

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO PLANT FOR MY AREA?

They must be planted in the fall rather than in the spring because they require a long period of cool temperatures (minimum 6 weeks) in order to encourage flower bud initiation. If you live in Zones 8 and below, plant as soon as the ground is cool, when evening temperatures average between 40-50 degrees F. You should plant at least six weeks before the ground freezes. If necessary store bulbs for a month or longer in a cool dry place like your garage or basement.

If you live in Zones 9 and above, planting fall bulbs in warm climates requires pre-chilling in order to bloom. To pre-chill, leave bulbs in their bags and place in a refrigerator for 6-10 weeks. Be careful not to store near fruit, especially apples, because ripening fruit gives off ethylene gas which can damage or kill the flower inside the bulb.

ARE THESE DEER RESISTANT?

No. Deer enjoy tulips just like they do lily bulbs, so if deer present a problem in your area, we suggest inter-planting various deer resistant plants around your tulips to deter the deer. The smell of the deer resistant bulbs will very likely discourage deer. Some other nice spring flowering, deer resistant bulbs are daffodils, hyacinths, fritillaria, allium, anemone, and crocus. However, if the deer are hungry enough, they will eat the tulips as well as the other plants around them.

CAN TULIPS BE GROWN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY?

Yes. Tulips are quite tolerant of cold and appreciate the cold especially with a covering of snow, and are grown to the Canadian border. Tulips can also be grown in the South with the exception of southern Florida which is free of frost. A cold treatment whether natural or induced, is necessary for flower bud initiation.

WILL TULIPS GROW IN THE SHADE?

Tulips will grow in very light shade, but the blooms may appear a little later than normal. They do best in full sun. Avoid areas of dense shade on the north side of buildings. They look fabulous underneath deciduous or non-evergreen trees; your tulips will be blooming while those trees are still leafless.

HOW COME MY TULIPS ARE NOT BLOOMING PROFUSELY LIKE THEY ONCE DID?

As you may already know tulips are a bit different than other spring flowering bulbs. For instance, daffodils are dependable perennials returning year after year with more vigor and blooms than previously. Tulips, even though classified as a perennial are somewhat different. Although for its spectacular beauty, it's one of easiest flowers to grow successfully in the garden; however, getting a tulip to bloom profusely in the second and third season is a bit more challenging. Most tulip-lovers are content with treating their tulips like annuals, re-planting each fall. In short, the answer lies with the soil and climate conditions. They're at their perennial best in conditions that match their native homeland of the Himalayas and eastern Turkey. They really need very cold winters and hot, dry summers similar to their native regions.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE FOLIAGE AFTER THE BLOOMS HAVE FADED IN THE SPRING?

When dealing with perennial bulbs such as tulips and for the most flowers the next season, you should treat the foliage with respect. It actually stores the bulb's energy through photosynthesis and helps the bulb prepare for blooming next year, so don't cut it back. It's ok to remove the spent flower but be sure to leave the stem intact. After a while the foliage will look a little rough, but keep it in place for at least 8 weeks after the flower fades or until the foliage withers and dies back.

DO GROUNDCOVERS PROHIBIT THEM FROM COMING UP?

Avoid planting these amongst deeply rooted groundcovers such as pachysandra and ivy, but they will grow right through shallow-rooted or succulent groundcovers such as stonecrop and creeping phlox.



Our Warranty (Perennials)

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. If you have any questions regarding your order please call us at 1-800-428-9726 during the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm EST.

You can email questions to us at:
plantquestions@robertasinc.com.

If your bulbs, cuttings etc. do not sprout, or your plant dies within one year from the date of shipment, we will send you a replacement free of charge. We cannot accept responsibility for losses due to extreme weather or neglect. Simply call us at the above toll free number or fill out the plant replacement form on our website at www.robertasinc.com.

Roberta's will replace it with a similar or comparable plant at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will ship the following year.

Neither the retailer nor any other company involved in the sale or promotion of this product is a co-warrantor of this plant warranty.

Plant Hardiness Zone Map



9a to 11	7a	6a	5a
8a to 8b	6b	5bs to 5bn	3a to 4b
7b			



1-800-428-9726

Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 4:30PM EST

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ROBERTA'S GARDENS PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



Late, Double Blooming Tulip Collection (Tulipa Double Late Blooming hybrids)



QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE:	Full to Partial Sun
USDA HARDINESS ZONES:	3-8
PLANT TYPE	Perennial
PLANTING DISTANCE:	3-6" (if planted in a group- 9 bulbs per sq. ft.)
MATURE HEIGHT/SPREAD:	16-20 inches 2-4 inches
BLOOM TIME:	May (Late in tulip season)
PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS: <small>(soil preparation, depth, which end is up, etc.)</small>	Remove plastic bag and/or sleeve from around the bulbs. Discard any packing material clinging to the bulbs. Plant in the fall before the ground freezes.

