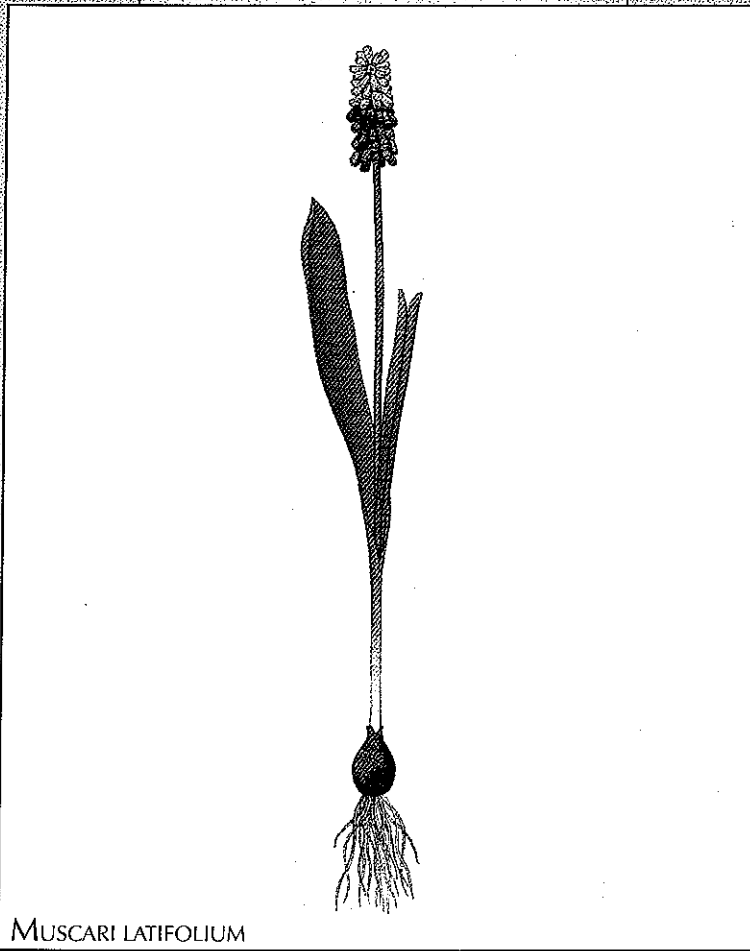


# MUSCARI



MUSCARI LATIFOLIUM

LILIACEAE

# MUSCARI

PLANT

**Muscari**

common name: Grape hyacinth

FAMILY

**Liliaceae**

## POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS

Varieties	Cut Flower	Pot Plant	Garden Plant	Naturalizing
M. armeniacum	Dec-Apr	Dec-Apr	++	++
M. aucheri	— —	— —	++	++
M. botryoides	Dec-Apr	Dec-Apr	++	++
M. comosum	— —	— —	++	++
M. latifolium	— —	— —	++	++

## GENERAL

### ▶ plant habit

- height
- flower colour and shape
- leaf colour and shape
- inflorescence

± 15 cm  
flower cluster of blue or white globe-shaped flowers  
foliage is dark green and narrow  
M. comosum: greenish, fertile flowers on the bottom of the cluster, topped with purple sterile flowers.

M. comosum 'Plumosum': violet, strongly and irregularly branched.

### ▶ original habitat

southern Europe, northern Africa, western Asia

### ▶ climatic preference

cool, temperate

# LILIACEAE

# MUSCARI

- ▶ **type of bulb** (perennial part of the plant) bulb
  - ▶ **winter hardiness** fairly winter hardy
  - ▶ **sizes available + flower production**
    - M. armeniacum:  
6/7: 1 flower/bulb
    - 7/8: 1 flower/bulb
    - 8/9: 1-1½ flowers/bulb
    - 9/10: 2 flowers/bulb
    - 10/+ : 3 flowers/bulb
  - M. botryoides: 5 cm up
  - M. comosum: 6 cm up
- ▶ **period of availability** August - December
  - ▶ **method of storage** 25-20°C with good ventilation. After October 1, store at 17°C. After digging up, heat with open ventilators at 25°C after which temperature can drop to 20°C.

## CUT FLOWER CULTIVATION

### GENERAL

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- degree of difficulty** normal to force into bloom
- varieties**
  - Forcing in flats in warm glasshouse:* almost exclusively M. armeniacum and selections.
  - Forcing plants grown directly in soil:* (in, for instance a mobile glasshouse in mid-December) Plant in October-November. After a cold period of ± 15 weeks, warm the glasshouse or cover the crop with a mobile glasshouse.
  - M. armeniacum flowers in the second half of February. M. botryoides blooms at the beginning of March.
- disinfect soil before planting** if there are problems with grey bulb rot or Rhizoctonia tuliparum.

