

DESIGNING WITH SUMMER FLOWERING BULBS

Bulbs are often used to provide late winter and spring colour long before other plants emerge. But there are many bulbous plants that provide us with summer colour from the last daffodils in spring to the first leaf fall in autumn.

The range of summer flowering bulbs includes: -

- Agapanthus (African blue lily)
- Allium (Ornamental onion)
- Alstroemeria (Peruvian lily)
- Amaryllis (Jersey lily)
- Camassia (Quamash)
- Canna (Indian shot plant)
- Cardiocrinum (Giant lily)
- Crinum
- Crocosmia (montbretia)
- Dahlia
- Eremurus (Foxtail lily)
- Gladiolus
- Galtonia
- Iris
- Liliium (Lily)
- Schizostylis (Kaffir lily)
- Zantedeschia (Arum lily)

DECORATIVE SEED HEADS



Nectaroscordum siculum

The seed head of *Nectaroscordum siculum* mimics the turrets of a fairy tale castle, adding interest to any border right through the winter if left alone.

Many perennials such as fennel and sedum and ornamental grasses have decorative seed heads that prolong the plants visual appearance after flowering. This is also true to some bulbous plants as well. *Crocasmias*, *alliums* and *Nectaroscordum siculum* all have seed heads that retain their bold flower shapes.

SHADE

Most of the summer flowering bulbs will lighten up any sunny area, as they will only grow in full sun. But *Cardiocrinum* will provide its show of impressive flowers even in the shade.



Cardiocrinum giganteum

Reaching heights of 1.5 – 4 metres *Cardiocrinum giganteum* creates a real focal point in any shady area with enough room.

COLOUR

If a splash of bright colour is required in the border then a must have is *Dahlia* 'Bishop of Llandaff'. The brilliant red, semi-double blooms contrast perfectly with its supporting cast of deep purple-black leaves.



Dahlia 'Bishop of Llandaff'

Bulbous plants that can be used as specimen plants in the garden include the *Cardiocrinum giganteum*, *cannas*, *Eremurus* and *lily's*. These create excellent focal points when placed amongst beds of summer annuls or in the herbaceous border.

Lilium 'Casa Blanca' an oriental hybrid lily that will add interest to any border.

SPECIMEN



Lilium 'Casa Blanca'

CONTAINERS

One exciting way of using bulbs is to place them in containers. Placing them in containers means that they can be moved to the best site in the garden when in bloom and taken out of the limelight at other times and stored safely until the following year without the need for digging.

Some of the best-suited flowering bulbs for containers include *Lilium*, *Agapanthus* and *Galtonias*. They all come in a range of colours and can be under planted with annuals and perennials.



Agapanthus & *Galtonia*

A sheltered warm spot at the base of a house or fence is ideal for bulbs such as *Amaryllis*, *Crinum*, *Gladiolus*, *Nerine* and *Sternbergia*.

Nerine bowdenii ideal mass planted for late summer colour.



Nerine bowdenii

This container is planted with *Agapanthus* and *Galtonia candicans*, it will provide colour, architectural height and form to any sunny patio area. But they will need winter protection.