

“WE HAVE TO TRICK TULIPS INTO THINKING IT’S WINTER”

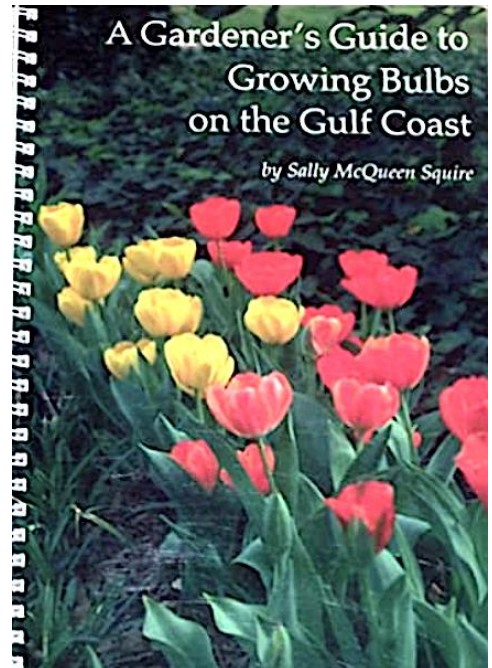
by SHERRIE HAKANSSON STEIGER

*Harris County Master Gardener, Bouquettes Garden Club,
Houston Federation of Garden Clubs*

I like to plant Darwin Hybrid Mid Season Tulips. They are the most reliable because they do not bloom early or late like some other varieties. I plant exactly as the book says to do, written by Sally McQueen Squire, [“A Gardener’s Guide to Growing Bulbs on the Gulf Coast”](#).

In Houston we have to trick tulips into thinking it is Winter. My method:

- Refrigerate bulbs on November 1 for 6 to 8 weeks. I put them in pantyhose or netting on paper towels. They cannot be near apples.
- I usually plant in mid-January when I see a cold front is coming.
- Plant bulbs 4 inches deep with a [bulb planter](#), adding 1 teaspoon of superphosphate at the bottom of the hole.



NATURE'S WAY
RESOURCES
an organically based service company

www.natureswayresources.com



Left to right, 100 bulbs, holes dug and hilled tulips planted!

- Cover superphosphate with 1 tablespoon of play sand. Make sure no superphosphate touches the tulip bulb.
- Place the tulip bulb in pointed side up. Cover with existing soil.



Sherrie has planted (above, l to right) 'Red Parade,' 'Golden Parade,' 'General Eisenhower' and 'Gudoshnik.' (*All file photos).

101 Sherbrook Circle • Conroe, Tx 77385-7750
(936) 321-6990 Metro • (936) 273-1200 Conroe



www.natureswayresources.com

***“TULIPS ARE ALWAYS BLOOMING
ON MARCH 6, SO PLAN TO HAVE A PARTY!”***

My favorite is 'Gudoshnik' with blooms that are sulphur yellow, tinted or flamed red. As they age, they turn to a more creamy color. In Russian, Gudoshnik means painter. This was also the favorite tulip of Houston's late bulb lady, Sally McQueen Squire. As Sally said, *“Tulips are always blooming on March 6 so plan to have a party!”*

After they bloom, I dig them up and throw them away. I have read you should rotate tulips to a different bed each year to prevent disease. I have never had any rebloom even if one is accidentally left in a bed!

***To contact Sherrie, email Brenda at
lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com.
We'll forward your email to her.***

**101 Sherbrook Circle • Conroe, Tx 77385-7750
(936) 321-6990 Metro • (936) 273-1200 Conroe**