

❖ Renee's Garden ❖

Ranunculus Growing Guide

When to Plant

Plant your corms in cool fall weather, October through late November, once the weather has cooled down into the 50-55°F (10-13°C) range, and it is definitely “sweater weather” outside.

Planting in Beds

Pick a spot with full sun. 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 or pools, not in straight lines.

Soak the corms for no more than three or four hours in room temperature water. This promotes faster sprouting and root development.

Plant Ranunculus corms with their little claws pointing downward, 4 inches apart and 2 inches deep. Water well after planting to help settle the soil.

Planting in Pots

Ranunculus grow and flower nicely in good size pots at least 12 to 15 inches in diameter and 8 to 10 inches deep, with adequate drain holes.

ON ARRIVAL: Open and inspect the package; your corms look like dark, dry claw-shaped structures. Until you plant them, store in a cool, dry spot (50-75°F, 10-24°C) with good air circulation and low humidity, away from heat, frost, and strong sunlight. Ranunculus corms are perishable and must be planted in fall when you receive them.

Fill pots with good quality, well-drained potting mix; the corms should never sit in waterlogged soil or they will rot. Choose a location for your paths with full sun for all or almost all of the day.

Soak corms for no more than three or four hours in room temperature water, then plant in pots 2-3 inches apart and 2 inches deep. After planting, water in well to settle the soil.

We suggest putting pots of ranunculus where you will be able to see them from indoors or on a patio or near your front door where they will bring you joy and gladness throughout their blooming season.

Growth and Care

Corms will become established and develop good root systems over the fall and winter and in early spring you will see basal sets of ferny green leaves followed by stems of blossoms. Cut for colorful flowers often as more will appear throughout their spring blooming season. Keep watered during active growth and also after blooming, when the corms are storing food for the next season and going dormant.

Fertilizing

If planting in poor or unimproved soil, you can fertilize with organic granular flower fertilizer (4-10-6 is ideal) at a rate specified on the fertilizer container or bag. *First*, top dress 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 it in lightly. Do not add fertilizer directly to the planting hole as this can cause root burn.

Harvesting Flowers and Aftercare

Pick Ranunculus flowers often to enjoy in bouquets as this will not hurt the plants! By late spring or early summer, when the foliage yellows and dies back, the corms go dormant, and you can remove the dead foliage. Your corms will go through a resting period throughout summer and autumn, then begin their next growing cycle when the weather cools down to bloom again next spring.

Ranunculus corms can be left undisturbed to naturalize for years. If you need to transplant for any reason, wait until they are finished blooming and the foliage has completely died back. Dig up the corms and replant them right away or store in a cool, airy place.

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