



# tulip



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Photos courtesy of Netherlands Flower Bulb Information Center

*Tulipa 'Monsella'*  
Double early tulip

## varieties

More than 3,000 cultivars of tulips are available.

## availability

Tulip plants are available in the fall, winter and spring, generally from about mid-September through mid-May.

## in-store and consumer care

**WATER** Check the pots frequently, and keep the soil moist at all times.

**LIGHT** Keep the plants in well-lit conditions but away from direct sunlight.

**TEMPERATURE** Display plants at cool temperatures (as low as 45 F). Advise customers to keep their plants in similar cool environments.

**STORAGE** Potted tulips can be stored at 33 F

## quality checklist

**BUDS** Choose and sell tulips when the buds are still green or just beginning to show a tinge of color. The tighter the flower buds, the longer the plants will last for consumers.

**BLOOMS** Check the blossoms for any signs of rot, bruising or wilt.

**FOLIAGE** Check the foliage for any signs of rot, bruising or breakage.

## BOTANICAL NAME

*Tulipa* (TU-li-pa)

## COMMON NAME

Tulip

## DESCRIPTION

Tulip cultivars are divided into 15 groups based on flower form, including single early and late, double early and late, lily-flowered (pointed petals), parrot, Triumph and fringed. These true bulbs have compressed stems with special scalelike leaves that serve as storage tissue, providing food that allows

the bulbs to produce flowers and foliage.

## COLORS

Tulips are available in hues of red, pink, orange, yellow, purple, white and bicolors. Tulips in the *Viridiflora* group are bicolor species; one of the colors is always green.

## DECORATIVE LIFE

Potted tulips should last from seven to 14 days. Decorative life varies greatly depending on cultivar, temperature, light levels and stage of development when purchased (see "Quality Checklist").



*Tulipa 'Parade'*  
Darwin hybrid tulip

to 35 F for three to five days.

**HUMIDITY** Medium humidity is best.

**FERTILIZER** None is needed. All the food tulips need is stored in the bulbs.

**REBLOOMING** Potted bulbs usually are too spent to save and rebloom, but it is worth a try.

## challenges

**ETHYLENE SENSITIVITY** Tulips are sensitive to high levels of ethylene gas.

**PESTS** Aphids are the most common problem on tulips. They usually can be controlled by washing them off.

**DISEASES** The most common disease affect-

## fun facts

**WHAT'S IN A NAME** The name "tulip" derives from the Turkish word "tulband" (turban). The name was applied because of the flowers' resemblance to the colorful turbans worn by Turkish men.

**FAMILY** Tulips are members of the *Liliaceae* (lily) family. Common relatives include lily, hyacinth, star-of-Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum*), *Asparagus*, *Hosta* and *Aloe*.

**HOME SWEET HOME** These plants are native to Persia—today known as the Middle East (from Turkey south to Yemen—all the countries composing the Arabian Peninsula). For the past 400 years, they have been extensively hybridized. All of the tulips sold as potted plants are hybrid cultivars.

ing tulips is *Botrytis*, which can be avoided by watering in the morning.

**ELONGATION** Tulip stems often elongate, making them grow out of their place in pots. Growers can apply growth regulators to reduce this elongation. If the plants become "leggy," support the stems with plant stakes. **sfr**

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