

West Trenton Garden Club

Barbara Bernhard,
President

Lorraine Persiani,
Vice President

Linda Gerasimowicz,
Recording Secretary

Iliana Okum,
Corresponding Secretary

Susan Fair,
Treasurer

Jeffrey Tryon,
Newsletter Editor

Contents

President's
Message..... 1-2

Meeting
Minutes 3-4

Program..... 5

Community..... 6

Dates to
Remember..... 7

Bulb Sale 8-9

The Garden Path Newsletter

www.westtrentongc.org

OCTOBER 2020

Dear Garden Club Members,

Happy Fall! The warm sunny days and crisp fall nights are the best time of all for enjoying our outdoor hobbies, while looking forward to a comfortable night's sleep. Time to get our gardens ready for their winter hiatus, but also time to plant a few colorful mums or hang some fall baskets. Let us not forget that this is when we could start thinking of next year's garden by deciding which bulbs would add some spring splendor to the mix. Also, don't remove the dried leaves, as they will protect your plants over the cold winter months.

Speaking of bulbs, please remember to send in your order forms to Sharon Johnson, either by mail or email, or by calling in to Sharon. Everyone should have received their order form. Let's make this a banner year for the Spring Bulb fundraiser! Thank you!

The Yearbook is finished and at the printer's, thanks to all of the hard work of Helga Fontus. Thank you, Helga, for once again taking on this huge task! It is the backbone of our club and we would all be at a loss without it.

Birmingham Park is looking phenomenal, thanks to Heidi and her team. Recently, we had two additional members helping out. Thank you to Linda Geiger and Susan Chrystal, who also were so kind to give of their time at the garden.

Ingrid Fair and her committee are putting the final touches on our Scarecrow. "Diggin'It" will be making her debut in Birmingham Park on Thursday, October 1. Please come out and vote, we want to make "Diggin'It" a winner! Or just come out and have some Fall fun!

Plans for Morven are materializing. Heidi Furman presented a blue and white theme for our tree decorations. Please contact Heidi if you are interested in participating in this project. It will be sure to impress!

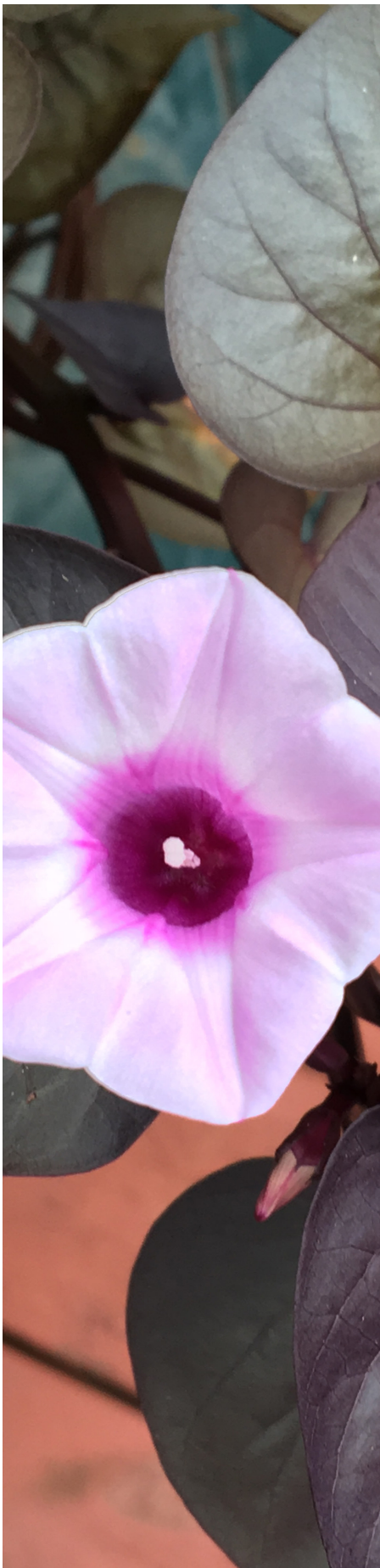
Unfortunately, Drumthwacket will not be offering open houses this holiday season, so we will not get the opportunity to decorate for them.

