



FLORET FARM'S

HOW TO GROW TULIPS IN SMALL SPACES

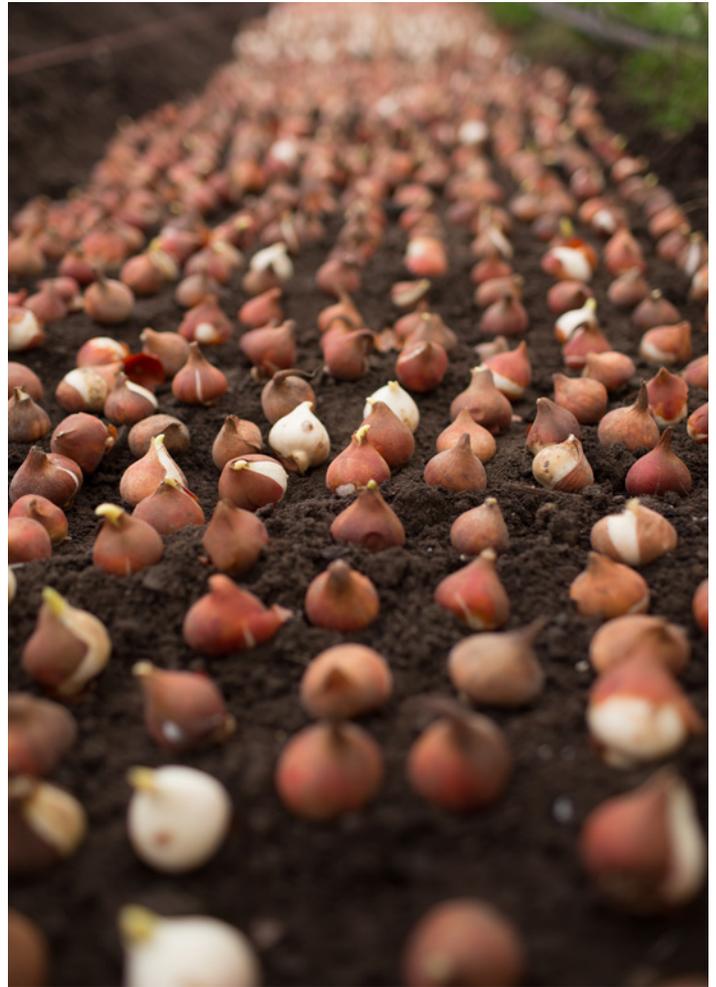
Tulips are an incredibly diverse family of plants: Some have fringed petals, others have pointed ones, and some are so ruffled and full that they are commonly mistaken for peonies. Some varieties even carry a soft, subtle scent. On top of that, they're among the easiest bulbs you can grow. With so many wonderful qualities, it's no wonder that tulips are a mainstay in the spring cutting garden, and one of the most popular cut flowers on the market.

HOW TO GROW

Here at Floret we plant tens of thousands of tulips each autumn. There are a few different methods for growing these showy spring bloomers, depending on whether you simply want to add color to your spring landscape or harvest them in abundance as cut flowers. No matter how you plant them, be sure to pick a spot that gets full sun and doesn't have any standing water, since really wet soil will encourage disease and rot. Tulips require at least 6 weeks of cold weather to flower properly, so if you live where winters don't get down to freezing temperatures, you'll need to order prechilled bulbs.

In the garden, tulips make the most impact when planted en masse. For a real show, I recommend ditching the bulb planter, instead planting clumps of at least 10 bulbs. Simply dig out a generous circle of soil, about 6 in (15 cm) deep, mix in a little organic bulb fertilizer and compost, and then plant your bulbs roughly three times as deep as they are tall. Tulips can be planted quite close, less than an inch (2.5 cm) from each other, similar to eggs in a carton. Once your bulbs are securely in place, water deeply and refill the hole with the soil you removed earlier. Add 1 to 2 in (2.5 to 5 cm) of compost on top to act as a mulch. Be sure to insert some type of stake so you remember where you planted them.

