

September 2025 'DiRT'

from Silver Ridge Park - Westerly 'Garden Committee'

Close your eyes and picture the first flowers of Spring that quickly melt away the cold of Winter. If you want to enjoy that wonderful feeling in your yard next March, you have to get organized right now in September. **Purchase your Spring bulbs now** so you can get the best choice of varieties. Ordering from the internet will offer you the most diversity of bulbs; but our local 'big box' stores will have a decent selection if you shop this month. Do not wait until October!

Bulbs that flower in the Spring need the Winter season as 'chill time' to grow roots and energize themselves. Spring flowering bulbs are almost foolproof and return year-after-year. When you get your bulbs, you can plant them immediately or store them in a paper bag in your refrigerator where the 40-degree temperature and darkness will mimic underground Winter conditions. Schedule to plant your bulbs no later than Thanksgiving.

Living here in Silver Ridge Park-Westerly we are fortunate that planting bulbs is easy because our houses were built on an ancient ocean floor of sand.

Three species of Spring bulbs for your yard that are deer resistant are: (1) **Daffodils** (*Narcissus species*) -one of the best known 'Spring flowers' with hundreds of varieties to choose from in shades of yellow, white, pink & orange. (2) **Ornamental Onions** (*Allium species*) -attractive

flowering plants that have a trademark ball-shaped flower cluster that blooms on stalks growing from 1' to 5' tall. (3) **Snowdrops** (*Galanthus nivalis*) -one of the very first flowers to emerge and sometimes will even poke through a light coating of snow.

If you prefer Tulips, Crocus or Hyacinths they need to be 'fenced in' as they are quickly eaten by deer. Plant all your Spring-blooming bulbs nearby any entrance to your house where you can cheer on their daily progress next March thru May!



'DiRT' we have scheduled:

Wednesday SEP 24th starting at 7pm. Join us for a '**Cooking with Herbs**' demonstration. Do you see culinary herbs at the store and want to know more about the wonderful health benefits they provide? At our meeting learn how to make a tasty meal with Rosemary, an easy-to-grow herbaceous plant. Herbs have been adding flavor to meals for thousand of years. 'Tasty samples' will be available for attendees!

If you have a gardening question, call Sandy (973) 476-7825 or David (908) 415-3321