

## Gardening Tips

### Bulbs

**By John Ferguson**

I love the fragrance of old-fashioned Hyacinths. As an experiment several years ago I ordered some species Hyacinths from a mail order company and I planted them in a clay pot (non-glazed) in a gravelly potting mix.

They have returned for the 8th straight year. They get morning sun and afternoon shade which prevents the soil from heating up. The porous nature of the clay pot allows for evaporative cooling of the soil and the above ground position of the pot allows for the soil to get much cooler during cold weather providing extra chill hours.

The gravelly nature of the potting mix ensures excellent drainage. I suspect this approach will work for other bulbs that are marginal in our area.