WildaHome

Wildflower Bulbs in the Green

SPRING PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS & CARE GUIDE

Live native and naturalised bulbs, lifted in leaf and sent January to April. How to handle them on arrival, plant them at the right depth and help them settle in for years of flowers.



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When your bulbs arrive

Bulbs in the green are lifted while they're growing and sent straight to you. They are live plants, not dormant bulbs, so the first few days matter most.

What's normal in the box

Yellow, floppy or bent leaves
Normal after lifting and a day in transit. The roots and bulb are what matter – the leaves will perk up or die back.

Damp packing and soil on the roots
Bundles are packed damp on purpose. Don't wash or dry the roots off.

Flowers, buds or seed heads
Depending on the month, they may be in bud, in flower or going over. All are fine to plant.

No leaves at all
Wood anemone rhizomes and lily of the valley pips travel dormant, or just breaking into growth.

The 48-hour rule

Open the box as soon as it arrives and take the bundles out of any bag. Plant within 48 hours – three days at the most. Above all, **never let the roots dry out.**

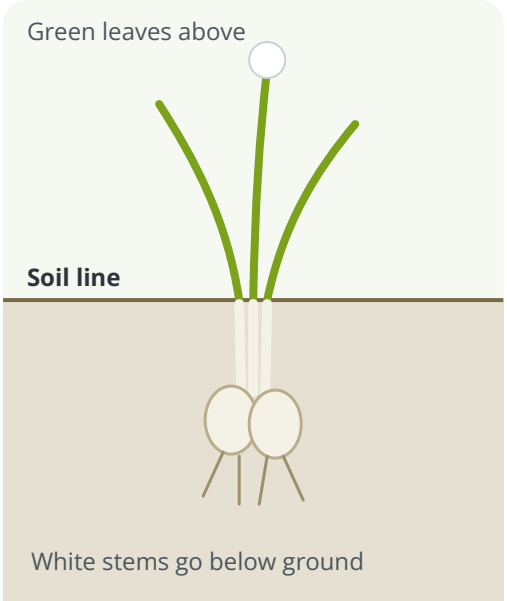
Can't plant straight away?

- **For a few days:** stand the bundles upright in a tray with 2cm of water, somewhere cool and shady, and mist the leaves with rainwater each day.
- **For longer, or if the ground is frozen or waterlogged:** heel them in. Dig a shallow trench in damp soil in a shady spot, lay the bundles in, cover the roots and firm. They will wait happily for a week or two.
- **Never** leave them in a sealed bag, in a warm room or on a sunny windowsill.

Why the month matters

Bulbs sent early – snowdrops and aconites in January, daffodils in February – often flower within weeks. Bulbs that have finished flowering when they arrive put their energy into roots and next year's bulb instead. Page 4 shows what to expect for each species.

How to plant in the green



The one rule that matters

Every bulb in the green shows you how deep it grew. The stems are **white** where they were underground and **green** where they met the light.

Plant so all the white is covered and the green is above the soil. The depths on page 4 are a back-up – the white line always wins.

1. **Prepare before delivery.** Clear weeds from beds, and cut grass short where you'll plant into turf.
2. **Split into clumps of 3–5.** Tease bundles apart gently and keep as much root as you can.
3. **Make a slit or hole.** In turf, push in a spade, lever it forward and drop the clump in behind. In beds, use a trowel.
4. **Set it at the white line.** Spread the roots down into the hole and fill back with soil.
5. **Firm in well.** Press the soil down with your heel or hands so there are no air pockets.
6. **Water in once** if the soil isn't already wet. After that, spring rain does the rest.

- **Spacing:** clumps 10–15cm apart, or 8–10cm for snowdrops and aconites. Scatter them in loose drifts rather than rows.
- **Planting in grass:** choose an area you can leave uncut until early summer.

The Wildahome way: no feed

Native bulbs settle best in poor, undisturbed soil. Don't add compost, manure or bulb fertiliser in grass, meadow or woodland – it only feeds the grass and weeds that crowd them out. And don't cut off yellowing leaves: they are still feeding the bulb.

Species guide

We send in-the-green bulbs from January to April, each species when it lifts best. Depth is from the soil surface to the base of the bulb – but always go by the white line first.

