

Mrs. Rebecca Homeowner
201 5th Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 26789

October 10, 2018

Ms. Kerri Foles, Horticulture Specialist
Apple Blossom Agriculture Center
615 W. King Street
Pleasantville, IN 55555

Dear Ms. Foles:

It is time to set spring blooming bulbs and I really enjoy having the early spring color they produce in my landscape. Last year, I planted over 500 tulips, crocus and daffodil bulbs in the border of my yard. I had very few that survived the winter as they were dug up and eaten by squirrels. I found that most of the tulip and crocus bulbs were dug up and at least partially eaten by the pesky critters before they had a chance to come up and bloom. The squirrels were constantly digging them up!

I would like to try, once again, to set out bulbs. It is too much work and very expensive to have them destroyed by squirrels. Do you have any suggestions for preventing squirrels from digging up bulbs?

Sincerely,

Rebecca Homeowner

Based on the information provided by Ms. Homeowner, your response may include the following:

Problem Diagnosis: Squirrels think crocus and tulip bulbs are gourmet food!

Recommendation:

- Consider planting just daffodils; squirrels do not normally bother daffodils; they are available in many colors of yellow/orange and are toxic to squirrels
- Repellents containing capsaicin help deter squirrels
- Oil of mustard, peppermint oil and vinegar are deterrents if sprayed over the area
- Repellents must be reapplied after each rain
- Put down a layer of fabric weed control, punch holes in the fabric and plant the bulbs through the fabric. Mulch the area when finished.
- Another option is to plant the bulbs and put down chicken wire over the planted area. Mulch over the area. This gives fairly good results over a longer period of time.