# MUSCARI

<b>type of soil</b>	well drained soil which can hold moisture, pH $\pm$ 7, free of disease germs
<b>fertilizer</b>	Because the cultivation period is so short, no fertilizer is needed.
<b>planting depth</b>	grown inside: 1-2 cm of soil covering bulb grown outside: 3-5 cm of soil covering bulb
<b>watering</b>	During cold period keep soil moist. Immediately after housing, water well. During cultivation, provide a moderate amount of water.
<b>plant protection</b>	Disinfect bulbs before planting and, if necessary before storage. During dry storage, provide good ventilation.
<b>protection from frost</b>	Use a light cover of straw because the bulbs are only moderately winter hardy. Remove straw in time to avoid excessive growth of foliage. In case of excessive foliage growth, the leaves can be removed one week earlier and kept in plastic in a cold store room.
<b>flower production</b>	depends on size of bulb. Glasshouse period lasts $\pm$ 3 weeks.
<b>cutting stage</b>	First (lowest) flowers must exhibit good colour.

## MUSCARI FOR FREEZER CELL

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After harvesting bulbs, store them at 23°C until October 1 and then at 20° until planting in mid-November - early December. Then let them slowly develop roots while keeping a temperature of 9°C. When they have developed sufficient roots, freeze them as with tulips (this can be accomplished in a tulip freezing store room). The soil must be kept sufficiently moist. At the moment, this rule applies only to *M. armeniacum*.

## CULTIVATION IN POTS

### GENERAL

<b>degree of difficulty</b>	normal
<b>variety</b>	<i>M. armeniacum</i> ( <i>M. botryoides</i> )
<b>storage</b>	20°C with good ventilation. After October 1, store at 17°C. Cold period lasts 13-15 weeks.
<b>bulb size</b>	9-10, 10 cm and up
<b>watering</b>	moderate
<b>glasshouse climate</b>	15-17°C. 3 weeks after housing in the glasshouse later on in the season they flower after only 2 weeks.
<b>Growth inhibitors</b>	Inhibit foliage growth by slowing down cultivating methods.
<b>plant protection</b>	Disinfect before planting (if necessary, before storage). Keep ventilated during dry storage. To protect against frost damage if grown outside, use a light covering of straw.
<b>type of compost</b>	well drained compost which can hold moisture, or standard potting compost + extra sand.
<b>planting depth</b>	The top of the bulb should be just visible.
<b>planting period</b>	October-December (Plant 4 weeks before housing, if wet cooling is used)
<b>number per pot</b>	± 4 bulbs per 7 cm Ø pot 5 to 7 bulbs per 9 cm Ø pot
<b>keeping quality</b>	good, if not placed in a warm spot
<b>location/climatic preference</b>	in the living room or around the house, if arranged in bowls and containers.

# MUSCARI

## BEDDING AND GARDEN PLANTING

### GENERAL

- degree of difficulty** easy
- varieties** all varieties
- type of soil** practically any moisture retaining soil (pH  $\pm$  7)
- planting period** September-December (until heavy frost)
- winter hardiness** moderate. Requires no extra cover if winter is only moderately severe.
- location** Can withstand shade but prefers sunny location. If soil is extra heavy, it is advisable to protect the soil from becoming impenetrable by covering it with tree bark or something similar.
- planting depth** 6-8 cm soil covering the bulb
- planting density**  $\pm$  150-200 bulbs per m<sup>2</sup> (for a blue carpet) Can be used for large scale landscaping, or planted in small bunches of  $\pm$  20 bulbs.
- flowering period** from mid-March (depending on the variety) to June.

### RECOMMENDED PLANT COMBINATIONS (MIXED PLANT BORDERS)

Examples of bedding and garden applications

Species	Border	Beds	Perennial Garden	Container	Naturalizing
<i>M. armeniacum</i>	++	++	++	++	++
<i>M. aucheri</i>	++	++	+	++	+
<i>M. botryoides</i>	++	++	+	++	++
<i>M. comosum</i>	++	++	+	++	+
<i>M. latifolium</i>	++	++	+	++	+

*Mixed plant border:* *M. armeniacum*, *M. botryoides* with miniature narcissi and/or botanical or low-growing garden tulips (or with other plants and shrubs)

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