

Let's Get Growing

Successful tulip planting depends on depth gardener in prepared to go

By MARJORIE MASON HOGUE
Correspondent

Spring is such an exciting time for the gardener. This year it began in

early March and has been slow, cool and dry - perfect for spring bulbs and perennials. As the season progresses, I look forward to sharing my garden with you each week, providing information for both the beginning and the experienced gardener.

Tulip anniversary

The tulip has received much attention recently. Last year was the 400th anniversary of the original wild tulip being taken from its native Turkey to Holland where it was grown and hybridized into the many different forms we enjoy today. For the last 50 years, the tulip has been a symbol of the close friendship formed between Canada and the Netherlands during the Second World War. As you enjoy this spring's tulips, make some notes to help you plan where you will plant more bulbs this fall. To ensure a good show of blooms again next year, follow these suggestions:

1. An application of liquid 20-20-20 fertilizer will enable the plant to manufacture food to be stored in the bulb.
2. Remove spent blooms so the plant will not waste energy in seed production.
3. Do not remove foliage until it turns brown. Aging foliage can be camouflaged by fast growing perennials such as peonies, daylilies and hardy geraniums.

I appreciate the tulip varieties that have variegated green and cream leaves - even after the flowers are finished they provide a splash of color. Watch for these fancy-leaved varieties: Praestans unicum, 6-inch bunch flowered scarlet; Robassa, 12-inch shiny red; New Design, 16-inch soft pink; Esperanto, 15-inch rose flamed with green; Silver Stream, new for '95, 20-inch creamy yellow flushed with red.

Onion growing

The onion is an edible bulb, one of our oldest cultivated vegetables, having been used as food for 5,000 years. Onions and other cool weather crops - spinach, peas, radish, potatoes, beets, cabbage, etc. can be planted now. (Wait until late May for tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cucumbers, melons and squash). Onions can be grown from seed sown directly into the ground one-quarter inch deep with three seed per inch. Faster results will be achieved by planting small plants that were started indoors six weeks earlier. Onions can also be grown from sets which are small dormant onion bulbs ready to be planted two inches deep and a half inch apart. This was my first gardening task at age four, as the daughter of a market gardener.

The perfectly grown onion

has 13 rings and 13 leaves - one for each ring. To allow room for bulb development, thin the plants to three to five inches apart - the thinnings are delicious green onions. Sometimes, onion plants will bolt i.e. produce a flower stem. This is undesirable as onions are grown for their bulbs rather than flowers. This stalk should be removed.

Planting advice

As Mother's Day approaches it's a time to appreciate our moms. When I was very young my mother gave me a bag of tulip bulbs and proceeded to show me how to plant them. To me, they looked like onions which I already knew how to plant. After much insisting that I could "do it by myself," she let me plant the tulips two inches deep.

Imagine my dismay the following spring when the rotted tulips had been heaved right out of the soil. To this day I plant all bulbs two to three inches deeper than recommended and achieve excellent results. So thanks, Mom, for everything, including my beautiful tulips!

Next week - the answer to why your neighbor's impatiens always grow taller than yours.

Marjorie Mason Hogue is a horticulturalist and broadcaster who lives in Coppin's Corners.

