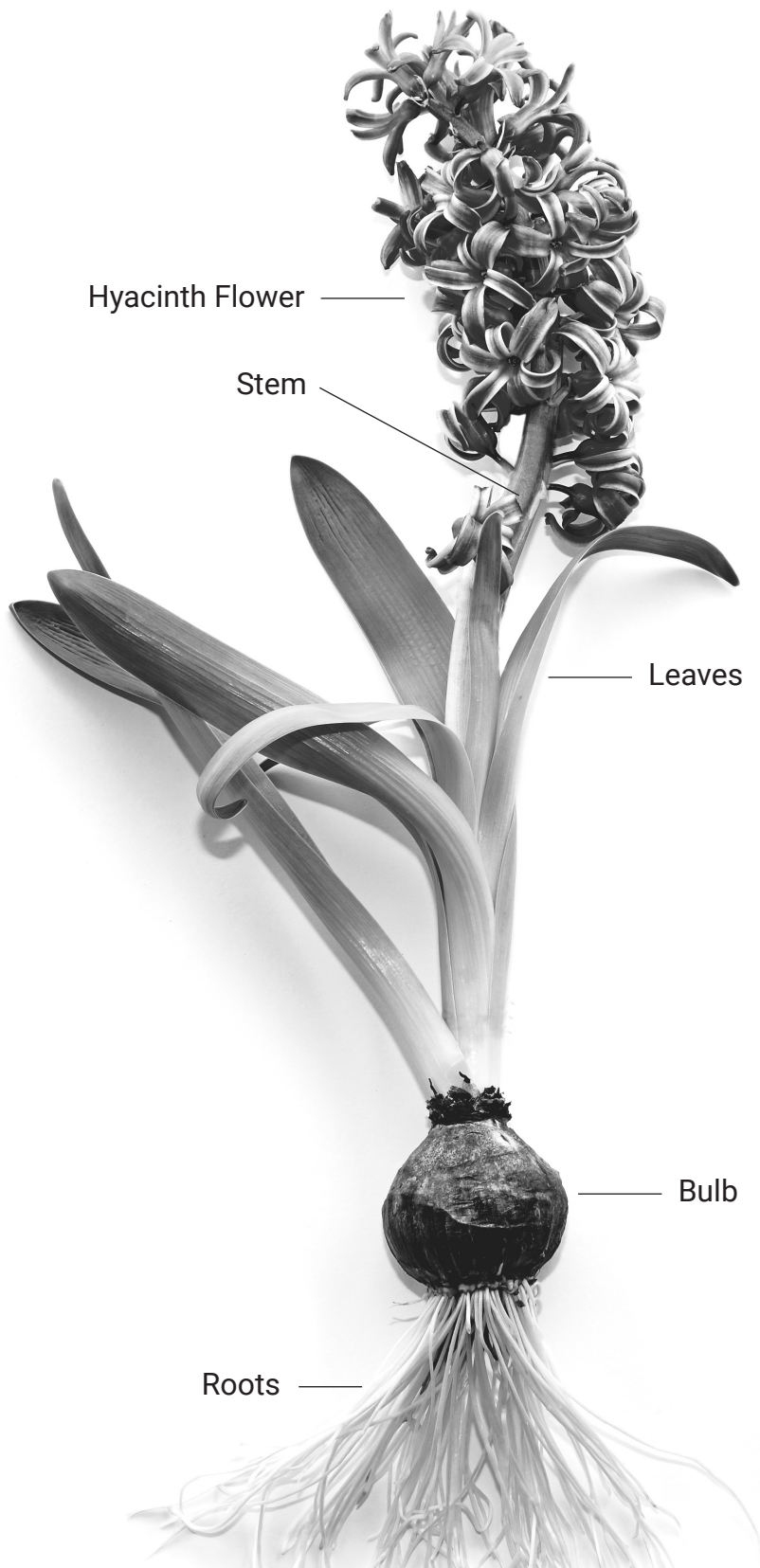


HOW FLOWERING BULBS GROW



For a flowering bulb to grow, it has to start out dormant (dry and not growing). A bulb may take only a few days or as long as a few weeks to begin to grow.

Bulbs that bloom in the spring are planted in the fall and develop roots during the cool weather. When the bulb feels the warmer weather in the spring, it sprouts. The roots continue to grow down into the soil, the stem and the leaves begin to grow up into the air, and the bud (future flower) appears.

What makes a bulb grow?

Inside the bulb are cells that grow into roots, stems, leaves, and flowers. Once the plant starts to grow up out of the soil, it uses water, air, and sunlight to make food.

The roots absorb water and nutrients from the soil, and cells carry the water up through the stem to the rest of the plant.

The cells in the leaves contain a green chemical called chlorophyll. When sunlight hits the leaves, the chlorophyll collects energy. The leaves also absorb carbon dioxide (CO_2) from the air.

In a process called photosynthesis, all of these things—energy from sunlight, carbon dioxide from the air, and water and nutrients from the soil—combine to make food for the plant. The plant uses the energy from the food to grow, and it stores some of the food for later in its leaves and roots.

FIVE STEPS TO PLANT A BULB



1

Select a pot that is at least 6 inches in diameter and has a hole in the bottom for drainage.



2

Fill the pot halfway with clean soil.



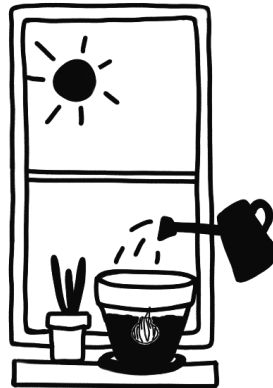
3

Make a hole in your soil that is deep enough to hold the entire bulb.



4

Place the bulb in the soil with the root side on the bottom. Add enough soil to cover the bulb, but make sure that any leaves are still above the soil.



5

Place a plate or saucer under the pot to capture run-off water. Lightly water the pot and keep it in a sunny location—a windowsill is a great place.

Watch our how-to video for more tips for potting your flowering bulbs!

Find the video at eastman.org/kids

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