

## **DAHLIAS**

- Lay Tubers lengthways with the 'eyes' (i.e. the growing tips) facing up and cover with 2-3" (5-8cm) of soil. Position with one plants width between tubers (6-9 inches apart)
- IDEAL ASPECT: Sunny with protection from strong winds.
- IDEAL SOIL TYPE: Well drained, generally not fussy.
- FERTILISING: Either prepare the soil with well-rotted manure several weeks prior to planting, or top dress after planting (avoid direct contact with the tuber). A bi-weekly liquid fertiliser during flowering will result in the production of more flowers.
- WATERING: Keep soil moist while these plants are actively growing.

## **BEGONIA**

- PLANTING: In March when growth can be seen emerging from tubers, plant them just level with the soil surface hollow side up, in containers of moist peat compost. Seed trays or small pots are ideal. Maintain an environment of 45-60F (7-15C) and keep tubers away from strong midday sun. When 4 – 6 leaves have developed, transplant into peat based potting compost and water regularly. Plants for outside should be gradually introduced to outdoor temperatures over two weeks before planting outdoors.
- IDEAL ASPECT: Filtered light to full sun, light shade is ideal.
- IDEAL SOIL: Light, crumbly and well drained.
- FERTILISING: Feed generously with a slow release fertiliser (3- 4 month release). Applying a liquid fertiliser will be particularly beneficial to potted plants.
- WATERING: Keep the soil constantly moist (but never soggy) while the plants are actively growing.
- Allow the soil to dry out at the end of the season.

## **LILIUMS**

- DEPTH AND SPACING: Plant deep enough to cover the bulbs with 4" (10cm) of soil. (30cm) apart. Turbans/species 9" (20cm) apart. For dense displays of very intense colour (especially when potting) you can plant Lilium bulbs much closer together.
- IDEAL ASPECT: Full sun to light shade. In most cases it is ideal to keep the soil around the roots of the bulb cool. Heavy mulch will achieve this.
- CLIMATE NOTES: Frost hardy
- IDEAL SOIL: Rich moisture retentive but free draining.
- FERTILISING: Top dress with a general purpose, slow release fertiliser (preferably low in nitrogen) after planting and again each autumn. Alternatively, feed at 14-day intervals after flowering, with a liquid fertiliser.

## **GLADIOLI**

- DEPTH AND SPACING: 2 – 4" (5-10cm) apart with a covering of 2-4" (5-10 cm) soil.
- IDEAL ASPECT: Sunny with protection from strong winds
- IDEAL SOIL: Well drained and light, although generally not fussy.
- FERTILISING: Top dress with well-rotted compost or a general-purpose fertiliser after planting.