



# BULB BOTANY

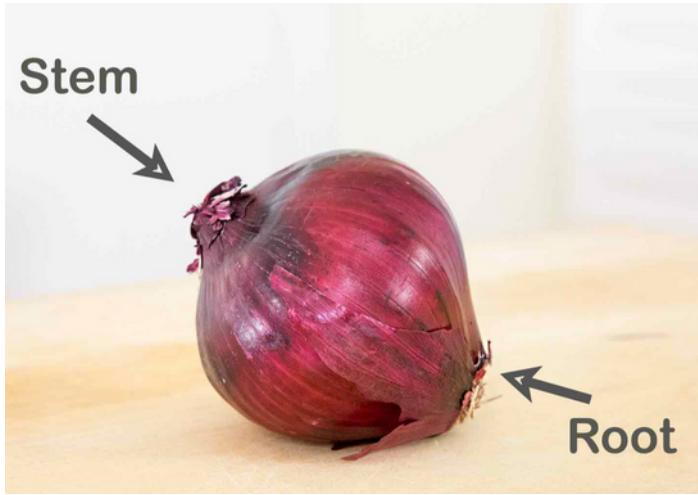


*Flowering Freesia from its "corm" bulb*

- The word bulb is loosely used by gardeners to describe plants growing from an underground mass of food storage tissues.
- Bulbs store enough food to enable them to grow and flower with no additional nutrients during the first year.
- The storage tissue is like the bulb's lunch box – a big lunch box packed with enough food for the whole growing season!



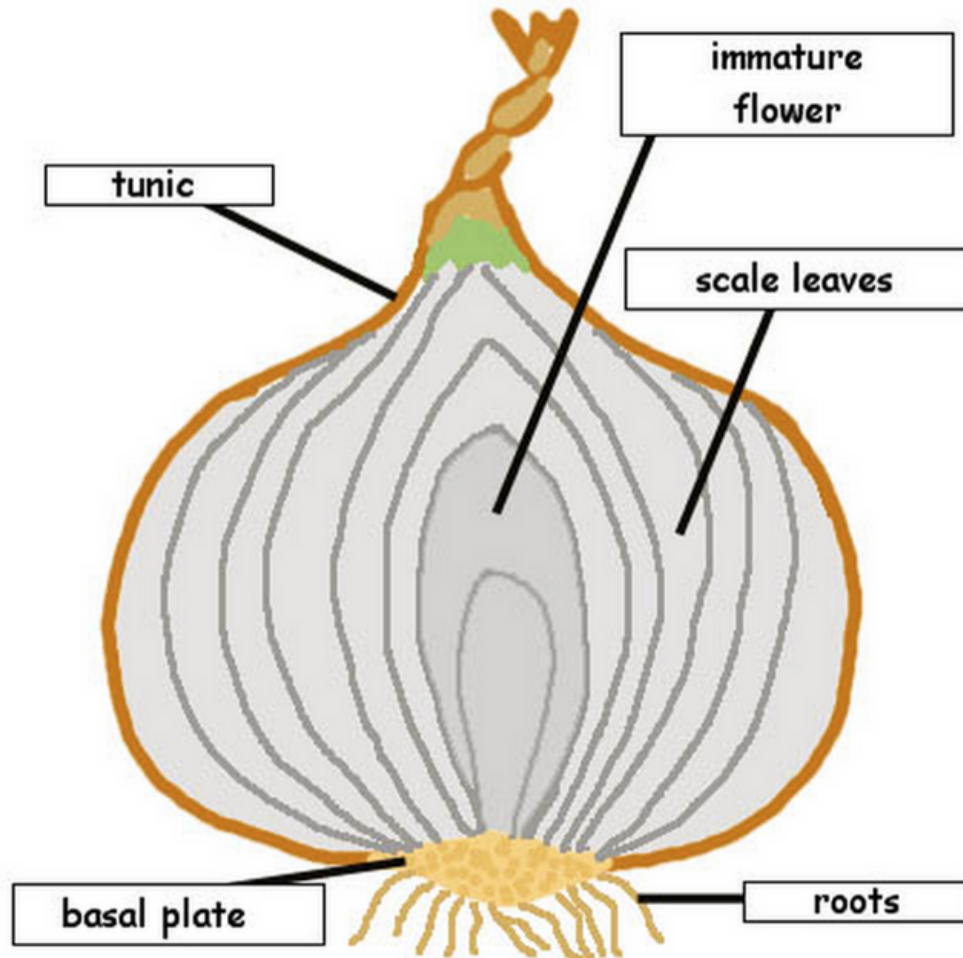
# TRUE BULBS



- **A true bulb** is a modified stem containing a complete miniature plant including embryonic leaf, stem and flower parts surrounded by fleshy scales (provide food for the young plant) and a basal plate (produces roots).
- Some true bulbs, called **tunicate bulbs**, are also surrounded by a thin protective layer called a tunic. The best example of a true bulb is the onion. The rings you see when you slice an onion in half are actually leaves modified to hold food for the bulb when it is dormant. Garlic too is a true bulb. Common flowering true bulbs include tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, amaryllis, lilies, and Dutch iris.

