



# **The A-to-Z Guide for Designing and Planning a Cheerful, Bright Yellow Tulip Garden**

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## **How to Design and Plant a Bright, Cheerful Yellow Tulip Garden**

How would you like to wake up to seeing a bright wave of yellow tulips gleaming in your yard next Spring?

Well, you can but the time to make that happen starts in the Fall. Fall is the prime time for planting of hardy spring flowering bulbs and most bulbs can be planted until the ground is frozen. In most locations, that means through late November.

### General Tulip Garden Design Rules

Determine how much space you have and where you want to plant tulips. Use the following checklist to list where you want to want tulips to grow and how much space you want the tulips to occupy.

Area	Size	Number of Bulbs
Tulip Field	20 feet by 40 feet	1,200 to 8,000+
Tulip Garden	Eight feet by four feet	45 to 300 bulbs
Tulip Patch	Three feet by two feet	18 to 96 bulbs
Tulip Border	Six feet by one foot	8 to 72 bulbs
Tulip Container	Two feet by six inches	5 to 16 bulbs

### Why So Many Bulbs?



Remember one flower comes from one bulb. If you want lots of flowers, you need to plant lots of bulbs. The amount of tulip bulbs depends on the size of the area to be planted and the density of the tulip flowers. Small tulips can be planted 3 inches to 6 inches apart; large tulips should be planted 6 inches to 9 inches apart. Typically, the early blooming bulbs (mid-March through May) have smaller





bulbs and can be planted 3 inches to 6 inches apart. Large, late-blooming flowers, like peony or double-tulips grow very tall and need the extra space to support their root structure. These are planted 6 inches to 9 inches apart. How you want your garden to look – richly dense with tulips or scattered tulips is up to you.



Review the garden templates at the end of this document that will give you a map for planting tulip bulbs at different densities. You can use this map when you buy and then plant the bulbs.

### Yellow Tulip Garden Choices

We recommend tulip bulbs from Brecks, an authentic distributor of tulips from Holland. Their bulbs are superior in performance and offer a money-back guarantee. Here is a planting guide that you can use to design your bright, cheerful tulip garden. If you would like to purchase any of these, click on the picture and that will bring up Brecks' order web page. Remember, fall is the peak buying season. Place your order quickly or Brecks may sell out of that variety.

Tulip	Blooms	Planting Instructions
 <p><b>Big Smile Tulip</b></p>	<p>Mid-to-Late Spring 22 inches high</p>	<p>Plant: 3 to 6 inches apart. Plant: 3 to 6 inches deep. Plant in Full Sun or Partial Shade</p>
 <p><b>Golden Parade Jumbo</b></p>	<p>Mid-Spring Jumbo Single 24 to 26 inches high</p>	<p>Plant: 6 to 9 inches apart. Plant: 6 to 9 inches deep. Plant in Full Sun or Partial Shade</p>

Tulip	Blooms	Planting Instructions
 <p><b>Tequila Sunrise Tulip</b></p>	<p>Mid-Spring Triumph tulip 16 to 18 inches high</p>	<p>Plant: 4 to 6 inches apart. Plant: 6 inches deep. Plant in Full Sun or Partial Shade</p>
 <p><b>Sunrise Tulips</b></p>	<p>Mid-Spring Fringed tulip 22 to 24 inches high</p>	<p>Plant: 12 to 15 inches apart. Plant: 6 inches deep. Plant in Full Sun or Partial Shade</p>
 <p><b>Sancerre Tulips</b></p>	<p>Mid-to-late Spring 28 to 30 inches high Single late tulip</p>	<p>Plant: 3 to 6 inches apart. Plant: 3 to 6 inches deep. Plant in Full Sun or Partial Shade</p>
 <p><b>Mon Amour tulips</b></p>	<p>Late Spring 16 to 18 inches Double fringed tulips</p>	<p>Plant: 3 to 6 inches apart. Plant: 3 to 6 inches deep. Plant in Full Sun or Partial Shade</p>

Tulip	Blooms	Planting Instructions
 <p data-bbox="237 558 488 590"><b>Mona Lisa tulips</b></p>	<p data-bbox="626 254 915 338">Mid-to-Late Spring 24 to 28 inches high</p>	<p data-bbox="1018 254 1382 443">Plant: 3 to 6 inches apart. Plant: 3 to 6 inches deep. Plant in Full Sun or Partial Shade</p>
 <p data-bbox="237 968 594 999"><b>Yellow Purissima tulips</b></p>	<p data-bbox="626 621 922 705">Early Spring 16 to 18 inches high.</p>	<p data-bbox="1018 621 1382 810">Plant: 3 to 6 inches apart. Plant: 3 to 6 inches deep. Plant in Full Sun or Partial Shade</p>

