

## Fritillaria - Growing Guide

### Growing Fritillaria

We offer *F. imperialis* (crown imperial) and *F. megalaris* (snake's head fritillary) and both require very different treatment and care in the garden. Both are bulbous perennials but crown imperials come from Turkey to Kashmir while snake's heads are native to southern England and on through Europe as an attractive wild flower.

*F. imperialis* in its orange or yellow flowering forms need fertile well drained soil in full sun. They do well in a border dug over before planting with dung or compost and make good early season colour in a walled garden. The bulbs should be planted at a depth around four times the size of the bulb itself (say 8-10in deep). The bulbs rot easily in waterlogged locations. At Mount Congreve garden near Cork they are grown at the highest point in a huge sloping walled garden. The leaves appear above ground first as lance shaped whorls. In early summer a tall flowering spike of about 3-4ft in height with up to half a dozen bell-shaped orange or yellow pendant flowers. Above the flowers is a cluster of leaf-like bracts. Seed can be sown in autumn and transferred to the greenhouse only after germination in the spring. Alternatively the bulbs can be lifted and offsets or bulbils removed for growing on elsewhere.



*Fritillaria imperialis* 'Lutea'



*Fritillaria imperialis* 'Lutea'



*Fritillaria imperialis*  
'Orange Beauty'



*Fritillaria imperialis*  
'Orange Beauty'



*Fritillaria imperialis*  
'Orange Beauty'



*Fritillaria imperialis* 'Rubra'



*Fritillaria imperialis* 'Rubra'



*Fritillaria imperialis* 'Rubra'



*Fritillaria imperialis* 'Rubra'



*Fritillaria imperialis* 'Rubra'



*Fritillaria meleagris*



*Fritillaria meleagris*



*Fritillaria meleagris*



*Fritillaria meleagris*

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