

THE USE OF THE MORE UNUSUAL TULIPS FOR BULB BEDS

There are many different kinds of tulips, but until recently in America practically the only tulip was the single early tulip. A few years ago tulips have always been used for the garden for them has been the "Dutch" tulip, Darwin tulips, now comparatively cheap, have attracted attention and gardeners now appreciate the value of using a greater variety of spring flowers.

All the tulips are so interesting that a single kind as space will permit will be found interesting and beautiful, especially the season from early spring with early flowering and intermediate varieties finally closing the bulb season in June with the late flowering ones.

Seeing tulips usually first produce flowers without any stripes or other markings. Generally the bottom of the flowers is white or yellow and as the upper portion of the petals is a solid color—brown, purple, magenta, bronze and buff—and the color is retained for a number of years without any variation or variegation, these are called breeder or mother tulips. The breeders are planted year after year until they break into stripes. The most desirable are then named and the others are discarded, sold as mixed tulips or classed as "off" and the solid colors are they "breed" the flower never changes. The breeder are of large size and very artistic effects can be produced with them. They should be treated the same as the Darwins, flowering late in May, having more of a sweet scent than any of the tulips, and usually increasing from two to two and a half feet high. These were formerly listed among the cottage tulips, but they were now form a distinct class among themselves.

When the tulips are of the breeder type, severely striped and feathered or violet on a white ground. The more tulips have dark brown stripes and feathering on a yellow ground. These two classes flower about the same time as the breeder and Darwin tulips.

Cottage tulips are so called because many of them were found growing in old cottage gardens of England, Scotland, Ireland and France, where they had been established possibly for fifty years or more. Some had become nearly lost, but their persistence in the garden attracted the attention of collectors, who collected and propagated many varieties. These single and double tulips soon required their own names and recently have become popular.

All the cottage tulips are very beautiful, presenting a great variety in color and coloring, and are not so tall as the Darwin tulips. They are very hardy and are especially suitable for permanent hardy flower borders where they may be freely

planted in clumps and masses. Set the bulbs about five inches apart with the bottom of the bulb six to seven inches below the surface in light soil, and five to six inches in heavy soil. If planted too shallow they may not flower.

Parrot tulips are in reality Darwin tulips which have broken into permanent variegations, the rich colored flowers being striped, blotched and marked with different shades and colors.

Parrot tulips belong to the late or very flowering class, having large, attractive flowers, singular forms and varied brilliant colors. The petals are curiously fringed or lacinated in the edges and the form of the flower, especially before it opens, resembles the head and neck of a parrot. Only the largest bulbs of parrot tulips should be planted; small bulbs often fail to flower.

Double tulips have massive flowers of brilliant and varied colors, shades and markings, and last much longer in bloom than the single varieties. In pots they must be forced much slower than the single varieties by keeping them cooler.

These unusual tulips make very attractive beds and are particularly good where large plantings are made and a variety is desired instead of the use of so many single tulips, beautiful as they are. Those desiring beds different from their neighbors should use the more unusual tulips.

THE WONDERFUL INFLUENCE OF FLOWERS.

Years ago while in Chicago, I saw a hair a dozen policemen trying to put a drunken man in jail. And what a time they had! She was a drunken fury. Her fingers were like tiger claws. She was making ribbons of their fine uniforms. The air was sulphurous with her horrid oaths. Finally they landed her. In her cell she was like a caged demon.

A delicate little woman saw the performance and pitied poor, wild Mag. She went into a flower store and bought a beautiful bunch of roses and had them done up in a neat box. She called at the jail and wanted to see Mag. The jailer said, "It won't be safe. She will tear you to pieces." But she was insistent. The frenzied woman glared at her. "What do you want here?" "I love you, Mag, and dropped in to see you." "You lie. There don't anybody love me! Everybody hates me and I hate everybody." Now you get out of here or I'll throw you out!" "No, Mag, you wouldn't do that. Just see what I have brought you." She opened her package and showed the fragrant flowers delicately wrapped in tissue paper. As soon as Mag saw their beauty and breathed their fragrance her woman soul was touched and great tears rolled down her cheeks. The little woman put her arms around her and their tears mingled.

His wife tells us that in his flower district the flowers came to him with the letters "I. H. N." in his name. They were like direct gifts from Him



Parrot tulip.

and almost frantic love of the children of the poor for beautiful things is a proof of a numbing divinity which is prophetic of the radiant beyond.

When I see vast beds of flowers unfolding their splendor to human gaze I think of them as songs of silent praise, as unnumbered hymns laden with a voiceless love which shows the Great Florist is near.

Let the girls have their flower beds. Teach them to care for them. The companionship of the best behaved, best dressed company on earth will have a retentive influence. Those who live on farms and are very busy, instead of keeping that boy in the barnyard should let him have some time in the front yard and in the flower garden. Then he will be a gentleman and not a boor. The soil is the best part of the child. Feed that as well as the body.

In many cities flower missions have been established to bring beauty and cheer to the overworked, the poor and needy.

