

### **In a formal setting**

The formal garden is making a comeback. One reason is the interest and willingness of some garden enthusiasts to work regularly in the garden. A well-ordered plan can also be pleasing. Hyacinths and tulips are spectacular bedding plants in a single color or a geometric design. Sometimes a contrasting plant, such as white pansies or daisies with deep purple hyacinths, is striking.

### **Naturalized**

Naturalizing is the opposite of a formal bed. With this technique, you try to make the bulbs look as if they were growing wild. If planted where the foliage won't be mowed and where drainage is good, grape hyacinths, daffodils, and crocus won't need to be bothered for years--although the plants will appreciate an occasional fertilizing. The unsophisticated way to space the bulbs is simply to take a handful and toss them gently, then plant them where they land.

### **In a rock garden**

Rock gardens, though appearing "natural," take a bit more planning. Smaller bulbs, such as squills, crocus, eranthis, oxalis, *Iris reticulata*, species tulips, grape hyacinths, and galanthus work well, because the depth of the soil may not be sufficient for larger bulbs. The bulbs should have at least a foot of good topsoil and about the same depth of porous subsoil. Shallower areas can be planted with a ground cover.