

October 2023

Tulip Bulb Fact Sheet



We are glad you will get to continue to enjoy our tulip bulbs. Here are some handy hints on how you can grow them.

What you need to know about the tulip

Name: tulip (Tulipa varieties and cultivars)

Plant type: spring-flowering perennial herbaceous bulb

Height: to around 60cm in flower

Foliage: arising from the bulb in varying shapes and sizes. Most often a truncated sword-like shape clasping the flower stem base, green/silvery-grey in colour, and 15–30cm in length.

Climate: cool temperate and suitably cool areas in warm temperate zones.

Soil: good-quality, free-draining soil. Bulb or premium potting mix in pots.

Position: full sun or moderate shade. Must be protected from wind.

Flowering: goblet-like flowers in a multitude of colours and forms from late August to late October, depending on variety, planting time and location.

Feeding: feed with an organic product such as blood and bone at planting, apply a controlled-release fertiliser as leaves start to develop.

Watering: reliable moisture while actively growing, but never wet.

Storing your Bulbs

- Brush off any soil and remove any diseased or damaged ones
- Spread them out on a board or mesh sheet and place them somewhere cool and dry
- Once the foliage becomes paper-like and totally dry, prune it off. The bulbs can then be stored
- Store them in something like a paper bag or recycled orange bag somewhere cool, dry and out of sunlight
- Around April Fool's day remember to pop them in the fridge for six weeks to chill before planting
- Tulip bulbs can be stored for up to 12 months out of the soil, as long as conditions are suitable
- Before planting, check that they are firm and plump to the touch – not withered and brittle or soft and squidgy. If it's either of the latter, then they've had their day

Planting Tips

- The rough rule of thumb is to plant your tulips around Mother's Day (2nd Sunday in May), once the soil cools down.
- If you're in a warmer zone, put your bulbs in a paper bag in the crisper section of the fridge for around six weeks prior to planting. This mimics a cool season, and triggers growth.
- Plant your Tulips a little deeper, because the soil will be cooler. The old saying is to plant your spring flowering bulbs twice as deep as the bulb is high. As the Australian climate is somewhat warmer than the European one, we recommend you plant your bulbs to a depth of three times the height of the bulb, this will help keep them cooler.