

From the end, spring new beginnings. Pliny the Elder

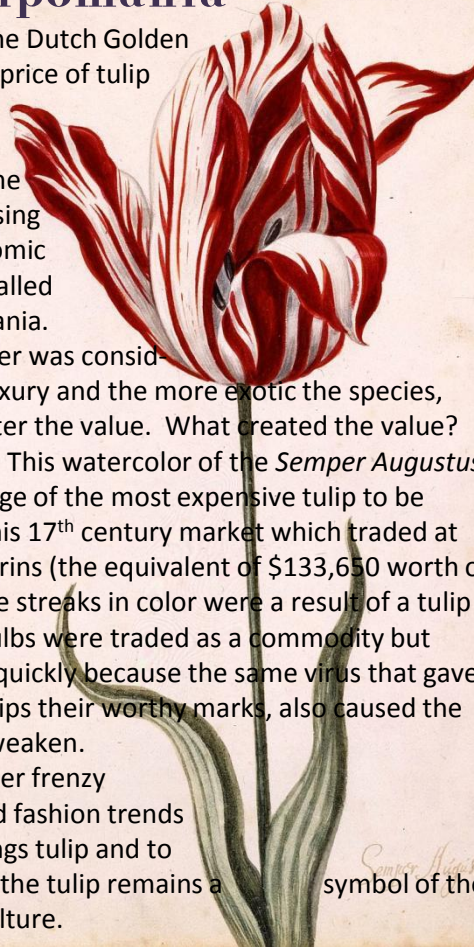
After a long, snowy winter aching for sunny, warmer days, finally, spring has arrived. A time for starting fresh, new beginnings, and as poet e.e. cummings would say, getting “mud-luscious!” Perfect Plantings is happy to announce its first seasonal newsletter. As a premiere landscaping company in Fairfield County, we take pleasure in providing superior services but also offering our clients with news, updates, and tips that will empower you to get to know your garden better. We welcome your feedback, suggestions, comments, and ideas so that we can provide you with peace of mind knowing that your landscape needs surpass your expectations. Perfect Plantings hopes you can take a moment to revel in your landscape’s spring colors and wishes you a Happy Spring Season!

Perfect Plantings’ services include:

- Full landscape design
- Garden and lawn maintenance
- Complete masonry services
- Specialty gardens
- Container gardens
- Seasonal plantings
- Trees, shrubs, perennials & screening plantings

Tulipomania

During the Dutch Golden Age, the price of tulip bulbs reached an all-time high causing an economic bubble called Tulipomania. The flower was considered a luxury and the more exotic the species, the greater the value. What created the value? Disease! This watercolor of the *Semper Augustus* is an image of the most expensive tulip to be sold in this 17th century market which traded at 5,500 florins (the equivalent of \$133,650 worth of gold). The streaks in color were a result of a tulip virus. Bulbs were traded as a commodity but crashed quickly because the same virus that gave these tulips their worthy marks, also caused the bulb to weaken. This flower frenzy provoked fashion trends in all things tulip and to this day, the tulip remains a symbol of the Dutch culture.



Follow us on Facebook at Perfect Plantings, LLC for more tips & special offers!

Become a fan on our Facebook page and enter a chance to win a container with summer plantings courtesy of Perfect Plantings, LLC. Winner selected on 5/2/11.

Hot Tip! Brilliant Blues

Want those baby blue hydrangeas in your backyard? Spring is the best time to prepare the soil for these summer blooms. Hydrangea are sensitive to soil pH levels so the more acidic the soil, the more intense blue color. Before altering pH levels, Perfect Plantings recommends that you have your soil tested so that you know the present pH level. Adding aluminum sulfate to the soil around your established hydrangea plants is a safe way to lower soil pH and reach the desired color. A solution of ½ oz of aluminum sulfate (or 1 Tbsp) per 1 gallon of water is the recommended application throughout the growing season. Try the following Macrophylla varieties for better blues: Penny Mac, Endless Summer, David Ramsey, Oak Hill, and Decator Blue.



Pansy Power

These seemingly fragile flowers from the Viola family are actually much stronger than meets the eye. Pansies are hardy in zones 4-8 and can survive light freezes and snow cover, making them a great alternative for early spring color. Pansies come in dainty pinks and pastels to vibrant reds, yellow, orange, purple, and even black.

Did you know that Disney’s classic adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland* features a chorus of singing pansies?