Year of the Allium 2027

Allums are showy, long-lasting and surprisingly easy to grow, ornamental alliums bring globe-shaped blooms, pollinator appeal and architectural interest to late-spring gardens.

Alliums are fall-planted, spring- to early-summer-blooming bulbs that perform best in full sun and well-drained soil. They are hardy in much of the United States, attract pollinators, and add strong vertical structure to beds, borders, and cut-flower arrangements.

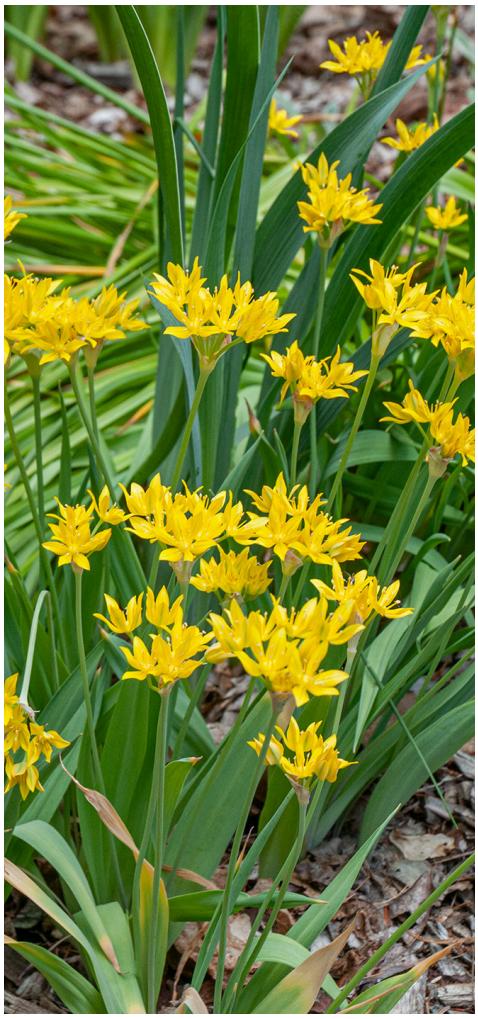
The genus Allium includes a variety of plants that have long been grown for food. Onions, garlic, leeks, shallots, and scallions are all alliums. But when a gardener hears the word “allium,” what immediately comes to mind are flowers, specifically spring-flowering bulbs.











Some of the Different Types of Allium:

Globemaster
More than 50 years after its introduction, Globemaster remains the king of the big alliums. First-year flower heads measure about 8 inches in diameter.

Ambassador
Perhaps the tallest and latest of the big balls on a stick. Grows to 4 feet and blooms with the first wave of roses.

Gladiator
5-inch heads of lilac-pink flowers on stems that measure 42-46 inches. Similar in color to Globemaster but blooms earlier.

Mount Everest
Similar in size to Gladiator, but as the name suggests, the flower heads are white. It flowers a little later than Gladiator.

Nigrum
Dome-shaped heads of creamy white flowers. The heads measure about 4 inches across. Late to bloom.

Purple Sensation
Early by the standards of alliums; Purple Sensation begins to bloom as soon as the late tulips wrap up.

Schubertii
The head, which is 10-12 inches across, consists of small pink flowers that appear at the end of long filaments.

Siculum
Formerly known as Nectaroscordum siculum. Commonly called honey garlic.

Sphaerocephalon
Drumstick allium. Perhaps the latest of the bulbous alliums; it waits until early summer to produce its wine-red flower heads.

Moly
The only yellow-flowered allium.

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ALLIUM GROWING TIPS

1.Are Alliums Popular with Pollinators?
Allium flowers attract a broad range of insect pollinators, including bees and wasps.
2.Do the Big Alliums Make Dramatic Cut Flowers?
Alliums are impressive in the garden, even more so in a vase. For the longest possible vase life, cut the stems as the first florets are opening.
3.Can Allium Flower Heads Be Cut and Dried?
Allium flower heads can be dried and will last indefinitely in a dried arrangement. Cut the heads before the flowers fade and hang the stems upside down to dry indoors.
4.Do Alliums Provide Architecture to the Garden?
While you're waiting for perennials and annuals to get up to speed, alliums rise up to fill the air with their intriguing spheres of bloom.
5.Can Alliums Be Left in the Garden After the Flowers Fade?
Allium flower heads continue to add structure to the garden for several weeks after the flowers are done.
6.Should You Think of Alliums as Bridge Plants?
Alliums help to fill the gap between tulips and daffodils and the summer-flowering perennials.
7.Does Allium Foliage Benefit from Camouflage?
Allium foliage starts to brown as the flower heads take on color; in some cases it has already browned before flowering time. To distract the eye from fading foliage, plant the bulbs among perennials.
8.Should You Plant in Fall for Spring Bloom?
Yes, Allium bulbs are only available in fall and must be planted in fall.
9.Are Alliums Easy-Care Plants?
Yes, Alliums don't want or need extra water, don't require special soil, don't need fertilizer.
10. Should You Go Easy on the Water?
Alliums need water from fall into spring but prefer to be dry during their summer dormancy. Supplemental irrigation in summer can cause the bulbs to rot.

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