We are still waiting for the church halls and the library to re-open. The WTGC will continue to meet by way of Zoom for our October, November and February meetings. Anne Chmielewski and Pat Bowker have been working very hard to find us speakers and a designer who are able to do Zoom. Thank you both, we sincerely appreciate your tremendous effort in keeping our club going! Anne, our guest speaker this past month, Gert Coleman was very interesting and full of herbal knowledge. Thank you for this wonderful program!



**NOTE: WE WILL CONTINUE
WITH OUR ZOOM MEETINGS ONLINE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5!**





October Happy Birthday wishes go out to:
Dolores Brezak – October 9; Christianne Chandonnet – October 23;
Ingrid Fair – October 27

REGULAR MEETING – Monday, October 5 @ 7:00 PM - Zoom
BOARD MEETING – Monday, October 26 @ 7:00 PM – Zoom
Thank you to Rick Lazarick!

Enjoy the beautiful month of October! Be happy, be safe and healthy!

See you all on October 5th,
Barbara Bernhard, President WTGC

**2020 PHS GARDEN CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED
VIRTUAL COMPETITION DRAWS MORE THAN 500 ENTRIES!**

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is excited to announce the results of this year's 2020 Gardening Contest, which welcomed more than 500 contestants! Entries came in from all over the region, including Cape May, the Poconos, Fenwick Island, Delaware New Jersey, and Pittsburgh, as well as Center City! New this year, participants entered and shared images of their gardens online.

The contest asked that participants share 10 photos of their gardens and PHS awards staff and committee members reviewed the photos and criteria and made the selections. Ana Adomaitis called to congratulate Iliana Okum as one of the winners. Ana judged five gardens this year, but not Iliana's. There were 122 Blue Ribbon Top Winners, 160 Garden of Distinction Award Winners, and some Proud Participant winners.

Iliana's garden was one of 160 Garden of Distinction Awards.

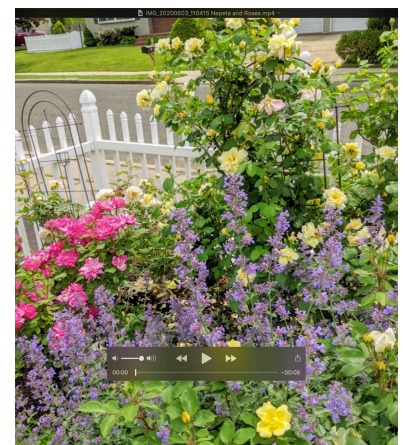
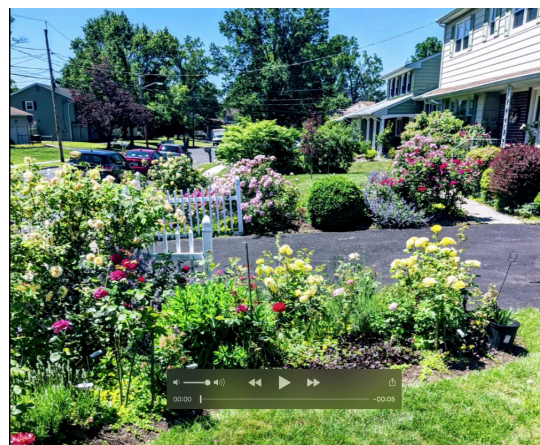


Photo by Linda Reasoner

Photos courtesy of Iliana Okum



Photo by Heidi Furman

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The West Trenton Garden Club Meeting was held via the internet as a ZOOM meeting on September 14, 2020. Twenty-four members participated. President Barbara Bernhard called the meeting to order at 7:05. She welcomed all members, as well as our guest speaker, Gert Coleman and also several members of the Nottingham Garden Club. Barbara also gave birthday wishes to September birthday members.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Linda Gerasimowicz reported the minutes of August's ZOOM meeting were in the newsletter. Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes will be filed as reported.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Susan Fair reported a total of \$8,740.12 in the Club's account. Hearing no concerns, the amount will be filed as reported.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT

Corresponding Secretary, Iliana Okum reported there is nothing to report.

