

Tulipomania

FROM JUNE 95

Signs of the times in France of 1608, 'no woman of fashion was seen in the spring without a bunch of tulips tucked into her lowcut dress'. Then hysteria struck as fortunes were made and lost in Holland speculating over tulip bulbs. Byron, Tennyson and the Brownings all raved about tulips poetically. Jefferson kept records of how long each variety of tulip bloomed (although no records have been found of how he coped with virus, voles, chipmunks, squirrels and mice.

I personally have had a wonderful tulip season. Huge orange Parrots planted years ago came up through Blue Hollies and the early tulip 'Tarda' continues to come through the Forget-me-nots. The tall leaf pile was a cutting garden of last year's tossed, forced tulips. Late flowering white and green Viridiflorus and the wonderful Lily tulip have lasted well and escaped predators. You would be following in giant footsteps if you decided to rethink tulips when you order bulbs in the fall.

Joan Sargent, a longtime member and master gardener who passed away in August 2012; wrote about 24 gardening columns for NCBL through the years for our newsletter. We are reprinting them again.



Parrot Tulips- Orange Favorite.

Below Narcissus viridiflorus is an autumnal bloomer aka the Green Daffodil.



Tulip 'Tarda', Tulipa Dasystemon is a Botanical tulip first cultivated in 1590! Award winner. Short, 6 inches tall, blooms early and naturalizes easily. Full sun to light shade.



Above is Tulipa lilyrosa. The Lily-Flowered Tulip, blooms late spring, 22 inches tall, full sun, easy to grow in beds and borders. Delicate stems need a wind protected spot.



Above is Narcissus viridiflorus, an autumnal bloomer (Oct-Nov.) aka the Green Daffodil. Interesting for its unusual petals and color.