

## Anemones and Ranunculus

The best value-for-money bulbs available, anemones and ranunculus flower for an extended period each spring. They are among the earliest bulbs available each year, reflecting more their Northern Hemisphere source than any special requirement for early planting.

A few simple tips can help ensure successful growing and a great flower display.

### Planting – when and how

Anemones and ranunculus can be planted any time from mid January until mid June. Early planting will provide welcome mid to late winter flowers, while later planting will give early to mid spring flowers. Partial shade is tolerated, and can help produce longer flower stems.

When purchased, both anemones and ranunculus will be hard and dry, as they are in a very dormant state. For better results and flower production, both should be pre-germinated prior to planting.

Mix the tubers with damp (not wet) sawdust and put them in the fridge in an open container. Keep them damp every day - the sawdust will dry quickly in the fridge. After three to four weeks you will see signs of roots and/or shoots developing. Plant immediately upon seeing this.

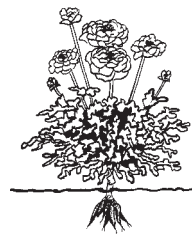


Anemone corms will generally have a cone shape, and the point of this should be planted downwards. The small tuft visible on the wide flat end is not last year's roots, but the remains of last year's flower stem. Ranunculus tubers consist

of a number of claws connected to a central crown at the top. The claws should be planted downwards.

### Care while growing

Anemones and ranunculus like to be well fertilised while growing. Either a general purpose fertiliser or a specific bulb fertiliser would be quite suitable. Composted animal manure is also good as they like



nitrogen. Water to keep just moist, not wet. Do not let ranunculus plants become too dry while growing, as this will cause the older leaves to die back quickly, leaving the plants looking rather straggly and performing poorly

for the rest of the season. They like a calcium-rich soil as well, so an application of fine lime at 100-200grams per square metre can help.

### Flowering

Kept adequately watered with a little fertiliser applied every month, the plants will produce flowers over a period of several months. Ranunculus flowers are long lasting in the vase and should be picked when the flower heads have half unfurled from their tight bud stage. Anemones will have a longer vase life if they have been through two or three opening and closing (day and night) cycles on the plant before cutting.

### Care after flowering

With warmer temperatures in late spring, the plants will begin to die back. The corms and tubers can be harvested and reused the next year, but the tubers available for sale are younger with more vigour and will give better results.

