

# Little Bulbs'

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ison,

are often lost from rotting in "too wet" ground.

In harvesting the blossom crop, always cut stems with a knife, for if the flower is pulled from the bulb, other bulbs which are forming will be injured.

Most gardeners feel that the magnificent double and single blossoming ranunculus fill the bill when it comes to brilliance in the flower beds.

A bulb that often is interplanted with anemones, ranunculus should be placed in well-drained, partially shaded beds which have sandy loam in them and the result will be tall blooms appearing in April. Colors range from white through rose, crimson, scarlet, orange and pure yellow.

The tiny tuber of the ranuncula resembles a many-tined crab and should be planted with its claws face down in a four to five inch pocket. A little bone meal or manure lightly mixed below the tuber always helps.

Freesias, those vari-colored flowering bulbs which bloom in the early days of March are a popular choice with gardeners who delight in delicate spray-like blossoms for their garden. Once established they will bloom independently year after year along sunny paths, border beds or rock gardens—well into April.

The small corns should be planted now through November so that they will burst into bloom during the first warm days of Spring in unique color combinations of lilac, primrose yellow, deep yellow, violet, cream white, and shadings of white, rose and carmine-rose with blendings of yellow. They are most effective when planted in groups with violas, subrieta, sweet aslyssum, primroses and grape hyacinths. A favorite combination with many gardeners are freesias intermingled with other spring-blooming bulbous plants such as tulips, hyacinths or early miniature iris and lilies.

Spacing your planting into three week intervals will insure a prolonged blooming period and will give a surplus of blooms to brighten your entrance hall or dining table. The tall six to 12 inch flowering stalks are excellent for indoor arrangements.

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