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Quality Plants & Knowledgeable Staff

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It's starting to look like fall out there and in typical

West Coast fashion it's all very green. Funny how that works. Fall is the time to make plans for winter projects and spring planting. Some inspiration may be required and we can help with that. Come and visit us for fall colour, fabulous spring bulbs, that shade tree you promised yourself and more. And as always, lots of helpful friendly advice.

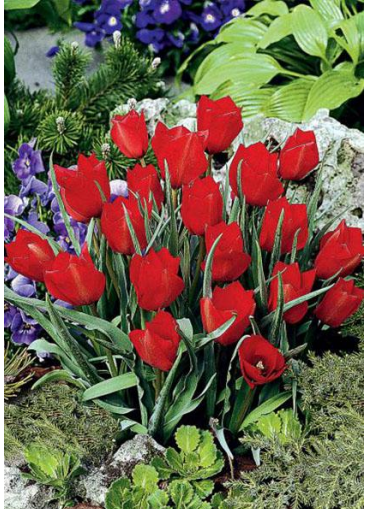
See you soon!



Her Majesty, the Tulip!

From Queen of the Night to Princess Irene, no other spring bulb connotes 'royalty' like ***Tulipa***. Since 1634, when **tulipmania** swept Amsterdam, and a single prized bulb cost more than a grand-canal home, the tulip's popularity has spread worldwide. They satisfy our innate desire to experience beauty, with colours that defy belief.

The wild species tulip, or botanical tulip, was the first. This is what tulips were before the hybridizers got to them. **Botanical** tulips are highly prized for being small (most are 4-6" tall), dainty and sweet. They are reliable, early to bloom, and easy to naturalize. Some people claim that they are even deer resistant! Plant them deeply, and you will have perennial pleasure for many years. Try them under deciduous trees, where they can enjoy the early rays of the sun through leafless branches, or

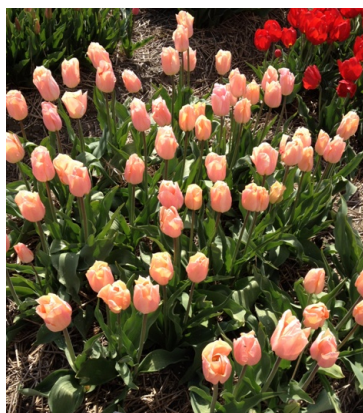


Tulipa 'Red Hunter'
Botanicals naturalize well

along path borders. **Greigii** tulips, like **Fur Elise** are known for their marked and mottled foliage with brilliantly coloured two-toned blooms.

Princess Irene is single and an early bloomer, orange flamed with purple. New to the royal family is **Pretty Princess**, pink flamed with purple, that is bound to become as popular as **Irene**. Double-flowering **Abba** shines with tomato red petals that sparkle with tiny yellow flames.

Triumph tulips resulted from a cross between the tough and reliable Darwins with the single early varieties. **Jan Reus** proudly displays dark red velvet blooms on long, strong stems which are long lasting both in the garden and the vase. Stunning! **Apricot Beauty** is one of the favourite tulips of all time, lightly scented in a gorgeously complex colour of salmon pink, with overtones of peach.



Apricot Beauty



Queen of the Night

Tulips mix well with other bulbs like muscari, anemones and narcissus. Try some new pre-packaged combinations like 'Dutch Design', or 'Mermaid Melody'.

Queen of the Night rules the **Single late** division, and a dark dramatic beauty she is! There is nothing closer to black in the tulip world; what a statement paired with any of the sizzling pastels or pure white.

For breathtaking beauty, don't miss the scented and long lasting **Double Peony** tulip, with three magnificent stars: **La Belle Epoque**, which evokes an elegant era with its double blooms of coffee mousse flushed with pink; **Angelique** is quite the romantic, with her large fully double blooms in soft pink, the most popular double tulip ever. **Akebono** is a lush and bodacious yellow from Japan, the name roughly translating as "Bright Sky at Daybreak". Streaks of raspberry at the petal edges make this one hard to resist.

For best results, plant tulips in October or November, when the soil is cooler. They provide a stunning display in containers, where they are portable and easy to move out of view when their dying foliage becomes unsightly. Plant densely, water when needed, and add bone meal or bulb

food to the planting hole. The bulbs do last longer when planted in the garden, however, in a location that doesn't get a lot of summer water.

The regal airs of *Tulipa* will surely capture your heart, as they have mine. It been a long time since I've planted tulips, but writing this article has inspired me, and this year I definitely will!



Plants for Bugs Do Insects Prefer Native Plants?

*The RHS study compares
the benefits of native &
non-native plants*

A lot of assumptions, usually based on experience, are made in gardening. For example, it's often assumed that native plants provide the best resources for insects and other invertebrates, but thanks to the four-year [Plants for Bugs](#) study by the **Royal Horticultural Society** in the UK, we now know this to be untrue. It turns out that the structural variety and number of flowers in a garden is far more important to insects and

other pollinators than where those plants came from.

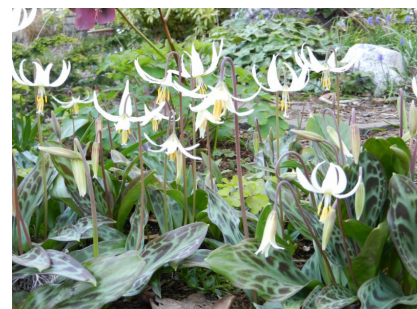
The study was designed to evaluate the pollinator presence found in three different types of gardens, those comprised of:

1. Native plants
2. Native plus near-native, i.e. any plant originating in the Northern Hemisphere, or derived from a native plant.
3. Non-native, i.e. plants from the Southern Hemisphere

Pollinators are a highly mobile group of insects; they have the ability to respond to changes in their floral resources, and it turns out that, as a group, what they really want is an abundance of differing flower shapes, over a long period of time.

Gardens with natives and near-natives were found to have the largest numbers of pollinators and other beneficials including invertebrates that live on or in the soil. Gardens with only native plants had slightly fewer, and gardens planted with only exotics actually had 40% fewer insects than gardens with the combination native/near native.

Among pollinators, there were a few differences depending on species of insect:



Erythroniums and other PNW natives are mostly spring blooming.

hoverflies preferred native plants, along with a pond. Short-tongued bumblebees loved the natives and near-natives, while their cousins the long-tongued bumbles enjoy nectar from the tubular flowers of legumes, no surprise there. Our friends the honeybees are super generalists who preferred near-natives, and the solitary bees were happy with anything they could find.



Native to the US, Echinaceas (& their varieties) provide nectar and pollen in summer

Similar studies in the US and Europe had the same results, even though the species of pollinators and plants may be different. The bottom line is, having lots of flowering plants in our gardens, with a long flowering period overall, will attract the most pollinating insects and ensure that they thrive.

Plants produce flowers to attract pollinators; gardeners choose the same flowering plants for aesthetic appeal, and the insects find sustenance in the nectar and pollen. It's win/win for us all. Plan for diversity in your garden, and both the bugs and the plants will be happy.

Creative Containers Start Here Last week's classes were full of creative people and here's the proof. We have a great selection of small shrubs, perennials and grasses for you to create your own 4 Season pots.



Beautiful creations!



Plants for pots

Classes still to come: Sumptuous Spring Colour with Bulbs

October 17, **Winter Pruning Classes** in late October and early November, and of course **Wreathmaking** and **Holiday Arrangements** in late November and December. [Here's the schedule](#)



Hall's English Greenhouses and many of the models are set up at the nursery. Hall's greenhouses come in a variety of shapes and sizes. For more information, please visit our [website](#)

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