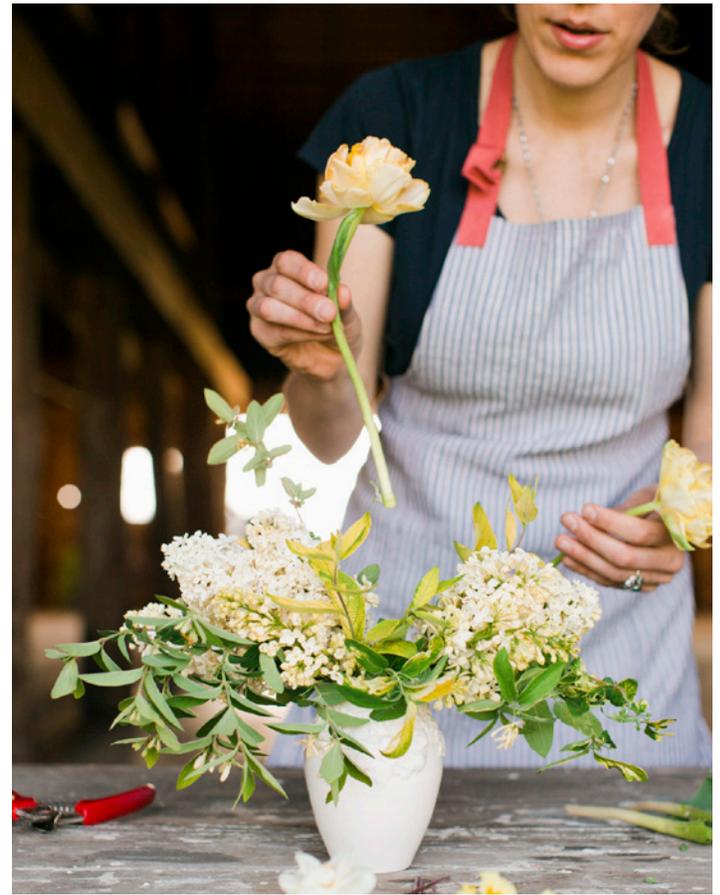
Bulbs can also be planted in pots. When choosing a container, remember that bigger is always better because larger pots don't dry out as quickly and can hold more bulbs. Tulips can be planted quite densely in pots, similar to eggs in a carton.



To grow tulips solely for cutting, plant them in a wide trench. For the trench method, dig out a trench that is 3 ft (1 m) wide and 6 in (15 cm) deep, piling all the dirt to one side. Sprinkle a light dusting of organic bulb fertilizer and rake it in, smoothing the bottom of the trench at the same time. Place the bulbs, pointed side up, close but not touching, just like eggs in a carton. Label each individual variety as you go.

Water bulbs deeply to encourage vigorous root growth which will produce larger flowers. Backfill the trench and mulch the top with 1 to 2 in (2.5 to 5 cm) of compost.

Come spring, as the bulbs start to push through the soil, it's important to keep the beds weeded.



HOW TO HARVEST

For the longest vase life, harvest when the flowers are still in bud, with just a hint of color showing on the outer petals.

At Floret, we treat our tulips as annuals, and pull up the entire plant, bulb and all, during harvest. This gives us maximum stem length, extended storage, and a long vase life. With the bulbs attached, tulips can be stored dry for weeks in the cooler, because they are still connected to their food source. When it's time to use them, we simply cut off the bulbs and place stems into water with flower food.

If you want your tulips to return next spring, it's important to leave at least two sets of leaves on the stem when harvesting to replenish the bulb and give it energy to bloom the following season. Flowers are typically smaller and of lesser quality in subsequent years but still put on a pretty show.

VASE LIFE TRICKS

Tulips are naturally a very long-lasting cut flower. Store-bought stems generally persist for 4 to 5 days, but homegrown varieties can easily hold for a week and a half in the vase.

Because tulips have a tendency to bend and curve right after harvest, wrap the top two-thirds of the flowers in a funnel of paper and stand them upright in water for a few hours. Once fully hydrated, they will stand much straighter in the vase.

Keep in mind that once placed in water, fresh-picked stems will elongate during the first few days, so if you're adding them to an arrangement, nestle the flowers down deeper than you ultimately want them to be. Flower preservative will prolong the vase life of tulips and keep the petals vibrant and richly colored.



PLANNING CARDS

To help you visually plan your tulip patch, we've created a set of printable planning cards on the pages ahead. The varieties shown are favorites that we've grown, photographed, and documented. Each card includes the variety name, photo, height, and classification.

These planning cards are a great way to build out color palettes for bouquets or weddings, though you can use these cards to plan however you'd like, whether that's by color, height, or classification.

You can print these cards on your home printer, or send the file to your local print shop to print on heavier weight cardstock if you want your set to hold up better over time. For a small fee, most print shops will even cut them for you!

