



Photo: Eileen Sheehan

## Tulip (*Tulipa x hybrida*)

Tulips are bulbs in the Lily family (Liliaceae). These cheerful flowers tend to signify the beginning of spring, and along with daffodils and other spring bulbs, mark the long-awaited end of the winter. There are over 150 different species and 3,000 varieties of tulips. They come in a wide variety of colors, heights, and flower forms. Tulips are likely native to Central Asia, but their popularity has led to them being hybridized and grown in many parts of the world.

Tulips are best grown in areas with cool, moist winters and warm, dry summers. They thrive best in full sun and will flourish in fertile soil with medium moisture. Like daffodils, they are especially stunning as a mass planting. They are planted in the fall and develop their roots over the winter months. Once temperatures warm, tulips begin to grow in bloom in April and May. After bloom, the foliage provides the bulb with the necessary nutrients to bloom the following year, so it's recommended to wait until the foliage begins to yellow before cutting it back to the ground.

Unlike daffodils, tulips generally are not resistant to deer browse, and they may eat the tender green foliage before the bulb has a chance to bloom. Mice, voles, and squirrels may dig up and damage the bulbs. To discourage this, place chicken wire over the planting area (the bulbs can grow up through it). Although tulips are considered perennial, they tend not to naturalize and spread quite as well as daffodils. In our area, tulips tend to only last a couple of years, so it's necessary to replant them every 2-3 years to ensure a continuous flower show.

### References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org>

[https://ipm.missouri.edu/MEG/2016/10/Tulip\\_A\\_Brief\\_History/](https://ipm.missouri.edu/MEG/2016/10/Tulip_A_Brief_History/)

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/tulipa/>

**Common Name:** Tulip

**Plant Type:** Bulb

**Light Requirements:**

Full Sun

**Height:** varies

**Color:** varies

**Bloom Time:** April-

May

**Hardiness Zones:**

3-8