AGENDA ITEMS

FUTURE MEETINGS

There have been no changes at OLGC or Incarnation as far as using their halls for our meetings. Therefore, we will continue having ZOOM meetings. October 5th is the next General Meeting with October 26th as the next Board Meeting.

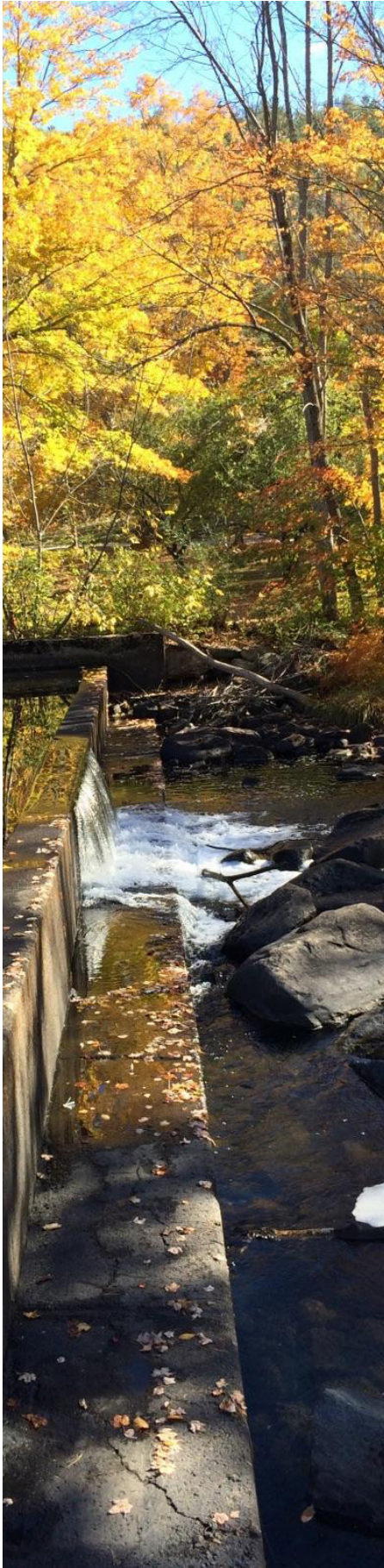
COMMITTEE REPORTS

Yearbook – Helga Fontus reported the yearbook is done and is at the printer. She will get the proofs and if there are no corrections it will be printed. She then puts on labels and adds ribbon and they will be distributed during the curbside pick-up for the spring bulb sale. Barbara thanked Helga for her hard work on such an excellent yearbook.

Spring Bulb Sale – Chairpersons, Sue Fair and Sharon Johnson reported the order form was sent out in an EMAIL to all members. There are 4 bulbs available. There are red and white tulips that could be donated to plant in Birmingham Park. Orders are due by October 2nd. Curbside pick up is October 16th at Ingrid Fair's house.

Birmingham Park – Chairperson, Heidi Furman thanked all the volunteers who have helped at the Park. She thanked Rick Lazarick who has been mowing the grass.

Morven – Chairperson Heidi Furman reported the theme for our tree decorations is inspired by the colors of Delft porcelain, which is blue and white. There will be patterned paper ornaments. Heidi requested club members to contact her if they are interested in working on this project.



Photos by Anna Adomaitis

Scarecrow Contest – Chairperson, Ingrid Fair states things are progressing well. Our scarecrow, “Diggin’It,” will be placed in Birmingham Park near the bench by September 29th or 30th. Heidi stated she put a sign in the Park advertising the contest and scavenger hunt. Barbara Bernhard reported all the information was in our last newsletter and can also be seen on the Green Team website.