## **Yellow Tulip Garden Color Design Tips**

The color yellow is "warm." Warm colors are shades of red, yellow and orange. Warm colors are perceived as advancing while the cool colors seem to recede. When you design a yellow tulip garden, remember that yellow tulips planted at a distance, like the back of the yard, will appear closer. This can make your yard look smaller. Yellow tulips are effective in bringing a distant part of the yard into focus. The color yellow will create a dramatic display in any yard or garden and will draw attention in the landscape.

Spend time planning before planting bulbs in your landscape. Sketch the plan on graph paper before purchasing bulbs or use the planning sheets at the end of this guide. This advance planning will assure that the proper number of bulbs are purchased. Since the foliage of spring blooming bulbs dies by early summer, this plan will provide a record of where the bulbs are planted in case annuals or perennials are mixed in later.

As you develop this plan, keep in mind that bulbs bloom at different times. Some spring bulbs have overlapping bloom periods, but they still maintain the order in which they bloom. Tulip bulbs bloom from early March to mid June.

## **Where to Plant Tulip Bulbs**

Most tulips thrive in full sun or partial shade. There are a number of areas in the landscaping that lend themselves to tulips. Here are just a few:

### *Foundation Planting*

You should plant tulip bulbs in groups of twelve or more bulbs to add color in the early spring to a foundation. Evergreen shrubs planted in the foundation planting will provide a nice background for the bulbs. Pay attention to the foliage color of annuals and perennials, as they too will become a backdrop for your bulbs.

### *Deciduous Shrubs and Trees*

Tulip bulbs can be planted under deciduous shrubs or small trees in the landscape. However, do not plant spring bulbs under evergreen shrubs; there will not be enough light for the tulips to grow and bloom. Early-spring tulips can obtain plenty of light because they start growing long before deciduous trees and shrubs start to develop leaves.

Carefully select yellow tulip bulbs to match blooming dates with the bloom of the shrub. The tulips can give a beautiful color contrast with early flowering shrubs such as forsythia or flowering quince. They can also be used in combination with smaller flowering trees.

### *Perennial Beds & Rock Gardens*

Tulip bulbs can be designed into a perennial bed or border to add areas of spring color. Tulip bulbs will bloom during March, April and May before perennials start to flower. Locate the bulbs in the flower bed so that the dying foliage will be hidden when the perennials start to come in. When planning borders, it is essential to take into consideration the heights and spacing needed by different plants for a visually pleasing effect.

## **How to Group Tulip Bulbs During Planting**

**Mass Planting** – For the look of Holland, it is best to plant bulbs en masse. Whether you're planting six or six dozen, they make the best display when planted together in loose, informal clusters. By planting bulbs of one variety or color in mass you will achieve greater visual impact by providing uniform color and texture. Bulbs will be easier to care for since they will have the same cultural requirements and the foliage will mature at the same time. You should avoid planting in a single straight row or in a single circle around a tree or bush. Bulbs look better when they are planted in staggered free-form arrangements.

**Grouping Bulbs** - With spring flowering bulbs such as tulips or daffodils, plant at least twelve bulbs of one variety in a grouping. The more bulbs planted of one variety and color, the greater the impact. The smaller spring bulbs, such as snow crocus, should be planted in groups of 50 bulbs or more to have impact. Smaller bulbs need to be viewed close-up so they should be planted along sidewalks, patios or entry ways to the home. Three to six bulbs are suggested as a minimum number of summer bulbs of the same variety to plant in a grouping.

**Planting in Small Spaces** - Plant bulbs of one color in small spaces in the landscape. One color will have greater impact and make the planting space look larger. Mixed colors planted in a small space tend to make the space look even smaller.

**Planting in Large Spaces** - In large areas of the landscape where you have a lot of planting space, a planting of two or three different colors can be effective. Concentrate the bulbs for each color together and do not intermix them. Also, be sure to select colors that blend together. White flowers can be effective in helping

blend colors together or to brighten dark corners.

