



For a glorious Spring garden

April is considered bulb month.

There is a great variety of bulbs to choose from, both indigenous and exotic. My favourite bulbs are the Liliiums; these start to flower late September and can continue through until January. They prefer a cold winter; Liliiums should be planted on the south or east side of the house (never on the west side, as this gets to hot).

- Bulbs are very happy planted in containers do be sure that the potting medium you use is light and that the container has good drainage.

Remembering that containers dry out rapidly, a deep watering is recommended every third day.

Lastly, always mark the area where the bulbs have been planted with a dowel stick, to avoid digging them up before the leaves appear!!!

- Growing bulbs in water (without any soil know as Hydroponics) is great fun, however only certain bulbs can be grown this manner i.e. Paper-whites and Hyacinths. Always keep the level of the water *just below* the base of the bulb.

Earth Day



Earth Day is on the 22nd of April!

We can all contribute towards this very special day by planting a tree, using less water in the garden, switching off all lights that are not needed or simply by collecting fallen leaves to make leaf mulch/compost.

GARDENING IN APRIL

- Inject some colour into a sunny spot in the garden, by planting some calendulas, cosmos, snapdragons, violas, petunia's poppies and pansies; whilst in a shady spot, plant cinerarias, primula and primroses.
- Spray roses fortnightly with a fungicide to prevent mildew and blackspot.
- Take cuttings of frost tender plants, such as heliotrope, begonias, fuchsias, and geraniums.
- Remember if you are planting sweet pea's soak the seeds overnight in warm water.
- April is a very good time to plant strawberries, they require plenty of compost and fertiliser. Runners can be planted from the previous season's crop.
- Garlic is a great companion for strawberries, as it will enhance their flavour and deter many insects, so plant a few cloves in between each plant.
- Citrus trees should be fed with Epsom salts and 3.1.5.
- Any rooibos tea left over? Put this around your seedlings to deter snails.



Antirrhinum majus
(Snapdragon)

A stitch in time?

- Try and spend just 20 minutes in your garden each day -rather than leaving all the work for an entire day on the weekend!
- Flowers often give a more delicate taste to food than the texture of leaves do, why not plant some edible flowers in your garden, such as borage (beautiful sky blue flower) Nasturtium (white, orange or red), evening primrose (yellow flowers) or rose scented geraniums.

**Remember that, children,
marriages and flower gardens
only reflect the kind of
care that they get!**



Our next meeting

Date: 20th of April
Time: 1:30pm for 2:00pm
Venue: Lifestyle Lecture Hall
Topic: Television producer, writer and artist, Jane Griffiths will share with us her knowledge on organic gardening.



Please see enclosed fantastic Lifestyle Specials!