Drumthwacket – Chairperson, Lorraine Persiani had reported to Barbara Bernhard that there will be no decorating or house tours this year.

Flowers for the Library – Chairperson, Alicia Magee reported the Library remains closed but may reopen in October. She showed a frame in which she will put pictures of flowers to place at the Library.

Holiday Party – Chairperson Camille Rainiero was not present. Barbara Bernhard stated the party would probably not happen.

Discussion – Carolyn Kane questioned if the Club was still giving recognition for beautiful flowers at a home or business. If so, she would like to recognize Erini Restaurant. Chairperson, Grace Starrett states she will do that and also urged members to contact her with any other nominees. Iliana Okum, Chairperson for donations to Trenton Psychiatric Hospital at Christmas time states she will contact them to see if they are accepting items due to the COVID precautions. Jeff Tryon stated he would need any items for the Newsletter submitted by September 18th.

With no further items to discuss, Maggie Kramer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:26, and was seconded by Ginny Sari.

Program – Anne Chmielewski, Program Chairperson introduced our guest speaker, Gert Coleman who gave a presentation on Herbal Houseplants for the Kitchen and Beyond.

*Linda Gerasimowicz,
Recording Secretary*





Detail from the work of eccentric and acclaimed Victorian botanic artist, Marianne North.

WEST TRENTON GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS

Suitable for Framing: A Victorian Woman's Place in Botanic Art and Illustration

PROGRAM BY LESLEY PARNES

MONDAY OCTOBER 5, 2020 | 7PM ZOOM

When renowned British botanist John Lindley wrote “A Ladies Botany” in 1834, he did so to block women from, not welcome them into, the academic world of horticulture. Learn how women figured it out anyway and managed to contribute to science, influence public taste and advance their own craft. The Victorian artists featured range from rebels to spinsters, suffragettes to missionary wives and are highlighted with strikingly beautiful imagery and humor.

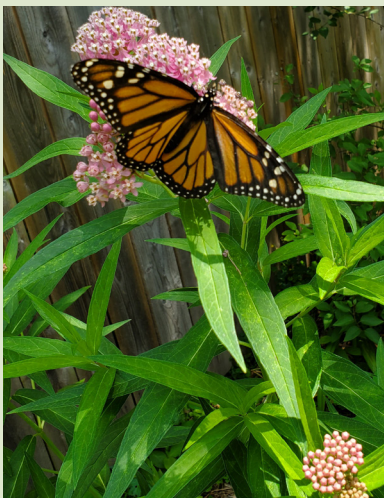
WWW.WESTTRENTONGC.ORG



Lesley Parnes

This is High Pollinator Season: Meet Mariposa

BY HEIDI FURMAN



POLLINATORS 101

Monarchs, as with all pollinators need a host plant — a plant they have evolved with, and is their specific, and only source of food. Monarchs use milkweed to lay their eggs on, so that when the caterpillars emerge, they are already on their food source, and don't have to go searching for it. Nature is very efficient. Milkweed sap is bitter and poisonous to other creatures, so they tend to leave Monarchs alone because they taste bad. After hatching from the egg, the caterpillar eats through lots of milkweed. When the caterpillar is done growing, it walks to another nearby plant to form the beautiful jade chrysalis with gold decoration. There it will form into the regal butterfly we love. When the day comes for it to emerge, the Monarch spends a bit of time drying its wings, and pumping its wings for the long trek back home to Mexico. What an incredible journey.

Monarchs make an incredible journey every year from their winter refuge in the trees of the mountains of Michoacán, Mexico. After their winter rest, they start their flight north in March up through the eastern half of the US, as far north as Canada, culminating in large numbers of their offspring ready to make their way back to Mexico by September and October.

I remember our family trips to the Jersey shore, and part of the excitement of the trip was seeing thousands of Monarchs on the dunes resting during their migration. What a beautiful sight that was. Now we are lucky if we see a few on our properties these days.