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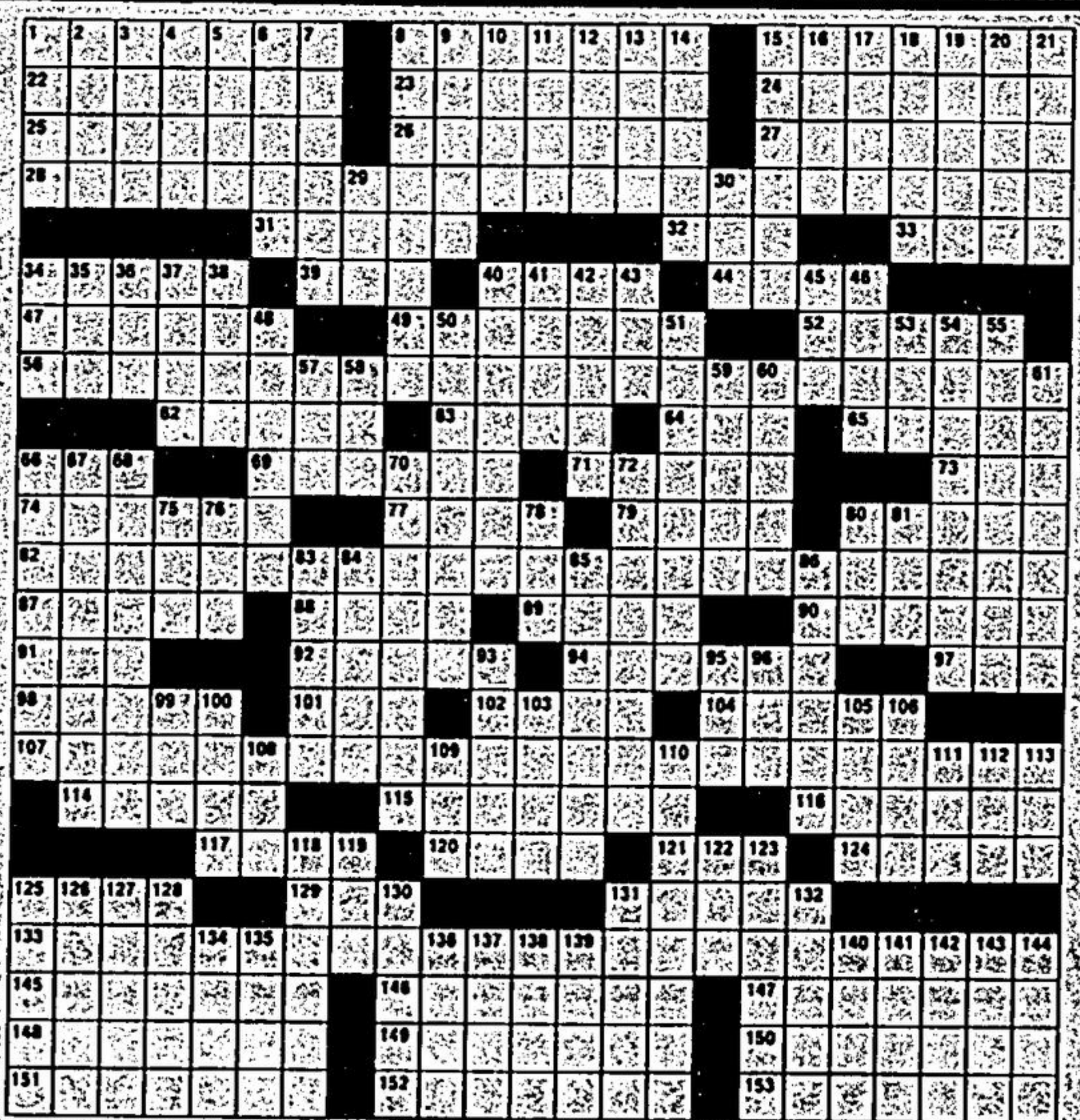
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WORLD WAR TRUE!

