In The Garden | Kingwood fall bulb sale begins Friday Richard Poffenbaugh, Columnist 12:04 a.m. EDT September 6, 2016



(Photo: Richard Poffenbaugh photo) 7connecttweetlinkedincommentemailmore

> There is no better way to begin a new spring season than to view a variety of spring flowering bulbs in the home landscape. We have done this for 50 years, with more flowers to see each year.

The spring flowers begin with the crocus in late March, followed by daffodils in April and early May. Tulips can be added for their vibrant colors in May.

Kingwood's annual fall bulb and plant sale begins from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 9 and continues daily in the Greenhouse Garden Shop.

Sept. 9 will be double discount day for members and volunteers only. The discount of 20 percent is double that of the usual 10 percent. For information about becoming a member of Kingwood, call 419-522-0211 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays, or visit kingwoodcenter.org

The sale will include a variety of spring-flowering bulbs, including tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus and other minor bulbs. Color photos will be with each type of bulb to assist you visualizing for your own garden.

There will be special prices on many other plants as the fall season arrives.

Fall season begins

September is a mix of late summer and early fall. Garden harvest continues with more tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, squash and more. Fruits include late peaches, early apples, concord grapes and red raspberries.

As for fruit ripening, peaches have a distinct aroma; grapes ripen in a shade of their foliage but do not ripen further after picking; and apples need bright sun to ripen. Thinned apples are larger and permit more light to strike the fruit. Don't pick apples until they are ripe. Taste one or two for flavor.

Pears should be picked while they are firm, a week or more before they are ripe. Ripen them indoors in a cool, dark place and they should soften.

Spring bulb culture

My guess is the most popular spring flowering bulb is the daffodil. One major advantage for a daffodil is that deer don't eat them.

While the tulip is popular because of the large flower size and brilliant colors, deer love to eat all parts of the plant. They begin eating as soon as the green shoots come up in the spring. To grow tulips, you must use fencing around them or spray with a repellent from day one when the first shoots appear.

Daffodils are special in that, if given good care, they will live as long as or longer than the gardener. Below are a few growing tips from Brent Heath, partner in the Brent and Becky Bulb Company.

- If you must store bulbs for a short time, take bulbs out of the box and store in a dry, ventilated area.
- Bulbs will be happy if they are planted after the first frost but before the ground freezes.
- Choose a well-drained planting site. If soil is heavy (clay), lighten it with organic matter like compost or leaf compost.
- Water at least once after planting and in the spring if weather is dry.
- Space bulbs three times the width of the bulb; depth of bulb three times the height of the bulb.

• Do not remove green foliage until it turns yellow. The green foliage is the food producer for the plant. Do not cut, tie or bend leaves as this reduces the amount of food-making.

Richard Poffenbaugh is a retired biology teacher and active home gardener since 1960. He is a member of the Mansfield Men's Garden Club and was editor of the club newsletter (The Greenhorn) for 21 years. He resides in Ontario with his wife, Barbara. Reach him at 419-529-2966.

7connecttweetlinkedincommentemailmore

TOP VIDEOS