

Overwintering Tender Bulbs

“Tender” Bulbs are defined as those that will not tolerate our cold Wisconsin winters and usually are the bulbs that you plant in the early spring when the ground warms. Care should be taken when storing them and can be done in the following way.

Caladium- Overwinters well packed in peat moss at 50 to 60 degrees (a little warmer than most bulbs prefer); tubers come in graded sizes—choose large size for the best results; start in house or greenhouse to extend growing time and size.

Canna- Very easy to store; rhizomes overwinter well in cardboard box covered with newspaper, no need to use peat moss; start early for best size and bloom.

Dahlia- Overwinters well packed in peat moss; check tuberous roots once a month for dehydration and mist with water if necessary; to divid, split tubers away from the stem.

Elephant Ear- Overwinter as houseplants in pots; if you’ve grown them in the ground, lift and pot up before first frosts; feed regularly and water often over the winter.

Gladiola- Overwinters well packed in peat moss; save the little corms that form around the mother corm to grow; stake as you plant so you don’t damage new corms as they form.

Glory Lily- Overwinters well packed in peat moss; check tuberous roots regularly for soft spots. Cut away any you find and let the root dry before storing it in fresh peat moss; plant the root flat and just below the soil surface.

Magic Lily or Belladonna Lily-Some winter hardy to zone 5; bulbs overwinter well packed in peat moss

Summer Hyacinth- Bulbs overwinter well packed in peat moss.

Taro-Overwinters well packed in peat moss; check tubers regularly for soft spots; cut away any bad areas and let