

**The Denver Post GROW Topics**  
**2009 Featured Perennials**  
**Time to Think Spring**  
**June 26, 2009**

**Submitted by: Betsy Kelson**  
**Jared's Nursery & Garden Center**

**Time to Think Spring**

Summer is certainly in full swing! The containers that you've created and modified from this gardening section are starting to fill out. Are you watering and fertilizing regularly? Are you removing/deadheading flowers and dead foliage? I hope everyone has been successful.

According to the calendar, it's still summer, and not too early to think about another great container garden...Spring Bulbs. Around Labor Day, the independent garden centers will be full of them.

Many spring flowering bulbs work great in containers. Tulips, narcissus, crocus, and alliums are good choices. It's like creating small bouquets in a pot. Use varieties that get 6 to 12 inches tall, and only need to be planted 4 to 6 inches deep. One can either plant a single variety per pot or for greater impact, plant different species per pot. For example, fill your container with well-drained potting soil to within 6 inches from the top. Place Narcissus 'Tete-a-Tete' (6 inches tall) and Tulip 'Praestans Unicum' (12 inches tall) first. Cover with a layer of potting soil. Next, place Narcissus 'Baby Moon' (10 inches tall), Allium 'Drumsticks' (10 inches tall), and Crocus spp. (6 inches tall). Fill with potting soil to the top. Water this container slowly and deeply.

If the container remains outside, place it on north or east side of the house until the bulbs sprout. Then, move it to a permanent spot. Check for moisture every few weeks between October and April. Dry soil for extended periods of time can kill/abort the flowers. If it remains inside, place it in an unheated garage or basement where temperatures remain between 40 and 50 degrees to simulate winter temperatures. Again, check for moisture every few weeks. When the bulbs sprout, place the container into bright indirect light.

I think you will really like these little bouquets of flowers in containers...the start or finish of a great gardening season.

*Find a local independent retail location at [www.coloradonga.org](http://www.coloradonga.org), click on 'find a member,' and search any section.*



**COLORADO NURSERY &  
GREENHOUSE ASSOCIATION**

959 South Kipling Parkway, Suite 200 | Lakewood CO 80226 |

Ph: 303-758-6672 | 888-758-6672 | Fax: 303-758-6672 |

[www.coloradonga.org](http://www.coloradonga.org) | [info@coloradonga.org](mailto:info@coloradonga.org)