

Tropical Flowering Bulbs for South Florida

Florida's climate is great for growing many tropical and subtropical bulbous plants. Unfortunately, many of the common bulbs of northern states such as tulips, hyacinths, and some irises and lilies do not grow well in Florida. Very often these bulbs flower poorly or not at all, even in northern Florida.

July is a great month to plant these tropical bulbs and South Florida gardeners can choose from a wide variety of bulbous plants that will thrive and produce beautiful flowers year after year with proper care. You can choose from a variety of beautiful flowering bulbs to be planted this month including Butterfly lily-Hedychium, Crinum lily, Gladiolus, Clivia, Walking Iris, Society Garlic and Spider Lily.

Plant tropical bulbs in a sunny location in well drained soil and incorporate 4 inches of organic material like compost, peat moss or well rotted cow manure into the bed. Plant the bulbs in neat rows or in informal drifts among your shrub bed and keep the area weed free.

Name	Type	Depth	Space Between Plants
Butterfly lily Hedychium spp.	Rhizome	Just below the surface	1-2 feet
Crinum lily	Bulb	Neck of bulb above the ground	12-18 inches Large species 3 feet
Gladiolus	Corm	3 inches	4-6 inches
Clivia	Bulb	Just below the surface of the soil	18-24 inches
Walking Iris Neomarica gracilis	Rhizome	Just below the surface	12 inches
Society Garlic	Bulb	2 inches	6-8 inches
Spider lily Hymenocallis spp.	Bulb	3-5 inches	12-15 inches

If you have question about bulbs for Florida call the Master Gardener Volunteer Hotline M-F 9am-4pm at 233-1750.

See photo below..



Figure 1 Blood Lilies Blooming in Mounts Botanical Trail Garden