**Inter-Mixing Plants** - The color of spring flowering bulbs is enhanced when they are planted with pansies or other compatible early flowers. The color of summer flowering bulbs will be enhanced when planted with summer flowering annuals such as petunias, marigolds and other annuals. Although summer annuals do not hide the dying bulb foliage, they do extend the color of the flower bed throughout the summer.

Many summer bulbs are tall and the lower part of the plant unattractive after bloom. Plants like lilies and dahlias can be mixed with perennials, annuals or shrubs to hide the lower stem area. Daylilies are a good choice to hide the lower stems of the lily. The dwarf forms of daylilies like Stella de Oro do an excellent job of facing a bed.

**Lawn Area** - The corner of the lawn is a great place to develop a new flower bed. These beds are often composed of small shrubs and perennials. One or two groupings of spring bulbs of one color located in the flower bed will provide a point of focus during the spring months. Two great bulbs for this area are snowdrops and crocus. You can plant these under trees and shrubs or scatter them freely over the lawn.

**Containers** - Both spring and summer bulbs can be planted in portable containers. If spring bulbs, such as our Instant(tm) Blooms, are planted, the container can be moved to a location out of sight while the foliage matures, once the bloom time is past. If summer bulbs are used, they will add color all summer long to areas such as a patio or a deck. Containers are portable and they can be moved around and used in different areas of the landscape. When relocating a container in the landscape, pay attention to the light requirements of the bulbs and be sure the container has drainage holes.

## General Planting Rules

1. Don't plant your bulbs under aggressive ground covers or dense turf-grass.
2. Make sure you are planting in a sunny location -- at least half a day's exposure. With early and mid-spring flowering bulbs, the trees are not yet in full leaf, so you may plant these bulbs under trees. For all other bulbs, the best way to confirm that the flower will receive enough light is to choose a site after nearby trees are in full leaf.
3. As a rule of thumb, plant bulbs when the soil temperature is about 60 F at a depth of 6 inches, unless noted otherwise. The cool soil stimulates root growth.

If you are planting an entire bulb bed, you can spade the whole bed area and then dig out the top 6-8" of soil. Place your bulbs on top the remaining loosened soil.

4. Put the large end of the bulb on the bottom on top of the dirt and the pointed end of the bulb pointing upward.
5. After you have set bulbs in place, you may want to add a bit of Breck's Food for Bulbs & Perennials.
6. Cover the bulbs with the removed soil and water thoroughly. For planting smaller groups or individual bulbs, you can use a simple garden trowel. Dig a hole a bit larger than the bulb, and be sure to loosen the soil at the bottom of the hole and treat it like a miniature bed (as described above). You may prefer to use a bulb planter which digs uniform holes. Treat each hole as described above for planting with a trowel. Whichever way you choose to plant your bulbs, remember to always follow the specific instructions that come with your bulbs.
7. Water the bulbs well following planting. This will help settle the soil in the planting bed plus provide needed moisture for the bulbs to start

rooting. Fall planted bulbs must root before cold weather. Avoid over-watering at planting time since this can result in bulb rot.

### **Fertilizing**

While each plant is a complete “plant factory” in itself, with built-in nourishment, it is a good idea to mix a quantity of **Breck’s Food for Bulbs and Perennials** with the loose soil at the bottom of your planting. This will provide additional food without any danger of “burning.” Never apply fresh or half-rotted manure directly on bulbs and perennials. As soon as the shoots break through the ground in the spring, repeat the fertilizer application. Do not fertilize spring flowering bulbs after they have started flowering. This tends to encourage development of bulb rot and sometimes shortens the life of the flowers. Summer and fall flowering bulbs should be fertilized monthly from shoot emergence until the plants reach full flower. The optimum pH range for bulbs is 6 to 7. A soil test of the planting area is necessary to determine if lime needs to be applied to adjust the soil pH. If needed, limestone should be worked into the soil. For good bud development, work **Breck’s Bulb and Perennials Food** into the soil at planting.

## **Thank You!**

Thank you for reading this report to plan a bright and cheerful yellow tulip garden. Remember, your garden will grow by itself, but it will not design and plant itself. Use the information in this report to make your yard and home a beautiful environment.

Make sure to visit our website, [www.tulipreview.com](http://www.tulipreview.com) to learn more about other colors and varieties of tulips. We appreciate the privilege of serving you.

*Dave Pipitone*

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