BY BOB KLAHN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Actor Cage
 - 8 Mosaic piece
 - 15 Belabors
 - 22 "Hubba-hubba!" to Henri
 - 23 Accepted as payment
 - 24 Poe poem set in a "ghoul-haunted woodland"
 - 25 Put out
 - 26 Ran out
 - 27 To the extent that
 - 28 The German troops' marching song was adapted from
 - 31 Purposive
 - 32 Miss-named
 - 33 Rose hip and Red Zinger, e.g.
 - 34 Chekhov's "Uncle"
 - 39 Goddess of night
 - 40 Province of Latium
 - 44 60's satellite series
 - 47 Lock horns with
 - 49 Poison antidotes
 - 52 Bedroom community
 - 56 Hitler's blitzkrieg theory was based on the
 - 62 "go, into the
 - 63 Switch
 - 64 Miss
 - 65 Bara contemporary
 - 66 Gaping opening
 - 69 Ruins
 - 71 Field marshal Rommel
 - 73 Play by E. E. Cummings
 - 74 Author Robbe-Grillet et al.
 - 77 Puts away
 - 79 Common Market money
 - 80 Page of music
 - 82 The first non-Britisher to receive Britain's Dickin Medal for Gallantry was a
 - 87 Din
 - 88 Glamour competitor
 - 89 Hooks up
 - 90 Leaning
 - 91 Solecize
 - 92 Model's makeup, often
 - 94 One who neatens a bed
 - 97 Ottoman V.I.P.
 - 98 Quarter back
 - 101 Letter from Athens
 - 102 Red letters
 - 104 Author James and others
 - 107 Negotiations leading to the surrender of German troops in Italy
 - 114 Plenty angry
 - 115 "CHiPs" chap
 - 116 Capital on the Tanshui River
 - 117 Okinawan seaport
 - 120 Blue hue
 - 121 White pages abbr.
 - 124 1976 Beach Boys tune
 - 125 Refuges
 - 129 "Prince" ("Aladdin" song)
 - 131 Pretend to be
 - 133 The BBC promoted V-for-Victory in musical Morse code by frequently broadcasting
 - 145 Pennsylvania Railroad city
 - 146 Flower petals, collectively
 - 147 60's TV western
 - 148 French auto
 - 149 Biblical liar
 - 150 Blue books?
 - 151 Here and there, to Pierre
 - 152 Nerve impulse point
 - 153 Fishermen's patron
- DOWN**
- 1 Raid the refrigerator
 - 2 Tiniest bit
 - 3 Oscar winner as Loretta Castorini
 - 4 One of five Norwegian kings
 - 5 Priest of the East
 - 6 Argus-eyed
 - 7 Turn blue?
 - 8 Bernard Malamud Pulitzer winner, 1967
 - 9 Wind-borne
 - 10 Catch
 - 11 Year in school: Abbr.
 - 12 Once, once
 - 13 Wreck of the Hesperus cause
 - 14 Mix with, as seasonings
 - 15 Sudden silences
 - 16 Gobs
 - 17 Disreputable people, for short
 - 18 Pigtail
 - 19 Groundswell
 - 20 D-Day beachhead
 - 21 They're for the birds
 - 29 Cautionary sign
 - 30 "I didn't know that!"
 - 34 Profession
 - 35 V-mail address
 - 36 "All Things Considered" network
 - 37 Julian's stepmother
 - 38 Starting
 - 40 Try, try again?
 - 41 Safety elevator inventor
 - 42 "Mokwa" ("Hiawatha" bear)
 - 43 "Oh!" de Cologne
 - 45 Clique
 - 46 Nerve impulse conduit
 - 48 Pour forth
 - 50 Rental checks?
 - 51 "The Price Is Right" display
 - 53 Scottish actress Mary
 - 54 Part of a combination
 - 55 Figaro in "The Barber of Seville"
 - 57 Bristle
 - 58 Nap sack?
 - 59 Pelvis part
 - 60 Brains
 - 61 Overabundance
 - 66 King Duncan's killer
 - 67 Title poem of a Poe book
 - 68 Marrier in haste, maybe
 - 70 Amorous glance: Fr.
 - 72 Depicted
 - 75 High dudgeon
 - 76 Zilch
 - 78 Foment
 - 80 Some movie ratings
 - 81 Languish
 - 83 Old fiddle
 - 84 Dialogue writer
 - 85 Anchor, perhaps
 - 86 "Thou Now O Soul" (Whitman poem)
 - 93 Unc's mate
 - 95 Patriotic org.
 - 96 Maniacal leader
 - 99 Former Ford
 - 100 Opposite of seek
 - 103 Hall and Oates's
 - 105 Morales of "La Bamba"
 - 106 "M*A*S*H" Emmy winner
 - 108 Fuel efficiency rater: Abbr.
 - 109 Helpful PC key
 - 110: Climed climax of a movie thriller
 - 111 Photo
 - 112 Stutz Bearcat contemporary
 - 113 Cartoonist
 - 118 Morro Castle site
 - 119 Brighton brew
 - 122 Visitors from afar
 - 123 "Eight Men Out" director John
 - 125 They're to be counted on
 - 126 Collector's item
 - 127 "Look Homeward, Angel" dramatist
 - 128 Accumulation
 - 130 Kon-Tiki worshippers
 - 131 Oversized library volume
 - 132 Like some bombs
 - 134 Laugh and a half
 - 135 Scott Turow book
 - 136 Company co-founded by Akio Morita
 - 137 Ollie's biggest friend
 - 138 Hebrides island
 - 139 Impertinent
 - 140 Play thing
 - 141 "I have seen war" F.D.R.
 - 142 Strike out
 - 143 Congenial
 - 144 1945, for one



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CROSSWORD

Answers are on page 24