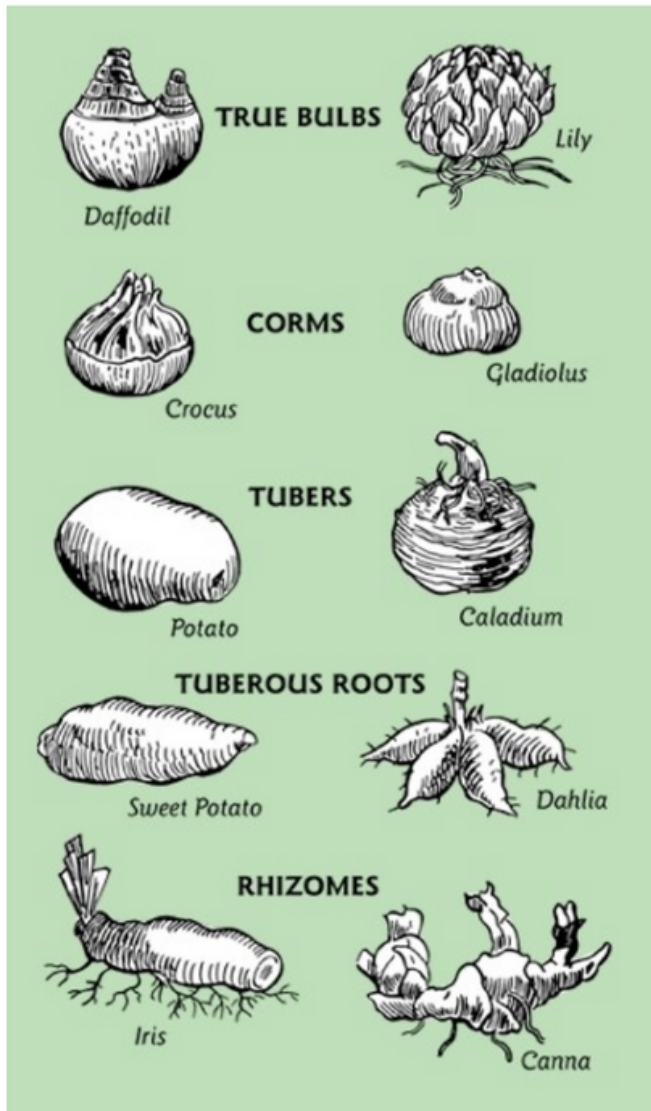


# PARTS OF A BULB





# CORMS, TUBERS, AND RHIZOMES



Bulb Types, University of Georgia  
Extension

- Some other plants we think of as bulbs are botanically not considered true bulbs because they do not contain the parts listed above and are more accurately called “bulb-like” structures. These include **corms, tubers, and rhizomes**.
- A freesia is botanically a **corm**. A corm differs from a bulb because it stores most of its food in an enlarged basal plate rather than in its scales (as you see in the onion).
- **Tubers**, such as dahlias and begonias, differ from true bulbs because their new stems and roots grow from “eyes” on their surface.
- **Rhizomes** are horizontal underground stems that produce shoots and roots. Examples of rhizomes include calla lilies and cannas.





# GUESS THAT FLOWER!

1



2



3



4



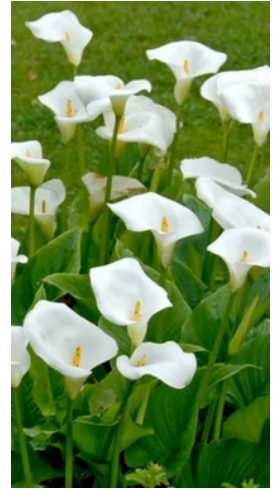
5



6



7



**Can you name the flowers pictured above?**

**Bonus:** Which grow from "true bulbs"

**Extra Challenge:** If not grown from a "true bulb", which do they grow from? (corms, tubers, or rhizomes)

Answers from right to left: 7 calla lily (rhizomes), 6 freesia (corm), 5 dahlia (tuberous root/tubers), 4 daffodil (bulb), 3 dutch iris (bulb), 2 tulip (bulb), 1 blue bells (bulb)



# KEUKENHOF: FAMOUS TULIP GARDEN



Tulips from Holland are world famous. The Dutch tulip fields are in full bloom in April and May. This is the same period in which the biggest flower park in the world, Keukenhof, opens its doors. Keukenhof is a park where more than 7 million flower bulbs are planted every year. Check out your "Bonus Activities" for a virtual walking tour of this magnificent garden!