

TULIPS



Tulip History

"The tulip is a perennial, bulbous plant with showy flowers in the genus *Tulipa*, of which around 75 wild species are currently accepted and which belongs to the family Liliaceae. The genus's native range extends west to the Iberian Peninsula, through North Africa to Greece, the Balkans, Turkey, throughout the Levant (Syria, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan) and Iran, North to the Ukraine, southern Siberia and Mongolia, and east to the Northwest of China. The tulip's centre of diversity is in the Pamir, Hindu Kush, and Tien Shan mountains. It is a typical element of steppe and winter-rain Mediterranean vegetation. A number of species and many hybrid cultivars are grown in gardens, as potted plants, or to be displayed as fresh-cut flowers. Tulip cultivars have usually several species in their direct background, but most have been derived from *Tulipa suaveolens*, often erroneously listed as *Tulipa schrenkii*. *Tulipa gesneriana* is in itself an early hybrid of complex origin and is not the same taxon as was described by Conrad Gesner in the 16th century." - Wikipedia

Care

"Water tulips during dry spells in the fall; otherwise, do not water. Compost annually. Deadhead tulips after flowering. Allow the foliage to yellow for about 6 weeks after flowering before removing it. The bulbs of Species tulips may be left in the ground for several years; others may be lifted annually, once the leaves have died down, and ripened in a warm, dry place. Replant the largest bulbs; smaller bulbs may be grown in containers in a bulb frame, in mix of equal parts loam, leaf mold, and sharp sand. When in growth, water moderately, applying a balanced liquid fertilizer weekly for 3 or 4 weeks after flowering; keep dry in summer, and repot annually." - The Farmers Almanac