Bulb	Sent	Usually arrives	Depth	Flowers this spring?
 **Single Snowdrop** *Galanthus nivalis*	Jan–Mar	In bud or flower; going over by March	**5–8cm**	Yes, if sent Jan–Feb
 **Double Snowdrop** *G. nivalis f. pleniflorus*	Jan–Mar	In bud or flower; going over by March	**5–8cm**	Yes, if sent Jan–Feb
 **Winter Aconite** *Eranthis hyemalis*	Jan–Mar	In bud or flower; dying back from late Feb	**5cm**	Yes, if sent in January
 **Tenby Daffodil** *Narcissus obvallaris*	Feb–Apr	Shoots and buds; in flower in March	**8–10cm**	Often, if sent Feb–Mar
 **Wild Daffodil** *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*	Feb–Apr	Shoots and buds; in flower in March	**8–10cm**	Often, if sent Feb–Mar
 **Snake's Head Fritillary** *Fritillaria meleagris*	Feb–Apr	Shoots; buds forming by April	**10cm**	Often
 **Summer Snowflake** *Leucojum aestivum*	Feb–Apr	Leaves and flower shoots	**10–15cm**	Often
 **Wood Anemone** *Anemone nemorosa*	Feb–Apr	Dormant rhizomes, may be breaking	**5cm, laid flat**	Sparse in year one
 **Lily of the Valley** *Convallaria majalis*	Feb–Apr	Dormant pips (crowns with roots)	**Bud 2–3cm down**	Rarely in year one
 **Bluebell** *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Mar–Apr	Leaves up; buds forming	**5–8cm**	Sometimes; mostly year two
 **Wild Garlic (Ramsons)** *Allium ursinum*	Mar–Apr	Leaves, sometimes buds	**3–5cm**	Often

Plant in clumps of 3–5, with clumps 10–15cm apart (8–10cm for snowdrops and aconites). Flowering this spring depends on the stage at delivery – a bulb that doesn't flower this year is building up for next year.

Year one and beyond

Planting week	Water in once, then leave them be. Mark where you planted so nobody digs or mows there by mistake.
The first spring	Leaves may yellow and die back sooner than usual – that's the plant recovering from the move, not dying. Flowering is often light this year.
Early summer	Leave all foliage until it has yellowed. In grass, make the first cut in late June or July, once leaves have died back and seed has dropped, and remove the cuttings.
Year two	The real display starts. Bulbs that only leafed up last year usually flower now, and clumps begin to fill out.
Years three onwards	Clumps spread by offsets and seed. Keep up the late cut and the no-feed approach – poor soil keeps grass from swamping them.
Every 3–4 years	Divide crowded clumps of snowdrops, aconites and bluebells while still in leaf, just after flowering. Replant pieces of 3–5 bulbs to spread the drift.

Do this

- ✓ Open the box the day it arrives
- ✓ Plant within 48 hours
- ✓ Match the white line to the soil
- ✓ Plant clumps of 3–5 in drifts
- ✓ Water in once and firm well
- ✓ Leave foliage to die back

Avoid this

- × Letting roots dry out, even for an hour
- × Planting into frozen or waterlogged soil
- × Burying green leaves deep
- × Feeding or adding compost
- × Mowing before the leaves yellow
- × Judging success by year one







Safety and responsible planting

- **Bulbs are not food.** Daffodils, bluebells, snowdrops and lily of the valley are poisonous to people, pets and livestock. Wear gloves – daffodil sap irritates skin – and keep bundles away from children and dogs.
- **Wild garlic or lily of the valley?** The leaves look alike and arrive at the same time of year. Only pick garlic from a patch you planted and know, and never plant the two together.
- **Our bluebells are cultivated.** Native bluebells are protected by law and must never be dug from the wild. Keep Spanish and hybrid bluebells well away, as they cross with natives.
- **Keep the wild, wild.** Plant the naturalised species – snowdrops, aconites – in gardens, churchyards and amenity ground rather than in or beside ancient woodland or protected sites.

Dry bulbs or in the green?

In the green is the most reliable way to establish snowdrops, winter aconites and wood anemones. Tougher bulbs such as daffodils and bluebells also do well planted dry in autumn – see our autumn planting guide.

Bigger projects

Planting a woodland edge, churchyard, orchard or verge? We supply in-the-green bulbs in bulk and can help you plan quantities and timing.

Planting day checklist

- ☐ Box opened and bundles damp
- ☐ Spade or trowel, and gloves
- ☐ White line matched to the soil
- ☐ Site cleared and grass cut short
- ☐ Clumps split into 3–5 bulbs
- ☐ Firmed in and watered once







Questions about your bulbs?

If something doesn't look right when your box arrives, get in touch the same day and send a photo – we'd much rather help you plant them than have them wait.

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