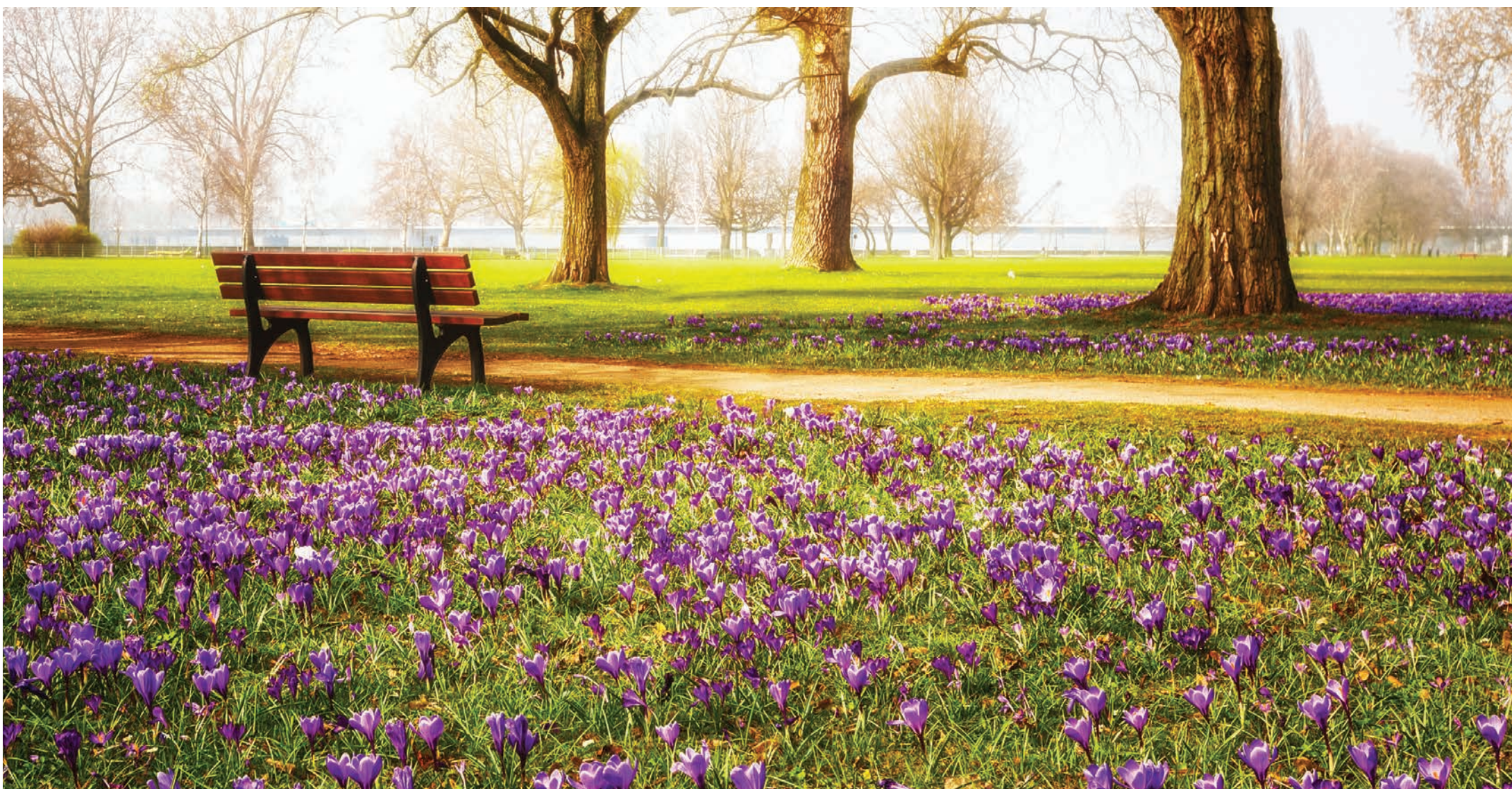
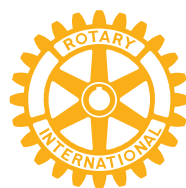


Purple *L* Polio

PLANTING GUIDE



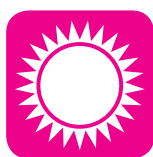
Rotary
Great Britain & Ireland



Purple 4 Polio

PLANTING GUIDE

Step 1 Choosing a site



Crocuses (*Crocus tommasinianus*) like a sunny spot where the soil does not get waterlogged in winter. Some shade from deciduous trees will be acceptable, but avoid planting too close to the trunks and never under evergreen trees.

