

Freesias

Multiple bright-salmon-colored flowers on each stem. About 1 feet in height. Blooms in March and April. Will reproduce rapidly by reseeding and offsets. With up to eight trumpet-shaped, upward-pointing blossoms on leafless stems, freesias make delightful cut flowers that last a long time in the vase. The freesia bulb plant is easy to force indoors on sunny windowsills. Learning how to grow freesias in the garden and freesia flower care will allow you to enjoy these beauties year after year.

Prepare the bed by digging and loosening the soil to a depth of at least 8 inches (20 cm.). Plant the freesia bulbs, or corms, at least 2 inches (5 cm.) deep and 2 to 4 inches (5-10 cm.) apart. Freesias look their best planted in groups or masses rather than in rows. Masses of a single color make a striking display. Freesias bloom 10 to 12 weeks after you plant the corms. You can extend the bloom season by planting the bulbs at weekly intervals.

In USDA hardiness zones 9 and warmer, you can plant freesia corms in fall. In cooler areas, however, plant the corms in spring. Also, in USDA zones cooler than 9, the corms won't survive the winter in the garden. You will need to dig them up at the end of the season and store them until next spring, but since the corms are inexpensive, it's usually easier to purchase a new freesia bulb plant next year. Another option is to plant them in containers so you can bring the entire pot indoors for winter storage.