We hope these planning cards help you discover new varieties and plan the patch that's right for you.





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'Amazing Parrot'

Glowing salmon-coral outer petals have serrated orange edges. Blooms open to reveal inner tangerine-pink tones with coral streaking.

18 INCHES • PARROT • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Aveyron'

Super-double, peony-like flowers are a glowing, berry-toned rose pink. Dark gray anthers rise among ruffled central petals with lighter veining.

20 INCHES • DOUBLE • LATE



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'Belicia'

Multiple flowers on a stem begin as pale yellow with red tips, then become white, and the edges mature to burgundy.

16 INCHES • DOUBLE • EARLY



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'Black Hero'

One of our favorites, this variety has velvety blooms with a maroon luster atop long, strong stems.

20 INCHES • DOUBLE • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Black Parrot'

Petite flowers are a striking maroon-eggplant. Narrow petals with deeply serrated edges have a refined quality.

20 INCHES • PARROT • LATE



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'Blue Diamond'

This violet treasure is the best purple tulip we've grown, and its beauty only intensifies as it ages. Flowers have detailed veining on the edges.

14 INCHES • DOUBLE • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Blue Parrot'

Huge flowers have ruffled petals that are an intense bright violet with hints of blue. As flowers open, they reveal purple interiors.

18 TO 22 INCHES • PARROT • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Boa Vista'

Unusual, densely packed flower heads are rich green with muddy plum veins and tips.

16 INCHES • DOUBLE • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Bowl of Beauty'

Giant semi-double, snow-white blooms open to reveal a glowing egg-yolk center and look like peonies. Petals have green streaking.

18 INCHES • DOUBLE • LATE



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'Charming Beauty'

My all-time favorite tulip, this egg-yolk-and-glowing-peach beauty opens to a ruffled double bloom that resembles a garden rose or peony.

18 INCHES • DOUBLE • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Columbus'

These large cupped, peony-shaped blooms are breathtaking, with pointed raspberry petals edged in cream.

12 TO 16 INCHES • DOUBLE • EARLY



floretflowers.com

'Copper Image'

One of the most beautifully colored tulips we've seen, these peony lookalikes have hints of raspberry and subtle streaking on copper petals.

18 INCHES • DOUBLE • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Creme Upstar'

Buttery flowers are brushed with light rose and apricot, giving blooms an iridescent quality. Color deepens as flowers age.

18 TO 22 INCHES • DOUBLE • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Cummins'

The most uniquely colored tulip we grow, this variety is a dusty lavender-mauve with creamy serrated edges.

18 INCHES • FRINGED • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Dream Touch'

Pointed petals roll slightly inward and are edged in beige, while outer petals are dusty cocoa with a purple hue.

18 INCHES • DOUBLE • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Drumline'

Unique in coloring, this tulip reminds us of peppermint candies. Petals are deep red at the base, transitioning to ivory white at the tips.

22 INCHES • DOUBLE • LATE



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'Estella Rijnveld'

This striking variety has an ultra-ruffled, feathered appearance, with fire engine-red petals streaked with bright white and flecks of green.

20 INCHES • PARROT • LATE



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'Exotic Emperor'

Frilly, creamy white petals are brushed with green on the outside, and blossoms open to reveal lemon drop-yellow centers.

14 INCHES • DOUBLE • EARLY



floretflowers.com

'Flaming Parrot'

The most striking parrot variety we've grown, it boasts lemon-yellow flowers with showy red and green streaks and veining.

18 TO 22 INCHES • PARROT • MID TO LATE



floretflowers.com

'Flaming Spring Green'

Ivory petals have a burst of cranberry and green streaks. Flowers have an iridescent quality and look like folded pinwheels.

20 INCHES • VIRIDIFLORA • LATE



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'Foxtrot'

Ruffled, ultra-feminine blooms are bubblegum pink with lighter edges and white centers. As flowers age, they take on an opalescent quality.

12 INCHES • DOUBLE • EARLY



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'Foxy Foxtrot'

Tri-toned petals of peach, orange, and yellow have a hint of green at the tips. The full, gently ruffled flowers mimic ranunculus blooms.

14 INCHES • DOUBLE • EARLY



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'Green Star'

Two layers of alternating petals are the shade of Granny Smith apples, and white outer edges point and bend like a court jester's hat.

