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## **OVER WINTERING SUMMER BULBS**

### **DIG THE BULBS:**

You'll need to dig your bulbs right after a light frost has nipped back the foliage. Try not to nick the bulbs as you dig – this makes them susceptible to disease and rot later on. Shake off the excess dirt, snip the foliage to an inch or two above the bulbs and set them in a warm dry area, out of direct sunlight, for a week to 10 days to “cure”. This gets the bulbs ready for a dormant period and gives any little nicks a chance to heal over. You can dust your bulbs with a fungicidal powder, but it's not critical.

### **STORE THE BULBS:**

Store your bulbs in cardboard boxes or other “breathable” containers. You want just the right balance of moisture and dryness for your bulbs. Line your box with a plastic bag with about 30-40 holes poked in the bottom and sides, then several sheets of newspaper. Add a 3” layer of barely damp peat moss in the bottom. Set a layer of bulbs on the peat moss, not touching each other. Cover with another 3” layer of peat moss and repeat. Tuck several layers of newspaper over the top layer of peat moss. Set the box or basket in a dark place where the temperature stays around 45-50 degrees. Check on your bulbs a couple of times during the winter to make sure they are not drying out or rotting.

### **NEXT SPRING:**

You can start summer bulbs indoors in early spring or plant them in the ground when the temperatures are consistently above 45 degrees at night. And if they multiplied during the last growing season, spring is the time to split them.