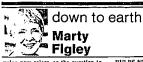
Pastel tulips to be hot item in '90s

Is it a bulb, corm, or tuber? The Netherlands Flowerbulb Informa-tion Center in New York tells us that the main difference between bulbs and corms is their method of storing

In corns must of the food is stored in an enlarged plate rather than in the meanly scales, which is conserved in an enlarged plate rather than in the meanly scales, which is observedly tend to be flatter in shape than round, true bulbs. Tubers and routs have no protective tunic and are really just enlarged stem tissue. They can be cylindrical to flat and in many combinations. Many are in clusters. Generally, bulb has commonly come to mean any plant which has an underground root storage system.

Hardy bulbs, those that are planted in the fall, need a cold period before sprouting. The ideal place is in our gardens during the winter, waltour gardens during the winter, watering for the soil to warm enough so that they can put on a show in the coming spring.

PASTEL COLARS are "hot" in decurating, and the tutip industry is right in tine with fashion. Tulips will be the big fashion rage in 1990, ac-ording to a report in USA Today. It takes many years for growers to de-



velop new colors, so the question to ask is, "who is taking a clue from whom?" Look for "Angelique", "Peach Blossom," Apricul Brandy and "Shirley", a coltage tuith with the petals edged in purple-plus clue, which come in colors besides deep yellow, shades of ivory, coral and pale yellow are available. Search out "Tahiti", "tee Follies" and "Mrs. Hu! Backbusse".

If the tuilps are planted close to the house, pale colors will bring the outdoors in," to complement the pale colors in decorating.

When on the buying spree, look for firm, fat builbs that have no soft spots. A gentle "squeeze" will contirm their condition. Saif them for signs of disease, insect or mill-dew. Since buils generally need 12 weeks or more of cold storage to be successful, now is the time to make those purchases.

BULBS NEED good drainage and do well in either fall or partial sun. They should be set at a depth approximately three times their greatest diameter, set a little deeper in sandy soil, less deeply in beavy soils. A bit of peat most worked well into the soil before planting will improve

drainage.

Buils food or bone meal will assure them of a good start. Remember to plant the pointed side up. Space large buils 3-10 inches apart and the smaller ones 1-2 inches apart. After they are covered with soil, a good drink of water is necessary. A 2-3 inch layer of mulch will provide addept the soil of the provide and protection from the cold and keeps the soil from drying out.

Many bulbs called "lesser" bulbs can be Interspersed with the tulips ... you may have a particular mixture that works well for you. The fun of gardening is to experiment with various combinations.



Even a handful of a few well-chosen bulbs planted in the fall can add polish to a spring landscape. These are alabas-ter-white "Pax" triumph tu-

October: garden dit

An egg carton is an excellent place to store bulbs until time to plant. They should be kept dry and cool the tween 36-60 degrees F) until time to plant. If a refrigerator is used for storage, keep them away from ripening fruit, as the gas emitted from the fruit can destroy the bulbs.

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