pots into a slightly warmer place (50°-60°) that gets indirect light until the tips turn green. Water as needed. They will probably need to be held there for 2 to 3 weeks.

**Step 3:** Move the pots into a brightly lit, warm (72°-75°) location. Now is the time to enjoy the beautiful blooms! They usually bloom 17 to 20 weeks after planting.



### Cool Tips:

- Because forcing draws heavily on a bulb's food reserves, buy the largest, top quality bulbs you can find.
- Forced bulbs cannot be forced a second season. Plant them in the yard afterward and they will build themselves up to bloom again in a year or two.
- Forced bulbs make great gifts!



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