

<h2> TULIPS</h2> <p> After months of barren soil, nothing heralds in spring like tulips whose singular display of color assures us of the promise of new life.</p> <p> ♦</p> <p> For years, I had tulips interspersed in various flowerbeds, but never en masse, so when Sonia expressed a desire to plant a bed of tulips, I realized how much I, too, enjoyed seeing entire beds of them, and decided to purchase bulbs for us to plant.</p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> Unfortunately, we never remembered to purchase and plant our bulbs in the fall. So after several years of lamenting over our failed memories, we were excited when Diane Drinkard called us from Lowes to tell us that the tulip bulbs were on sale and offered to pick them up for us if we told her what we wanted. Thank you, Diane! Finally, we had the bulbs when we needed them at the time we needed to plant them. Consequently, from April through May, we were delighted with our display of spring color. Therefore, we would like to encourage you to surprise your own family with a splash of spring by planting bulbs now.</p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> </p> <p> ♦</p> <p> Planting directions: Purchase tulip bulbs so you have them to plant the last of September or early October. Extend the blooming season from April through May by planting early, mid, and late spring blooming tulips. Mass groupings of color create drama in an otherwise bleak surrounding. Pick a site that will receives sun. Amend the soil with plenty of compost, as tulips prefer well-drained loose soil. Plant bulbs 4 to 6 inches deep, pointed end up. Lightly pat the soil, water, mulch, and dream of spring.</p>