The best results will come from planting in lawned areas or on grass banks, but bear in mind that the grass will need to be left unmown until the crocus leaves die down naturally. This may look untidy so choose a site where the longer grass will blend in with its surroundings. It is also important to avoid areas where the public are likely to walk over during the growing and flowering months of January to March.



You will need a site of up to 50 square metres to accommodate your 5,000 corms. An area this size will provide a less intense and more natural effect but you could plant them in an area as small as 10 square feet if you want a smaller but fuller grouping. The corms will increase in future years to give an improved show each year. If you're looking to add some variety to the display, crocuses mix well with other flowers such as Snowdrops.



If you decide the only site for your crocuses is planting in turned or prepared soil such as an existing flower bed there is a danger that squirrels or other rodents may eat them so please ensure that they are pushed well in to at least 3 cm (1½ inches) and the ground is heeled in firmly afterwards. It is still possible for them to be used as a food source rather than being left to grow and flower!

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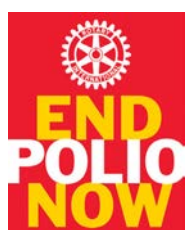
Step 2 *Care of corms on delivery*



17°C

Plant the corms as soon as you are ready, the sooner the better. If you need to store them for a while ahead of planting, choose a dry place with a temperature around 17°C.

A garage or garden shed would be perfect, but be sure to protect them from mice by keeping them raised off the floor.



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Step 3 Planting the corms



If you are planting on grass, it must be mowed as short as possible then given a heavy watering to thoroughly soak the soil.

Using spades

Using the spade slice under the top of the turf at a depth of two to three inches (like you see with a roll of turf). Lift the turf up enough for you to place 5 corms then release the turf back down.

Using forks

Use a sturdy four-pronged garden fork to make planting holes by pressing the fork about 10cm (4 inches) into the soil and shifting the soil to make holes wide enough to take the corms.

Make lines of holes 20cm (8 inches) apart, but stagger them to avoid a regimented look. Don't attempt this in dry soil. Push the corms into the holes down to about 3cm (1½ inches). Use a stiff broom to brush sand over the grass after planting to fill the holes. The sand can be builder's sand and a 25kg bag per 5,000 crocus corms is likely to be all you will need.

With a team of five people, the job should take about two to three hours at a leisurely pace and allowing for a well-deserved tea break!

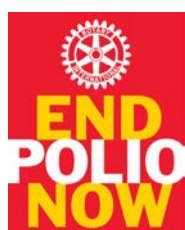
The partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society's Bloom Groups allows Rotary clubs to spread their reach across the community and get even more people involved. This could include schools or youth groups.



Please be sure to take some clear, high resolution photos of the work in progress so you can use the draft media releases and social media templates to get publicity in your local area. Photos of the planting in progress provides an engaging picture which will help bring the event to life!

We would also welcome photos being sent to Communications Administrator James Bolton (james.bolton@rotarygbi.org) so we can add them to the Rotary website Purple4Polio photo gallery.

Please ensure your participants are happy to appear in these photographs which may appear locally, nationally and even internationally.



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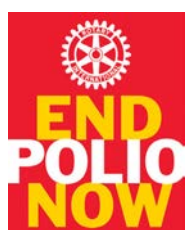
PLANTING GUIDE

Step 4 After care



Growth should be straightforward and trouble-free. Remember to get some more photos when the plants are in flower. Choose a sunny day when the flowers will open fully; on dull days they won't look quite so impressive.

Once the crocuses have finished flowering, the leaves must be left uncut until they die down naturally. Don't mow until the leaves have died right back which will then help to improve the display each year. The display should remain pest-free and do not use any lawn weed killers while the crocus leaves are visible.



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