

“Columbia Underground”

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

Editor; Marie Pasley

Upcoming Events

December 14-CGC Christmas Open House has been CANCELLED.

December 14 CGC Zoom meeting at 1 pm.
Members are asked to share (on Zoom) one Christmas item or tradition that is special in their home for Christmas.

2021

April 23 set up, 24 Plant Sale date (this may be a bit different than normal if Covid is still running rampant!)

May 10-a Small, Standard Flower Show at Karen Blackmore's home. Staggered times to visit, small groups, masks, and distancing required.

June 14-Member Garden Tour-same as last year, small groups at each garden at one time.



“Cedar Waxwing”

Description: 6 1/2 - 8 " a sleek crested, brown bird with a black mask, yellow tips on the tail feathers, hard red wax-like tips on the secondary wing feathers. Almost always seen in flocks.

Habitat: Open woodland, orchards, and residential areas.

Nesting: 4 to 6 blue gray eggs spotted with black & brown placed in a twig & grass cup in a tree in the open.

CGC December 14 Zoom Meeting

The Meeting will start per Zoom at 1 pm. Please share a Christmas item or tradition that you enjoy each year for Christmas. The Christmas home tour was cancelled over concern for the safety of the host at the home. We didn't feel inside would be a good idea at this time.

Forcing Tulip Bulbs Inside

by National Gardening Association Editors

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.

Double Early Tulip (*Tulipa* 'Monsella')

Posted by [zuzu](#)



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.

[Lowe's has many, many bulbs still at 50% off 12/1/2020](#)

Columbia Garden Club October Minutes

The Columbia Garden Club had two meetings during November 2020. On November 9, ten members and three guests met at Stephens Lake Park at 1 p.m. in honor of Veteran's day later this week. The guests were: Charley Blackmore, Gary

Blackmore, and Clifford Keeley. Charley provided patriotic music and took photographs. Gary read a wonderful and moving poem entitled "Veteran's Day" that he wrote. Mary Nesladek read a poem entitled "Why?" thanking veterans that came from the book *Sentimental Journey*." Karen Blackmore made patriotic wreaths and one was placed on the Blue Star Memorial at this site. Members then went to the MU campus east of the Memorial Union and in front of Stewart Hall to place another wreath that Karen made. We met Pete Millier who is Director of Landscape Services at MU and Robert Ross, Director of the Veteran Center at MU. Both men gave a short talk. We also met Kyle Andrews who is a veteran and MU student and is student body president of the MU veteran's student association. Kyle and Karen placed a wreath on the Mother's Memorial. (This wreath was made by someone else.) Later Karen and Charley went to the Veteran's Hospital to place a wreath on the Blue Star Memorial that Karen made. Karen picked up the wreaths a few days after veteran's day to save for next year.

On November 16 Betty Connelly held a Zoom meeting starting at 1:05 p.m. with 18 members present. The inspiration was given by Mary Nesladek: "No occupation is so delightful as the culture of the earth" by Thomas Jefferson. Minutes of the October meeting were accepted as presented. Evette Nissen, treasurer, reported a balance of \$8,778.73. We took in dues of \$684, paid State dues of \$505, and District dues of \$68. We also paid out \$40 for a garden book for the library. The budget for 2021 was presented. Marie Pasley moved to accept the budget; Karen Blackmore seconded. Motion approved.

It was decided to cancel the open house planned for the December meeting due to Covid-19 concerns. We will still collect money for the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri. Send

your check to Evette by December 1 and she will send all the checks at one time for our donation.

An idea was presented by Marie Pasley that she saw in *The National Gardener* to make a small flower arrangement for recipients for Meals on Wheels using lids from detergent bottles for the flower container. The lids would be about 2" across and wet oasis would be placed to hold the flowers. May was decided as a good time to do this; using our own flowers. Donna Russell will contact Meals on Wheels to find out if the club could do this project and if live flowers would be acceptable. Containers would probably be put in zip lock bags for traveling.

Betty still needs volunteers for the garden tour in May 2021. The work day for the garden at Russell Boulevard Elementary School was canceled due to rain. There are several garden schools coming up: December 2020, and January and March in 2021. The Flower Show School Course 3 in Columbia will be June 4-5, 2021. Flower Show School Course 4 will be October 22-23. Marie will send out information about these schools.

The December 14 meeting at 1 p.m. will be a Zoom meeting. Everyone is encouraged to share a favorite Christmas item or tradition during the Zoom meeting on your computer or iPad, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Nesladek

