

# “Columbia Underground”

Member: National Garden Club, Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, and Central District

Editor; Marie Pasley

## Up Coming Events – more details inside

December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 decorate the Troxell House for Symphany tour

December 13- at 1pm CGC monthly meeting- Christmas Luncheon

January 10, 2022 Monthly meeting program TBA

\*\*\*\*\*

## December 13<sup>th</sup> Monthly Meeting at 1pm at Trinity Presbyterian Church

The December meeting is a carry in luncheon. Bring your favorite food dish to share with membership. Club will provide drinks, plates and utensils. This is the time we collect for the Central Food Pantry by bringing monetary donations. Checks should be made to the Food Bank of Central Missouri. The new officers will be installed by the FGCM president, Linda Houston.

Covid protocol - We will sanitize hands before going thru the food line.



“American Holly”  
Ilex opaca

Color- foliage & red berries provide excellent winter color

Light Preference- full sun/some shade

Height/Spread-: 15'-30' ht. by 10'-20' wide

Bloom Period- Spring bloom waxy, white. Male & female flowers on separate plants.

\* This area info for 2021 is taken from “*Tried and True Missouri Native Plants for Your Yard*”

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2022 & 2023 Newly Elected Officers

Congratulations to the new CGC 2022-23 club officers.

President	Betty Connelly
1st VP	Diana Cooksey
2nd VP	Linda Antal
Secretary	Mary Nesladek
Treasurer	Carolyn Oates
Parliamentarian	Carolyn Dolye

We greatly appreciate them taking on these jobs. As club members, we will do our part to make this upcoming year a success.

.....

## Forcing Tulips Indoors

By National Gardening Association Editors

### Double Early Tulip (*Tulipa* 'Monsella')

Posted by [zuzu](#)



For those who can never get enough of tulips or can't wait until they spring up naturally in the garden, they can be forced indoors. To "force" a bulb means to create an environment where the bulb grows when it naturally wouldn't. By following these steps, you can buy tulip bulbs when they're available in fall and force them to bloom for the holidays or any time during the winter.

### **Tools and Materials**

- Clay or plastic pots
- Soilless potting mix
- Tulip bulbs
- Hose or watering can

**Choose the right varieties.** In general, shorter-growing varieties such as the species *Tulipa humilis* (or the very similar *T. puchella*) are the easiest to force indoors. But 'Apricot Beauty' is a good example of a taller variety that forces well. Select large, firm bulbs, avoiding soft smaller-sized ones, and store them in a cool place until you're ready to force them.

**Plant at the right time.** You can start forcing tulips in October for blooms by Christmas, or later in fall for blooms by midwinter. Generally, tulips need at least 12 to 16 weeks to bloom if started in September or October, but only 8 to 10 weeks if started in December.

**Tulips grow best in clay pots**, which dry out faster than plastic pots. Choose a deeper pot for tall varieties, a shallower one for shorter kinds. Be sure the pots have drainage holes in the bottom. Partially fill the pot with moistened soilless potting mix.

**Use as many bulbs as can fit in the pot without touching.** The more in the pot, the more dramatic the flower show. Place the bulbs root end down so their tops sit just below the rim of the pot. Cover them with enough soil so that only the bulb noses are showing. Water well. Label with the variety and planting date.

**Chill bulbs.** Before tulips will sprout and produce flowers, they need a chilling period to simulate winter. Without this period, the bulbs won't grow or won't produce a good-quality flower. You can simulate winter by placing the potted bulbs at 32 degrees F to 50 degrees F in a dark area such as an unheated garage or basement. A refrigerator crisper works well, but never put them next to fruits such as apples that emit ethylene, a gas that hinders flowering. In warm areas, you can even leave them outdoors as long as the temperature doesn't go below freezing or above 50 degrees F. Just keep the pots moist. Depending on the variety and planting time, they'll need 8 to 16 weeks of chilling. Check the drainage holes for root development and look for bulb sprouts starting to grow as signs they've had enough chilling.

If you don't have room for all the planted pots, try placing the unplanted bulbs in a paper bag in the refrigerator crisper for six weeks (always without fruit in the refrigerator at the same time), then pot them and place them in a 55 degree F dark room for a month. Then bring them into a 65 degree F room to grow and flower.