What a cheerful companion a full

who said, "Behold the lilies, how they grow!" "How precious are Thy thoughts to me, oh, God!" And beautiful blooms are the translation of His wonderful love brought down to the comprehension of a child. The eager

orbed peony like the Mme. de Verneville, with its snowy white petals flecked with crimson! With care it will last a week and the charm of its visit will not be easily forgotten. Here is a poor, sick girl in her lonely room,

"They're something kindo hartylike about the atmosphere. When the heat of summer's over and the coolin' fall is here—Of course we miss the flowers, and the blossoms on the trees, And the humble of the hummin' birds and buzzin' of the bees; But the air's so appetitin', and the landscape through the haze Of a crisp and sunny morning of the airly autumn days. Is a pictur' that no painter has the colorin' to mock—When the frost is on the pumpkin and the fodder's in the shock." —James Whitcomb Riley.

At the show of the American Public Society, a spectator remarked to his companions that certain dahlias

were the result of a cross between the dahlia and the cactus. Certain dahlias take their name simply from the form of the flower. It is not possible to cross the dahlia and the cactus.



Bizarre tulip.

Nursery stock planted in the autumn is sure to be stock that is dug from the fields and not taken from storage sheds, quite an important advantage. Try autumn planting of tulips, including hardy roses, and compare results with stock planted in the spring.

If dahlias fail to bloom give them a liberal dressing of hydrated lime and lightly dig or rake it into the soil. The digging should not be so deep as to disturb the roots. Give a good watering and the next day apply fresh prepared stable or sheep manure and rake this in. Water sufficiently and the plants will bloom profusely.

Do not use too large pots. Four inch pots are large enough for one hyacinth bulb, six inch pots are large enough for three hyacinths or three narcissus or five tulips or five Roman hyacinths. The soil in the pot should be firm, but not hard, with sufficient space left at the top—about a half to three-quarters of an inch—to hold the water which must be given as often as necessary to prevent the soil from drying out. The top of the bulb should be just even with the surface.

Those who have the place to plunge bulbs after they are potted should try this operation and notice the results. The amount of light prevents the growth of the flower spike, and the bulbs develop an abundance of strong roots with which to support the plant and force the flower into bloom later when the pots are brought into the light and heat. The evaporation is required to a minimum by this system and watering is not required until the pots are lifted. The danger of watering in the early stages when the bulbs are first potted is that the soil is likely to become sour, because there are no roots to take up the moisture, and at the same time the soil must not be permitted to become dry.

When pots of bulbs are placed in dark, cool cellars or closets only sufficient water must be given to keep the soil moist. Examine the pots frequently as to prevent dryness, and if the same time give water only as often as is necessary.

Six weeks is the usual time that bulbs require to make a good root growth, but some may require more and some less. When the root growth is as long as the bulb, the roots are probably sufficiently developed so the plant can be started in growth. Do not take the plants from the dark and

developed. Great care must be exercised not to overdo the matter, either in frequency or in the amount of the applications, or more harm than good will result. Scotch soil water is good for the color of the flowers. A safe plan is to cover the top of the soil in the pot with prepared sheep or stable manure. Spread it evenly over the soil an inch or two thick, and with a stick or a knife blade work into the top of the soil, not going down more than an inch in depth, so as to avoid disturbing the roots. One application of this kind will be sufficient.

At the Missouri State Poultry Experiment Station it was found that in pens where the fowls were furnished water at all times the eggs secured were 100 per cent. more than in pens where water was given only once each day. The same result was obtained with different varieties.

From the hen's viewpoint water is worth as much as feed, for she cannot make eggs with either one alone.

The hens at the experiment station

consume about six gallons of water to each \$1 worth of food. Therefore if the feed is worth a dollar, the water is also worth a dollar—75 per cent. of an egg is water.

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205 BULBS
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Bulbs will grow and flower in pots in almost any soil through which water can pass with reasonable freedom, but naturally cultivators who take the best care of their plants and use good soil secure the best results.

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Ordinary potting soil such as florists use is best for bulbs. A good composition can be made of three parts of loam, one part thoroughly decomposed leaf mold and one to two parts sand, the whole thoroughly mixed. The sand is used to obtain free drainage.

An eight inch pot of Scotch soil to every bushel of soil will heighten the color of the flowers. This is said by some men. The whole mass should be evenly moist. If too dry, sprinkle and allow it to dry out until it is just in a good condition for use, neither wet nor dry.

Old pots are used for potting bulbs they should be thoroughly scrubbed and washed inside and out.

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Kill the rats now when the colder weather is driving them into houses and outbuildings before they breed again. Full information can be had from Virus, Inc., Dept. 2, 100 West Street, New York. Call, write or telephone Hanover 399.

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52 Bulbs 10 Trumpet Narcissus for center of bed, 10 Single Tulips to make 1 row, and 12 Giant Focus for outside border \$1

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- 100 Tulips, Single Late, 25 each
- 100 Tulips, Single Early, 25 each
- 100 Tulips, Single Late, 25 each
- 100 Tulips, Single Early, 25 each
- 100 Tulips, Single Late, 25 each
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