16 INCHES • LILY-FLOWERED • LATE



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'Green Wave'

This variety looks like a feathered bird, with ultra-ruffled petals in a soft rose-pink at the tips, plus apple-green veins and ivory highlights.

22 INCHES • PARROT • MID TO LATE



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'Gudoshnik Double'

Peony-like flowers resemble perfectly blushed Rainier cherries in shades of buttery yellow, orange, salmon, coral, and red.

20 INCHES • DOUBLE • LATE



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'La Belle Epoque'

Uniquely colored, this treasure has stunning, variable colored petals that change from a rosy-plum hue to a smoky peach-brown over time.

12 TO 16 INCHES • DOUBLE • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Margarita'

Purple-magenta flowers with green centers have a two-toned quality and darken as they age. Petals are scalloped and lighter at the tips.

16 INCHES • DOUBLE • EARLY



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'Menton'

Flowers are a glowing, soft salmon-pink, and once unfurled, petals reveal a white vein against coral shading.

26 TO 36 INCHES • SINGLE • LATE



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'Menton Exotic'

Lush, peachy-pink blooms have green streaking and green-brushed outer petals.

16 INCHES • DOUBLE • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Mondial'

With multiple flower heads on a stem, these peony-like blooms have a profusion of clear white petals, each with a glowing gold center.

12 TO 18 INCHES • DOUBLE • EARLY



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'Montreux'

Rose-blushed outer petals with grass-green accents open to reveal a soft pink-and-cream center.

18 INCHES • DOUBLE • EARLY



floretflowers.com

'Paul Scherer'

This beauty has the classic, perfect tulip shape in the darkest black-eggplant shade.

18 INCHES • TRIUMPH • MID



floretflowers.com

'Professor Röntgen'

Showstopping, palm-sized orange blooms are streaked with green and surround a cheerful yellow throat, making a bold statement.

18 TO 24 INCHES • PARROT • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Queen of the Congo'

Intensely ruffled, rich burgundy-hued blooms are held on strong stems. This is the best wine-colored tulip we've encountered.

18 TO 24 INCHES • DOUBLE • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Renown Unique'

One of the last tulips to bloom; watermelon-pink flowers have yellow anthers. Outer petal tips are brushed with green.

18 INCHES • DOUBLE • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Rococo'

An award-winning variety, with the most unusual color combination of cardinal red with deep purple and apple-green feathering.

18 INCHES • PARROT • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Salmon Parrot'

This beauty has glowing salmon-pink blooms surrounded by a layer of creamy outer petals streaked with green.

20 TO 22 INCHES • PARROT • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Santander'

Flower buds are peach-blush, then fringed petals open and turn cotton candy pink, revealing a blue throat and black anthers.

16 INCHES • FRINGED • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Sensual Touch'

A farm favorite, these huge tangerine flowers are loaded with a mass of ruffled, fringed petals and look more like a garden rose than a tulip.

16 TO 18 INCHES • DOUBLE FRINGED • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Silver Parrot'

This bloomer has highly ruffled petals in the softest pink, brushed with darker pink and ivory. Leaves are slightly variegated.

16 INCHES • PARROT • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Slawa'

Pointed petals are a combination of Concord grape with dusty rose edging. Outer petals barely overlap so that each is distinctly visible.

18 INCHES • TRIUMPH • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Sunset Miami'

This exquisite variety is an iridescent combination of lavender, sangria, and apricot. Slightly fringed edges add to the appeal.

18 INCHES • FRINGED • MID TO LATE



floretflowers.com

'Vaya con Dios'

Blooms are a mix of yellow and apricot—no two are the same. Outer petals have veins of spring green, and some stems carry multiple flowers.

18 INCHES • DOUBLE FRINGED • MID TO LATE



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'Victoria's Secret'

Large sangria-colored blooms have multiple layers of petals that open to reveal a softly colored cobalt center with black stamens.

16 INCHES • PARROT • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Victoria's Secret Pink'

These ruffled blooms are sultry and dusky, showing a plum patina at the base of the petals and a blue center.

16 INCHES • PARROT • LATE



floretflowers.com

'Victoria's Secret Purple'

These ruffled, mulberry-stained blooms have dark blue throats, and petals open like twirling skirts.

16 INCHES • PARROT • MID TO LATE



floretflowers.com

'Yellow Madonna'

This bright, cheerful variety shouts spring. Massive lemon-yellow flowers have green-streaked outer petals and lighten as they age.

16 INCHES • PARROT • LATE