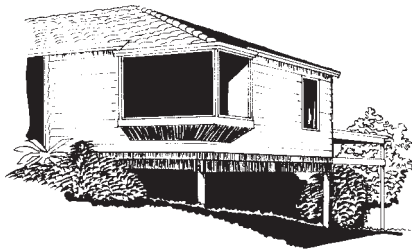




FACT SHEET

Bulbs for Damp & Shady Areas

Bulbs which originate in alpine meadows with poor drainage have to endure wet growing conditions for much of late winter and early spring as snow melts. Other bulbs are used to growing beneath trees or low plants in woodland environments and tolerate shade very well. All these bulbs are well suited for the damp and shady areas in our gardens.



What bulbs are the best for shade and damp?

The following are the best for shady areas such as the south side of the house, shady banks, or beneath trees and shrubs. A little direct sunshine each day is a bonus, but not essential. They all tolerate damp conditions, but prefer not to be continually wet. Specialised wet loving plants are necessary for the really wet places such as near ponds and streams.

Bluebells

Naturally occurring in forested areas, bluebells are happiest in dappled shade and moist soil. They will naturalise well in these conditions, increasing through bulb division and seed production to establish large drifts. They are available in blue, pink and white shades.

Daffodils

White they do not really like full shade, daffodils will definitely tolerate partial shade, whether this is from being planted beneath trees or in the shade of buildings. White some shade is OK, daffodils don't want to be in permanently wet ground, so some drainage is necessary

Crocus

One of the earliest spring flowers; crocuses produce three or four flowers from each corm planted, giving a great display from few corms. Two main types are available – species crocuses and hybrid crocuses. Both are available in white, cream and shades of blue and yellow. The species crocuses are earlier to flower and are slightly smaller. Crocus are quite happy in the shade beneath trees and shrubs.

Fritillaria

Amongst the most unusual bulbs available, fritillaria come in a wide variety of forms, from the 30 cm mahogany *F. camschatcensis* to the stunning orange 1 m tall Crown Imperial. They all like a cold, shady position, with some afternoon sun. Crown Imperials are not suitable for warmer districts. Stunning flowers though they are, fritillaria are also distinguished by having rather pungent odours. Fritillaria have been in very short supply in recent years and are not currently available.

Leucojum

A spring classic with the white bells, dotted green at the petal tips, Leucojum are



commonly known as snowflakes. Often confused with snowdrops, snowflakes have large daffodil sized bulbs and will grow well in all areas of New Zealand. Damp conditions and semi shade are tolerated well. Ideal for naturalising beneath deciduous trees where they can get winter sun and spring and summer shade. Late spring flowering.

Galanthus

Often confused with snowflakes because Galanthus are commonly known as snowdrops. Although the flowers are similar in being pendulous white bells with green markings, the plants are very different. Galanthus are late winter flowering and reach only 15cm tall at most.