KPOV – *The Point*

Gardening: Get Good at It

“Recipe for Bulb Lasagna”

September 10, 2019

Fall is when spring blooms are planted.  But why settle for just tulips, when you can also enjoy daffodils, crocus, and grape hyacinths planted in the same pot to produce three waves of bloom, brightening your spring scene for weeks on end?

The technique is called layering or planting lasagna-style. It involves planting layers of different types of bulbs in the same pot, with the various types blooming in secession. By overlapping their bloom times you can create pots of seemingly “perpetual color” featuring double-decker and two-tone color effects.

To enjoy the dramatic display, put layered pots where you’ll see them daily:  by doorways, next to the garage or driveway, by the mailbox or lamp post, along walkways or right outside your kitchen window.

When selecting bulbs, consider their flower color, as your “lasagna” simmers from one planting to the next. Having different flower colors adds a sense of “newness” as the waves of color progress.

The best time of year to plant spring bulbs in Central Oregon is near the end of September through October. You want to make sure the bulbs become well rooted before our first freeze.

For three waves of bloom, you’ll need bulbs that bloom in early-spring, mid-spring, and late-spring. Different types of flower bulbs bloom at different times. Bulb packages list this information on the labels. When making bulb selections, consider choosing bulbs with overlapping bloom times so that the planting remains colorful all season. For instance, include grape hyacinths in the mix as they bloom for weeks, providing a colorful cobalt blue under-planting to mid-season daffodils, and continue to bloom in support of the late-season tulips.

In choosing a pot, the larger the better so as to provide added insulation to the roots. If freezing is an issue, you may need to place your pots in protected areas away from extreme cold and wind, perhaps against a house foundation, on a porch, or deck where they receive “radiant heat”.

* **Pretend you are making lasagna**!  You’ll plant the largest bulbs approximately 8-inches deep, smaller bulbs 5-inches deep. Potting soil provides the layer, (the sauce) under and over your bulbs.
* **The Sauce** (potting soil) is now added, about 2”-3” deep, so when you measure from the top rim of your pot down, the potting soil level should be about 11 inches below the rim. Sprinkle on a fistful of bone meal.
* **The 1st Layer** will be a bulb such as a large size daffodil, allium, or tulip. Place your bulbs in tight so you’ll have quite a color show. Or mix them up or place them in a pattern.
* **The Sauce -** Add 3” inches of soil above the first layer. Sprinkle on a fistful of bone meal.
* **The 2nd Layer** will be a bulb that is planted about 6” below the surface such as Dutch Hyacinth or a jonquil. Leave about ¼” between them.
* Don’t overcrowd, these bulbs are fairly well dehydrated and will swell once watering begins!
* **The Sauce –** Cover with about 1” inch of soil above the previous bulbs. Sprinkle on a fistful of bone meal.
* **The 3rd Layer** will finish your container off with bulbs like grape hyacinth and/or crocus. Remember to leave a little space in between bulbs.
* **The Sauce –** Top off with five inches of potting soil, add some pansies or other colorful cool weather annuals.
* **The Cheese-** Top dress your creation with mulch, water regularly and wait for spring to arrive.

Get together in October with a few friends and have a planting party. While a tasty lasagna bakes in the oven, put together your bulb lasagna pots and together look forward to a spring of lasagna-style blooms.

For information on planting bulb gardens go to our Master Gardener website at [www.gocomga.com](http://www.gocomga.com) and click the KPOV tab on the orange bar. Thanks for listening to… “Gardening Get Good at It” on KPOV, The Point.

Resources:

Recipe for Bulb Lasagna

<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=8339>

Bulb Lasagna

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2056/2018/10/BulbLasagna.pdf>

Spring Flowering Bulbs

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/node/96326/printable/print>

The Bulb Lasagna Method

<https://www.molbaks.com/bulblasagna.html>

Deer-resistant Plants for Central Oregon

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/techniques/deer-resistant-plants-central-oregon>

Planting bulbs, rhizomes and tubers

<https://extension.umn.edu/how/planting-bulbs-tubers-and-rhizomes>

Growing bulbs indoors

<https://extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/growing-bulbs-indoors>