

About This Plant

Tulips are widely considered the most popular flowering bulb in the world. They are available in a vast number of colors, sizes and bloom types. Tulips are often planted in the fall for color the following spring. Planting in the fall allows the bulb to receive the proper amount of cool temperatures to successfully produce a beautiful flower. Spring blooming bulbs should receive at least 9 weeks of cold temperatures. To extend blooming throughout spring, choose a wide selection of early, mid and late season Tulips. Tulips also make wonderful cut flowers and can be harvested for use indoors. More and more gardeners are also planting Tulips in containers. These containers are great for adding a splash of color to outdoor patios in the spring.

How to Plant

- Plant Tulips 4-6" deep, 3-4" apart.
 - For the most appealing effect, plant in clusters of 10 or more bulbs. Avoid planting in a straight line.
 - Prepare the area for planting by conditioning the soil and ensuring proper drainage.
 - As with most spring blooming bulbs, Tulips do not like soggy soil conditions.
 - Water thoroughly after planting. Add 2-4" of mulch in colder climates.
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How to Water

- For Tulips planted in the ground, water after planting in fall and again when plants begin to grow in the spring. During long dry periods in winter, additional water may be necessary.
 - Tulips planted in containers may require more frequent watering than plants in the ground.
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How to Fertilize

- Bulb growers recommend fertilizing in the early fall when the bulbs are putting out new roots and in the spring after blooming.
 - The common formulation 9-9-6 is ideal for most types of bulbs.
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How to Prune

- Remove spent flowering stems to keep plants tidy and to redirect energy into the bulbs.
- Only prune dead or completely yellowed foliage as the leaves of bulbs act to collect energy for the next year's display.
- Use proper tools such as shears, hand pruners and garden scissors. Make sure all equipment is clean and sharp.