

Tulips do not succeed as well for pot plants as hyacinths and narcissi, but can be used very effectively for window or verandah boxes for use in early spring. To secure the best results the boxes should be filled with fairly good soil, and the bulbs planted two or three inches apart and about an inch under the surface of the soil, as recommended for pot culture. The soil should then be well watered and the box placed in a cool cellar and covered up with coal ashes, sand or light soil until spring, when the boxes can be brought up and placed in position as soon as the weather will permit. Early in April is about the time when it would be safe to bring the boxes out of their winter quarters. Some of the more tender bulbs, such as sparaxis and ixias, as well as hyacinths, tulips, narcissi, chionodoxas, scillas and other bulbs can also be used very effectively in these portable miniature bulb gardens. Lawn vases and rustic flower stands make a very effective and bright appearance on small lawns in early spring

when planted thickly with early flowering bulbs and treated as recommended for pots and window boxes. Both the boxes and vases would succeed quite as well, if thoroughly covered up out of doors, if a cellar is not available. In fact they would be much better out of doors than placed in a dry hot cellar, especially if protected so that they would not be frozen too severely. A little frost will not harm them.

In planting bulbs in the open ground the ground should be well dug and loosened up and the bulbs planted so that the tops are about an inch underneath the surface of the soil. Tulips might be planted an inch deeper perhaps to advantage, especially in light sandy soils. Crocus, scilla, and the smaller bulbs should not be over an inch below the surface of the soil when planted. The soil should be raked smooth and fine before planting the bulbs, and packed fairly firmly by patting it with the back of the spade after the bulbs are planted. Packing the soil prevents lifting by frost during winter.

## PLANTING BULBS IN THE FALL.

THE time to prepare for the spring feast of flowers is in the fall, says Country Life in America. Too often people forget all about it until they see the tulips in the parks or in their neighbors' gardens, and then they hie to the bulb-seller in a quest for bulbs. Generally speaking, from the middle of October until the ground is closed with frost, the bulbs for spring flowering may be planted. Some of the species are late in ripening—lily of the valley, for instance—and so the planting stock is not available until November. In our northern climate frost and snow may have made their appearance before these are procura-

ble, so the expedient of covering the ground where they are to be planted must be adopted. Coarse bagging spread over the ground and a covering of three or four inches of leaves, hay, or litter of any kind will answer. The best bulb garden the writer ever had—a small one, 'tis true—was planted on New Year's day, the soil having been kept frost-free by the method described. However, unquestionably, the earlier the better. The first customers get the best stock, and the amateur will do well to order his hardy bulb in September for October planting.