



Bulbs for North Texas Landscapes

By Jackie Schwitter, Collin County Master Gardener

The selection of spring-flowering bulbs that the Collin County Master Gardeners Association is offering their 2017 Bulbs for North Texas landscapes is absolutely spectacular! Some of these bulbs are tried-and-true oldies that always bloom beautifully; some bulbs have won awards; some bulbs are great multipliers; and some are wonderfully fragrant. One bulb might even be confused with a gardenia! This year's selection is large — the Master Gardeners had a hard time selecting just a few bulbs! Please visit www.ccmgatx.org/bulbs for photographs, bulb details and ordering information.

This year's selection includes 12 varieties of Narcissi:

- **Chromacolor** is a real dazzler with white petals and a large deep pink cup. There is one large showstopper flower per stem. Chromacolor naturalizes easily, blooms in mid-season and is slightly fragrant.
- **Bridal Crown** truly resembles a crown for a bride with a delicate yet full look. The white fragrant flowers (3-4 flowers/stem) each have a brilliant yellow center. Bridal Crown grows fairly short (16") and is deer and rabbit resistant. Plant these bulbs in fairly sheltered areas as wind and wet weather can break its stems.
- **Double Smiles** will certainly make you smile! Double yellow petals and a clustered orange center, plus you'll see 3 flowers per stem! Blooms mid-season.
- **Sir Winston Churchill** resembles a small gardenia with creamy white flowers with vibrant orange centers. Each stem generally bears 4 flowers that are very fragrant. Blooms late spring.
- **Obdam** is one of the showiest and most popular of all spring bulbs with its huge, perfectly formed white double blooms that have the barest touch of green. Obdam blooms in late spring with yellow flowers that become white. Flowers last for a surprisingly long time.
- **Thalia** is sometimes known as the orchid daffodil. Thalia blooms in late spring with pure white flowers that have graceful, twisted petals. Thalia is scented and was bred more than a century ago!
- **Jetfire** is small, but mighty (only 8"-10" tall) and will light up your garden with its golden yellow petals and mandarin orange cup! Blooms early to mid-season.
- **Wisley** has swept back white petals that accent its long bright yellow funnel wavy cup. Wisley blooms early to mid-season and is named after the famous garden in England to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Royal Horticultural Society in 2004.
- **Silver Chimes** is an old favorite dating back to 1914! It is sweetly fragrant, has 5 to 7 flowers per stem and blooms in late spring. Petals are silvery white with cup shaped pastel yellow cups.
- **bulbocodium Golden Bells** are referred to as the hoop petticoat daffodil! Golden Bells are only 6" to 8" tall with large, bold, yellow trumpets, slender star-shaped petals and grass-like foliage. Blooms late season.
- **Ziva** is a tender paperwhite that is well suited to forcing. It blooms in only 2 or 3 weeks from planting, bearing pure white, scented flowers atop 16 to 18" tall stems.
- **Sunny Girlfriend** is also called Butterfly Narcissus. Sunny Girlfriend has cups of soft frilly apricot shades against white petals, is fragrant and blooms late season.

This year's bulb sale also features **hyacinths (Hyacinthus Orientalis)**! Did you know that wild hyacinths,

like tulips, are native to the area surrounding Turkey? They were brought to Western Europe for commercial cultivation during the 16th century. Hyacinths are beautiful in the garden, but also make fragrant cut flowers. Hyacinths don't like wet feet, so be sure to plant these bulbs in well-draining areas.

- **Royal Navy** was first publicly shown at the 2012 Chelsea Flower Show and earned 3rd place in the Plant of the Year category. Royal Navy blooms very dark blue double florets and has the trademark sweet hyacinth fragrance. Blooms mid-season; 8" to 12" tall.
- **White Pearl** blooms open an ivory color with pale green tips that mature into glistening white with yellow anthers. White Pearl can be forced indoors. Very fragrant.
- **Woodstock** blooms are a vivid magenta with maroon sheen. Even the stem is dark! Blooms mid-season; 8 to 12" tall and a dramatic addition to your spring garden.

Seems most everyone likes irises. The two irises in this year's Bulb Pre-Sale are being offered in limited quantities. Six more varieties will be available at The Bulb & Perennial Mart on October 14, 2017 (9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) at Myers Park & Event Center in McKinney, Texas. Mark your calendar if you're an iris lover!

- **Frimousse** screams SPRING! Originally from France, Frimousse features a tantalizing combination of bright tangerine beards peach standards and raspberry falls. Tall Bearded, blooms mid-season and is 33" tall, 2000.
- **So Fine** is just that – Soooo fine! Lavender-orchid standards complement the deeper vintage purple of the falls; bright tangerine beards. Tall bearded, 1996, blooms mid-season, 37" tall.

These bulbs and rhizomes ALL share several characteristics which make them winners for our area:

- They fit extremely well into our climate and soil;
- The bulbs will thrive and sometimes multiply in our clay soil;
- They are drought-tolerant;
- These flowers are easy-care perennials;
- None of the bulbs need to be chilled;
- Bulbs are critter-resistant;
- And most important, most of these bulbs are NOT available locally!

Visit www.ccmgatx.org/bulbs for this year's selection and to order.

Orders must be received by **September 9, 2017**.

Bulbs may be picked up at the annual Bulb & Perennial Mart on
Saturday October 14 between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
or at Wells Brothers Farm Store (5001 Avenue K, Plano 75074)
on Friday October 13 (2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

Proceeds from this annual fundraiser support the Collin County Master Gardeners Association community outreach projects and events. The Master Gardeners sincerely thank you!