



## *garden plan*

# forced-bulb planter

by Ruth Rogers Clausen

### the plan at a glance

**1. Amaryllis** (*Hippeastrum* 'Orange Sovereign') 1 bulb planted in a 6" pot; 18" to 20" tall; large brilliant orange trumpet flowers, strap-shaped dark green foliage. In summer set the pot outdoors in a shady place to build strength for next year's bloom. Zones 9 to 10.

**2. Narcissus tazetta** 'Grand Soleil d'Or' 5 bulbs planted in a 6" pot; 12" to 14" tall; bright lemon yellow flowers centered with orange; sweetly fragrant. Can grow in soil or in pebbles with water. Zones 9 to 10.

**3. Narcissus tazetta** 'Cragford' 5 bulbs planted in a 6" pot; 12" to 14" tall; 3 to 5 white flowers accented with red-orange cups; intensely fragrant. Can grow in soil or in pebbles with water. Zones 9 to 10.

**4. Hyacinth** (*Hyacinthus* 'Delft Blue') 2 bulbs, each planted in a 4" pot; 6" to 8" tall; dense spikes of fragrant delphinium blue flowers. Chill for 10 to 12 weeks at about 40°F. Plant outdoors when ground is workable; will rebloom in 1 to 2 years. Zones 4 to 8.

**5. Crocus** (*Crocus vernus* 'Flower Record') 20 corms, 10 in each of two 4" pots; 4" to 6" tall; striking deep purple goblets with orange stigmas. Chill for 8 to 10 weeks at about 40°F. Plant outdoors when ground is workable; will rebloom in 1 to 2 years. Zones 4 to 8.

**6. Variegated table fern** (*Pteris cretica* 'Albolineata') 4 plants, each in a 3" pot; 10" to 15" tall; slender ribbonlike fingered leaves, with a white stripe down the center of each leaflet. Foliage acts as a contrasting foil for the flowering bulbs. Zones 9 to 10.

**7. English ivy** (*Hedera helix* 'Glacier') 8 plants, each in a 3" pot; 9" tall with trailing stems; dark green leaves marked with white. Trailing foliage softens the edges of the container. Zones 5 to 10.



Spring seems far away, but you can create a faux spring indoors for the holidays. All you need to do is trick some bulbs into thinking that winter is past. The bulb species selected here are all easy to force and will reward you with a spectacular and fragrant focal point in your living room or elsewhere. After bloom time, replace the pots of bulbs with other flowering or foliage plants. The ferns and ivy can remain year-round to display with other plants. Tuck in Spanish moss or sheet moss to camouflage the individual pots. 🌱

ILLUSTRATION: MICHELLE BURCHARD. SEE RESOURCES FOR DETAILS.