**Forcing bulbs to flower.** Bring the chilled pots into a 50 degree F to 65 degree F room with bright, indirect light for about two weeks. The warmer the temperature, the shorter the flowering stems and faster the bulbs will flower. When the bulb shoots are 2 inches tall, move the pots to a sunny 68 degree F location. They'll flower within a week or so. The cooler the temperatures (60 degrees F is ideal at night), the longer the flowers will last.

### **Tips**

Once tulips have finished flowering, you can throw them into the compost or cut back the flowering stem and let the leaves die back naturally.

To prevent the potting mix from leaching out the drainage hole when watering the container, place a

piece of window screen in the base of the pot before adding the potting mix. This allows the water to drain but keeps the potting mix in the pot.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Columbia Garden Club Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> Minutes

The Columbia Garden Club met on November 15, 2021 with 21 members attending. Betty Connelly called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

**Program:** Barb Rothenberger presented a program on pressed flowers and provided handouts. Barb showed many plants that she had pressed and some finished products. It is best to use plants that are not very thick and in prime condition. It is a good idea to practice on some items as some things do not dry like you think they should. It takes between two to three weeks for the drying time. You need corrugated cardboard and blotter paper and a way to press the flowers—flower press (or use heavy books). Members then got to make their own note cards using flowers and leaves from Barb’s collection. Members had a good time using card stock to glue pressed items into creative designs.

**Business:** Betty presented a handout on Flower Show 101 to get members to think about a future flower show. She gave many ideas and pictures from other shows. The inspiration was given by Mary Nesladek: “Well-balanced gardens have a quality of restfulness and exquisite perfection, with plants chosen and placed like words in a perfect poem” by Jeff Cox. We had a thank you note from Marjorie Motley, the State Treasurer for 10 years. She appreciated all the get-well cards she received from garden club members. Alice Havard was the Volunteer Spotlight as chairman of the garden at the Boone County History and Culture Center’s *News and Notes*. Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as distributed. Evette Nissen, Treasurer, reported the balance in the treasury as

\$10,458.02. Betty needs committee reports for 2021. We are still looking for someone to be chairman of Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl for 2022. We need more members to sign up for hospitality for 2022, as we hope to resume that. The budget for 2022 was discussed. Barb Rothenberg moved to approve the budget; Melissa Kouba seconded. Budget was approved by unanimous vote. Karen Blackmore has volunteered to be the historian for CGC. Send her any pictures you have. December 13 at 1 p.m. will be a potluck luncheon and holiday celebration.

**Garden Therapy:** Barb Rothenberg announced that we will meet at The Bluffs on December 9 at 2 p.m. in the craft room to decorate Christmas mugs with the residents. We need fresh greenery, and everyone should bring clippers. We already have the mugs and small ornaments for decorations.

**Teaching Columbia’s Children to Plant Columbia—** Melissa Kouba started this program over two years ago. Accomplishments include: monarch way station, cleaning up gardens, making stepping stones, having books for children at the school’s library, and having experiential kits for children in areas of soil kits, pollinator habitats, and seed starting kits and others. The school elementary science coordinator as well as the principal would like to have kits to get integrated into the curriculum at the appropriate grade level. Kits are needed for each classroom. Karen Blackmore moved to budget \$300 for the school project and allow the committee to decide how to use the funds; Carolyn Doyle seconded. Motion passed.

**Troxell House:** Members will decorate the week after Thanksgiving. The home tour will be December 3-4; decorations will then need to be removed soon after.

**Plants:** Baker Creek Seed Company donated tulip bulbs for members to take. There were also canna bulbs donated by a member. Carolyn Oates talked

to an employee at Longfellow's Garden Center about storing elephant ear bulbs. He said to clean off the dirt, spray with hydrogen peroxide, and put cinnamon at the base of the bulb (cinnamon is an antifungal). Wrap bulbs loosely in newspaper and store in open containers where it does not get below freezing.

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m. with committees then meeting for a short time.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Nesladek

*This will be my last newsletter, Melissa Kouba has graciously agreed to be the new editor. It has been fun trying to come up with articles for the newsletter. I hope you have enjoyed reading them. I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year and taking part in all of our future gardening adventures.*

*Marie*

