



Protecting Fall Bulbs from Squirrels

Squirrels love to dig up freshly planted bulbs — especially tulips and crocuses. Luckily, with a few simple tricks, you can enjoy beautiful spring blooms without feeding the local wildlife!

Choosing the Right Bulbs

- Less appealing to squirrels: Daffodils, alliums, hyacinths, fritillaria, and snowdrops. These are beautiful options and unpalatable to squirrels.
- More likely to be dug up: Tulips and crocuses (use extra protection when planting these).



Planting Strategies

- Plant later in the season: Plant bulbs later in the fall (late October–early November), when soil is cool and squirrels are less active. This gives bulbs time to root before winter, while avoiding peak digging season.
- Disguise disturbed soil: Smooth and cover with mulch so squirrels don't notice fresh digging.
- Mix plantings: Combine tasty tulips with daffodils or alliums to deter nibbling.

Physical Barriers

- Chicken wire or bulb cages: Place mesh over bulbs before covering with soil/mulch. Roots and shoots grow through, but squirrels can't dig in.
- Garden netting: Lay across the soil surface after planting until the ground freezes.

Repellents & Deterrents

- Natural repellents: Sprinkle blood meal, bone meal, or pelletized hen manure over the planting area. Hen manure is also a natural fertilizer, and will help deter rabbits in the spring!
- Commercial repellents: Safe, animal-deterrent sprays are available. Reapply after rain.