



Muscari Facts

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Muscari (*Muscari armeniacum*)

One of the first plants to appear in early spring, about the same time as tulips is Muscari, better known as grape hyacinth. This fragrant low growing brilliant blue or white flowers resemble tiny bunches of grapes.

History and Habits of Muscari

Native to the Mediterranean and Southeast Asia, they do well in our climate and are not bothered by deer and rodents. Bulbs should be planted in clumps due to their short height giving a dramatic effect along borders, around trees and under shrubs. They bloom the same time tulips do and look great planted amongst them. Every few years, the bulbs can be relocated slightly after blooming as they do tend to clump. You can expect bulbs to multiply themselves and increase in numbers.

Varieties to Grow

Look for names like 'Blue Spike' and 'Early Giant' which produce the largest and showiest flowers. The most cultivated variety is called *Muscari armeniacum*. When buying bulbs, look for the largest ones which will give you a stronger plant.

How to Plant and Grow Muscari

Plant in the fall after first frost in well drained soil in full sun or light shade. Adding some compost to the hole before placing the bulbs will help to give your bulbs the best start. After flowers fade, leave foliage to continue to grow until it yellows. Muscari sometimes produce a second foliage in the fall to gather more energy for next years flowers. Muscari need little attention and should result in blooms for years to come.