



Secrets of bulb gardening...

Rich Santoro: The Bulb Guy

Of all the beautiful things you can plant in your backyard, nothing is easier than planting bulbs. Rich Santoro, nicknamed the "Bulb Guy" by the late Holly Hayes of the *San Jose Mercury News*, has got it down to a "science" after 28 years of practice.

"It's simple. The more you plant, the greater the odds that something will pop up," he says.

In 2009, he planted 2,300 bulbs for the Spring of 2010.

In 2012, he planted 5,202 bulbs for the of Spring 2013 plus 250 assorted potted arrangements. He estimates 90% of them will come up in his ½ acre garden.

The plantings take from September to December to complete and cost about \$700.00. Bulbs average 10 to 25 cents each.

"I give free bulb gardening classes to young and old. My hope is to enlighten people about how easy bulb gardening is and the joy that you get from it. That's what I teach the kids. I'm always amazed how little people know about this form of art and once they understand how easy it is, they get hooked just like me."

Rich's Garden is open free to the public usually the last week of March or the first week of April depending on when they bloom. Hours are 12:00 noon to 5pm.

To learn when the Garden opens, call Rich Santoro at 408.923.3121 or email: rich@the-bulbguy.com.