PLANTING GUIDE

1 STEP	Remove plastic bag and/or sleeve from around the bulbs. Discard any packing material clinging to the bulbs.
2 STEP	Plant in the garden when evening temperatures average between 40-50F degrees, but before the ground freezes.
3 STEP	Rather than in the garden you may plant into large containers.
4 STEP	Planted now, they will produce flowers in early spring. To encourage more flowers, feed with Roberta's Gardens Hawaiian Flower Magic (M7503).

CONTINUING CARE

SHELF LIFE
Plant into garden when the night temperatures average 40 to 50 degrees F. If necessary store bulbs for a month or longer in a cool, dry place like your garage or basement.

PLANT PREPARATION
Remove any packing material clinging to the bulbs. They will look like a small onion with a spike or point on one side and sometimes with wiry roots growing out of one end. Plant with the pointed side up.

POTTED PLANTS
Rather in the garden you may plant into large containers. Make sure the containers have adequate drainage holes. Any commercially available potting soil will work fine. Plant them with the pointed side up and 6-7 inches below the soil surface and 5-6 inches apart. When planting in containers, you can cluster them a little closer together. Water thoroughly in order to settle the soil around the bulbs. Roots will develop in the autumn and may develop foliage in warm winter areas. It is recommended to overwinter pots in an unheated garage and then pull the pots outside in February or March to a full or partially sunny location.

SOIL PREPARATION
Tulips prefer a moderately fertile, well-drained soil. Amending your soil may be needed if you have a clay type soil.

GARDEN LOCATION
These can be planted almost anywhere, except in dense shade on the north side of buildings. They prefer a full to half day of sun. Plant them with the pointed side up and 6-7 inches deep and 5-6 inches apart. Water in well and settle the soil around the bulbs. They will grow right through groundcovers like creeping phlox and thyme, but avoid planting amongst other deeply rooted groundcovers like ivy and pachysandra. Wherever you plant them, make sure the soil drains well because they may rot in soggy soil conditions or fail to flower properly.

PLANTING DEPTH AND SPACING
Plant your tulips 5-6 inches apart and 6-7 inches below the soil surface with the pointy end up. If you can't figure out which side is the top, plant it on its side and it will find its way up through the soil. Deeper planting depths are better in colder regions. They like to be planted in groups, so it is recommended to plant up to nine bulbs per square foot.

PLANT HEIGHT AND WIDTH
These will grow about 16-20 inches tall and 2-4 inches wide.

WATER
Water in well after planting to settle the soil around the bulbs. No additional watering is required unless rainfall is scarce. Water as needed during the active growth periods or about 1 inch of moisture per week is a good estimate.

FERTILIZER
A well-balanced fertilizer such as Roberta's Flower Magic (M7503) is recommended after planting and again every fall thereafter to help stimulate root growth and then again in the spring when the foliage is starting to push through the soil.

LIGHTING
Full sun is best but they will tolerate light shade.

BLOOMING
These double blooming varieties bloom in mid to late spring or May which is late in tulip season.

TEMPERATURE ZONE 3 to 8
These are hardy down to minus 40F when planted in the ground.

DORMANCY
After the flowers have bloomed you may cut the flower head off for beautiful bouquets, but do not cut the foliage. The bulbs use the leaves to gather sunlight, create food through photosynthesis and strengthen the bulb for the future. Once the leaves have turned yellow or brown and enter a dormant stage, you can cut them to ground level and allow them to enjoy a drier, warmer resting period. After the leaves die back and you have pruned them down to the soil, stop watering for the summer. They will rest until next spring.

PROPAGATING
The best time to move or divide bulbs is when the foliage has all but withered in early summer. Lift them, divide, and re-plant immediately into their new location at the same depth and about three times their diameter apart.

FORCING BULBS
Bulbs may be forced into early growth for indoor display in winter. Plant them with the tips just showing, in soil-based potting mix in containers with drainage holes. Keep in a dark place at temperatures above freezing but no higher than 45F for at least 10 weeks to allow roots to develop. When shoots are about 1 inch long, increase light and temperatures gradually. Water carefully and avoid wetting the shoots or waterlogging the soil. After flowering, they may be planted in the garden and they will flower again in subsequent years.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE



Tulip Shipped as Shown



Showy double purple-violet blooms



Thick, ruffled blooms of one-of-a-kind Amazing Grace



These double flowering varieties are immediate standouts



Soft pink blossoms of lovely, sweet Angelique



The perfect tulips to conclude the spring flower season



The best tulip gardens have many different colors and varieties