

Pelican Pete's Backyard Adventures™

Nature Discoveries and Outdoor Fun

Bulb Blankets

DID YOU KNOW?

Many plants put themselves in storage for the winter. Tulips, lilies, daffodils, and onions are some that create bulbs. Inside, a bulb stores a compressed stem, modified leaves called scales, and energy to grow a new plant.

An adaptation requires the bulb to spend a certain amount of time chilled. This prevents new sprouts from beginning to grow during unseasonably warm days. The plant might freeze and die if tender young shoots are exposed too soon.

A bulb blankets the stored plant parts underground through long, cold winters, keeping them safe and snug!

GET OUTDOORS!

Ask for permission to dig in a small area. Can you find plant bulbs? Do you see other types of underground storage organs such as tubers or roots? Look for more ways plants store energy through the winter. Can you see seeds, nuts, berries, pinecones, and acorns?

Make a Guessing Garden! Gather and plant some of the seeds you found. When sprouting, guess what they are.

Play Springing Sprout! Squat close to the ground like a sprout, and count how many times in a row you can spring up without stopping.

*Bulbs keep us safe through winter's breeze
And blanket us so we don't freeze.
When we emerge from underground,
We'll wear a lovely flower crown!*

