

APPENDIX A

Interesting Facts on Tulips & Tulipmania

Tulips, while associated with the Netherlands and the Dutch, are believed to have originated from Central Asia.

A flower that sparked an obsession ...

The obsession over tulips started in the 16th century during the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent, the powerful sultan of the mighty Ottoman Empire. All over the empire, tulip bulbs were planted for the pleasure of the Sultan and his entourage.

The flower soon became very popular and symbolised life and fertility to the people. During this time, it was widely seen on tiles, fabrics and crockery, as a decorative motif. It was also an inspiration for many paintings, calligraphy, songs and poems.

It was believed that Sultan Suleiman presented tulip bulbs to King Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire, through the Austrian ambassador Gisleb van Busbeke. The bulbs were planted in the Royal Austrian Gardens, where the famous Dutch botanist Carolus Clusius, was in charge. When Clusius returned to the Netherlands, he brought the seeds, bulbs and plants along, and planted them in the Hortus Botanicus, a botanical garden in Amsterdam.

... and changed the fortunes of many

“Tulipomania” raged throughout the Netherlands during the Dutch Golden Age in the 17th century. The demand for the flower grew so intense that the tulip became known as the most coveted flower in the world.

At the peak of the craze, prices for some varieties soared. The “Semper Augustus”, said to be the most expensive tulip during that period, cost as much as 10,000 Dutch Guilder, an exorbitant amount that was enough to feed an entire Dutch family for half a lifetime. This variety no longer exists, having succumbed to the disease that created its spectacular blooms.

But Tulipomania, one of the first economic bubbles, couldn’t last and finally burst. Since then, because of their beauty and their place in history, tulips have sparked the imaginations of many.

Fun facts on tulips

- The word “tulip” was derived from the shape of the flower, which resembled the turban worn by the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. This was called “tulipan” in Europe, which then led to the English name “tulip”.
- The tulip is the third most popular flower in the world, after the rose and the chrysanthemum.
- Tulips, like onions and garlic, are bulbs. Bulbs or bulbous plants have short stems with fleshy leaves that store food during periods of dormancy. Other flowering bulbs include lilies and narcissus.
- Tulips cannot be cultivated in a warm climate because they need the cold winter to be able to blossom in spring. Tulip bulbs are usually planted during autumn and flowers in spring the following year.
- Tulips come in a variety of vibrant colours. Black tulips are, however, not completely black, but a shade of deep red or purple. To date, the only hue missing in the tulip colour spectrum is blue.
- In the past, tulips with streaks, stripes or flame-like effects of various colours on their petals were caused by the “Tulip breaking virus” (TBV). TBV infected the bulbs and caused the flower to “break” its lock on a single colour, creating a dramatic effect on the colours. TBV also weakened the bulb, slowed down growth, and caused it to ultimately lose the ability to flower, ending its genetic line. Today though, the variegation in tulips is a result of cultivation and not caused by viral infection.

Tulipmania 2016 at Gardens by the Bay

To pay homage to the origins of the tulip, this year's Tulipmania display at Gardens by the Bay will feature more than 35,000 tulips laid out in colourful carpets of intricate patterns in the Flower Dome. In all, some 110,000 tulips in 60 varieties will be brought in for the festival. Some of the tulip varieties that will be making an appearance this year are listed below.

- **Lily Tulips** – A highlight of Tulipmania 2016 will be the Lily Tulips brought in for the first time by Gardens by the Bay. The Lily Tulip's slender form, with long pointed petals, is reminiscent of the historical tulip species that once grew in Central Asia and adorned traditional crockery, tiles and fabrics as a decorative motif.



Tulipa 'Fire Wings'

The name 'Fire Wings' is an apt one for this Lily Tulip cultivar, with its petals in fiery combinations of red and yellow.
(Image from [flowergarden2002](#))



Tulipa 'Claudia'

Another Lily Tulip, this cultivar has purple petals with white edges.



Tulipa 'Pretty Woman'

With its eye-catching red petals, this Lily Tulip cultivar adds a bold dash of colour to the display.

- **Triumph Tulips** – Triumph Tulips make up the biggest grouping of tulip types. They are known for their sturdy stems and large flowers, which come in the classic tulip "cup" shape many of us are familiar with.



Tulipa 'Arjuna'

'Arjuna' is an example of the Triumph class of tulips. This tulip is deep orange in colour, with small streaks of purple and green.
(Image from [telegraph.co.uk](#))

- **Fringed Tulips** – Fringed Tulips feature a distinct frayed edge on their petals. The fringe could be of the same colour as the rest of the petal, or it could contrast.



Tulipa 'Cuban Night'

A fringed tulip, the 'Cuban Night' is an intense purplish-black tulip with fringed edges.
(Image from vws-flowerbulbs.nl)



Tulipa 'Oviedo'

The 'Oviedo' is a pastel purple fringed tulip with white edges.

- **Double Petalled Tulip** – While a normal tulip has six petals, Double Petalled Tulips have more. They are sometimes referred to as “peony tulips” because their lush blooms resemble those of peonies.



Tulipa 'Monte Carlo'

The award-winning 'Monte Carlo' is a double petalled tulip with petals of sulphur yellow. This sturdy tulip received an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.

- **Parrot Tulip** – Curled petals are characteristic of Parrot Tulips, which are named as such because their petals resemble the flamboyant feathers of parrots.



Tulipa 'Irene Parrot'

The 'Irene Parrot' is a Parrot Tulip variety of the popular 'Princess Irene' tulip. It is exotic in looks, with its reddish-purple colour and ruffled edges.
(Image source: jparkers.co.uk)