

For most hardy bulbs, the perfect planting site is an area naturally covered by light shade during the warmest part of the day. When this is provided, blooms will last better and retain a deep color. Afternoon shade helps prolong the life of the flowers and keeps the bulbs cooler. Plant under tall trees; much of the bulb growth takes place in spring before leaves are fully developed and while shade is still light. In the heavy shade of buildings, low-branching trees, or shrubs, though, food production by the bulb plant will be reduced and poor flowering in future years can be the expected result.

Under large trees, shallow tree roots often compete with the bulb roots for food and water. To make sure bulbs develop well in late spring, keep them moist. They often cannot benefit from light rains or dews when planted under trees where tree roots are using large amounts of water.

Sunlight and plants go together, but hardy bulbs actually prefer slight shade. In the case of the "pink" daffodils, the shade is desirable because it brings out this trumpet color.

Bulbs in a bed facing south will flower earlier in the season than those in one on the north. A bed sheltered by a house foundation, where soil tends to be warmer, is likely to flower earlier than one set farther away.