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OCTOBER 2009

GARDENER'S
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news

Be Bold with Tulips!

By David Grist

Here's the thing about tulips: You need to plant a lot of them to make a beautiful display. Think *hundreds*, not dozens. Come spring, you'll be delighted, especially if you live in a climate where winter lingers too long. I plant at least 500 tulips every fall. After they bloom, I pull them up to make way for summer annuals. Here's the other thing about tulips: They're best the first year. In subsequent years, the show diminishes. It's no surprise. Tulip bulbs want cool, moist springs and hot, dry summers, which is not what they get in most parts of the country.

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When you plant fall bulbs, think big. Drifts of 50-100 bulbs are best.

Why Shredded Leaves Are Autumn's Most Valuable Harvest

By Kathy LaLiberte

The close of the gardening season is always bittersweet. Though there are few more beautiful places on earth than Vermont in the autumn, I just hate saying goodbye to all my plants and trading this lush, green world for one that's cold and white.

But there are also plenty of good things about fall. The weather is cool and the humidity is low. Once we've had our first killing frost, the frantic pace of the harvest season is over. It's time to reap the season's most abundant crop: leaves. ▶ [Continue ...](#)



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A Sweet Fix for Problem Onions

This year's cool, wet summer gave me a bumper crop of giant onions. It also created the ideal conditions for a whole alphabet of fungal problems. I don't know which fungus attacked my onions, but it appears that as much as 20% of my crop isn't going to cure properly. No worries! I'm turning them into caramelized onions. Here's how:

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