Give your garden the Dutch touch by following these simple guidelines for growing bulbs:

**PLANTING BULBS**

Plant bulbs in well-drained soil, such as topsoil mix or humus planting mix, or combine these products and cotton burr compost with existing soil. Dust the bulb or tuber lightly with dusting sulfur before planting. When planting, mix one tablespoon of Bone Meal in soil below the bulb or tuber. A two-inch layer of pine bark mulch will cool the bulb’s root area and help prevent weed growth.

When the bulb sprouts above ground, feed with Dutch bulb food and continue feeding regularly per label directions to ensure blooms for the next year.

Bulbs may be stored in a cool location for one to two months before planting date.

**GROWING BULBS INDOORS**

Indoor bulbs are first grown outdoors in the shade to provide as much cooling time as possible. This allows root growth before top growth begins. In Texas and other warm weather areas, the most common causes for failure with containerized bulbs are warm winters with equally warm homes.

Tulips, crocus, hyacinths, muscari, narcissus, daffodils, and amaryllis are the most commonly used bulbs for container growing, but any bulb can be containerized. All bulbs, except tulips, crocus, and hyacinths, may be planted as is. These three bulbs need to be refrigerated a minimum of six to eight weeks prior to planting. Do not store bulbs in the freezer or vegetable sections of your refrigerator and do not store them in plastic bags — use paper bags.

Water well and feed with Dutch bulb food, following label directions.

Set containers in a cool, shady location until the bulbs sprout — generally six to ten weeks later, depending on the variety. Bring the bulbs indoors just as buds begin to open, but keep them out of full sun while flowering to help prolong blooming.