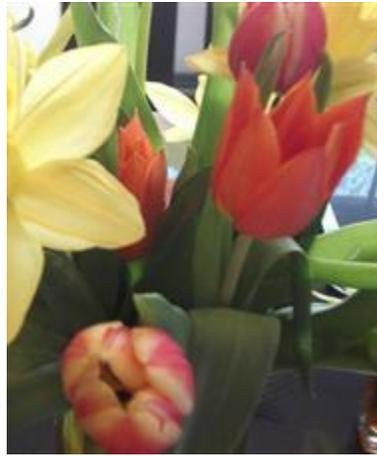


# It's Tulip Time

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014



Is it really Tulip time? Well barely...we're in the latter part of the season that typically starts in late November and goes through April. Now that's not to say that we won't see an abundance of tulips in these last couple weeks, as a matter of fact you'll see more of them as we approach Easter and other spring time holidays. In actuality you can get tulips any time of the year, you'll just pay a little more, have limited choices on variety and they may not be as robust as they can be in their prime growing season. Nonetheless I'm ready to get Spring going here, even if that means I need to don my Uggs to get my tulips! If you happen to be the ambitious type and actually planted bulbs last fall, lets just hope you are not living anywhere near this Polar Vortex that may put a slight damper on their growth in your garden! Regardless where your tulips come from they all need the same care and love once you bring them indoors!

Here are a few tips on how to process and prolong vase life for your tulips.

- Always wash tulips thoroughly by immersing the entire flower in cool water to remove any dirt and debris that is often trapped between the stem and the long outer leaves.

- Peel away and discard any wilted leaves on stems, as these can cause bacteria in the water and shorten vase life. Generally, foliage (wilted or not) that touches the water is not healthy for your flowers.

- Cut the bottom stems at least 1/2 inch and on a bias, this will ensure that the bottom of the stems will not stand flat to the bottom of the vase blocking the absorption of water.

- Arranging tulips is easy and effortless. Use a container that is at least half the height of your flowers. You can use a glass vase, mason jar, pitcher or any container that can hold plenty of water. Tulips rarely need any filler flower as their simplicity and elegance can stand alone.

- If you only have a few flowers and a wide mouth container, just loosely tie flowers with some twine or a long tulip leaf and angle the bouquet in the vase for a modern simple look!

- Here's one last and very valuable tip. Tulips are one of the few flowers that continue to grow after they've been cut, yes they grow after they're officially dead! Once this happens they tend to droop.

To avoid this from happening just place a few pennies in the water, it really works! The magic here is the copper in the pennies, however new pennies minted after 1983 have very little copper, so if you have older pennies they work even better!

Happy Spring!