

## **Bulb Planting at Bayard Cutting Arboretum**

November 15, 2018 , 1:00PM

On November 15 at Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Cornell University will be demonstrating the “in-grass bulb planting machine” that Bill Miller’s Flower Bulb Research Program has been testing for the last year. This simple, tractor mounted machine plants bulbs under the sod with minimal disturbance. It lifts the sod, drops bulbs under, and replaces it...all in one pass (and with no digging!). It can plant mixtures of bulbs (for example, crocus, daffodils, scilla and grape hyacinths) to provide long-lived color blends, or can create swaths of mono-color plantings for bright accents. It is highly appropriate for large commercial or municipal landscapes where color and pollinator-friendly habitats are desired. The machine greatly reduces the labor involved with bulb plantings. There is no bed preparation and no handling of individual bulbs!

This kind of planter has been in use in Europe for more than 10 years and has led to landscapes that are vibrant with spring color, and that have lower maintenance due to reduced mowing as the foliage dies back after planting. Experiments are underway in Ithaca to better estimate the earliest possible mowing dates that will not compromise future bulb perennialization.

A short video of the planter can be found

at <https://blogs.cornell.edu/hort/2017/11/07/bulb-planting-made-easy/>

The demonstration will begin at 1 pm on Thursday November 15, at Bayard Cutting Arboretum, where nearly 100,000 bulbs will be planted in conjunction with the Arboretum and Cornell staff. All interested parties are welcome to see this very interesting and effective technology.

Bayard Cutting Arboretum  
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