

❖ Renee's Garden ❖

Freesia Growing Guide

When to Plant

Plant corms October to late November in USDA zones 9-10, once the weather has cooled to 50-55°F (10-12°C). In USDA zones 3-8, hold bulbs overwinter in dry conditions at 60°F and plant outdoors after any threat of frost has passed.

Planting in Beds

Choose a spot with full sun or dappled shade. Good drainage is essential, so be sure your location does not puddle after it rains. For the most natural effect, plant your corms in casual groups of 6 or 8, not in straight lines.

Plant corms with pointed end up, 1 to 2 inches deep and 2-3 inches apart. Water gently after planting to settle the soil around the corms.

Planting in Pots

Freesias grow and flower nicely in containers at least 12 inches in diameter and 8-10 inches deep (plants have long taproots), with adequate drain holes. Fill pots with well-draining potting mix; the corms should never sit in waterlogged soil or they will rot. Choose a location with full sun or bright

ON ARRIVAL: Open and inspect your package. Until you plant your Freesia corms, store them in a cool, dry spot (50-70°F, 10-21°C) with good air circulation and low humidity, away from heat, frost and strong sunlight. Freesia corms are perishable and should be planted in the fall when you receive them.

light for all or most of the day. Plant corms 1-2 inches deep and 2 inches apart. Water gently to settle soil.

Growing Notes

Plants will develop good root systems over the winter and in early spring basal sets of leaves emerge followed by stems and blossoms. Keep watered during active growth and after blooming, as that is when Freesias store food for the next season.

Important: Freesias need support to keep their stems upright. Circular wire supports surrounding flower stems is ideal or use bamboo canes and twine to loosely tie up stems.

Fertilize with organic granular flower fertilizer (4-10-6 is ideal) at the rate specified on the container. *First*, topdress by sprinkling sparingly on the soil after planting to promote growth. *Second*, fertilize in the spring when the sprouts emerge. *Third*, fertilize when blooms finish to nourish the corms as they store nutrients for next season's growth. If there is a prolonged dry period after fertilizing, water in lightly.

Cut Flowers and Aftercare

Pick flowers often to enjoy in bouquets – this will not hurt the plants! Foliage will die back in late spring or early summer and corms will go dormant. This is the right time to remove dead foliage. In USDA zones 9-10, corms will go through a resting period in summer and autumn, then begin their next growing cycle when the weather cools. Corms can be left undisturbed to naturalize for years. If you need to transplant for any reason, wait until they are finished blooming. In USDA zones 3-8, lift corms after first fall frost and store over the winter or grow as an annual.

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