What's causing the decline of Monarchs specifically, and pollinators as a whole? As our recent guest speaker Nanci Angle pointed out, there are a few issues affecting them. Habitat loss is one. We are developing and paving over every square inch of land, and in doing so are bulldozing prime habitat for all sorts of native wildlife. Lawns are the typical go-to landscaping for most construction, but pollinators can't live on grass. Lawns are dead zones that require unprecedented amounts of water and, in some cases, chemical fertilizers and weed killers that ultimately harm us. Think algae blooms in our waterways. We ultimately drink those chemicals. Insecticides and herbicides, toxic to insects and all other life, including us, are ravaging pollinator numbers. If we lose pollinators, we lose the ability to feed ourselves.

So what can we do? The first thing to do is to educate yourself about incorporating attitudes and practices that support life. If you have a garden, think about your favorite butterfly, and research what native host plant you'll need to put in your garden to attract it. Research what nectar plants you can plant to nourish your butterflies. Be sure to provide water and shelter too. It's also good practice to leave a healthy layer of leaves in your planting beds. First of all soil needs a protective blanket to keep it healthy, and secondly, it is guaranteed there are insect pupae overwintering in the leaves waiting to emerge in the spring.

Four years ago I took advantage of a workshop at Duke Farms called Monarch Teacher Network. What a marvelous experience that was. We were taught by the best, how to be conservators of this extraordinary butterfly.

In deciding to help and nurture pollinators, I have removed my front lawn, and planted a native plant pollinator garden with shrubs, grasses and herbs, as well as host and nectar plants. Needless to say, the yard is buzzing and humming with life. The little visitors to my garden are busy fattening up for their winter rest here, and for some, their journey to Mexico.

The native plant movement is picking up steam, and gardeners are coming around to understand the important role they play in sustaining life. Part of my education about a gentler way of gardening has come about by reading "Nature's Best Hope" by Doug Tallamy. I highly recommend this wonderful book. Read it and take that first step.

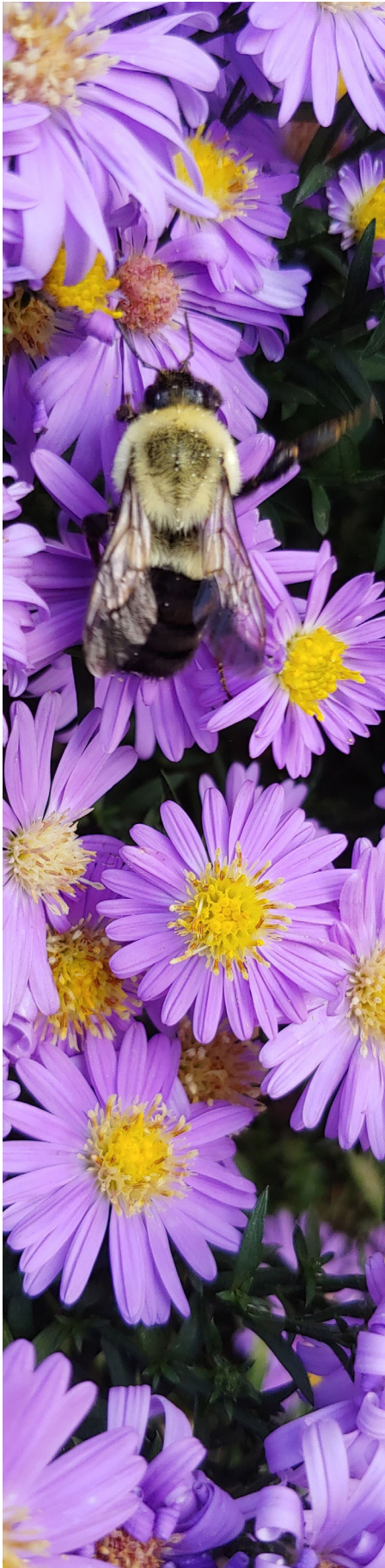


Photo by Heidi Furman

Mark Your Calendar

OCTOBER 1-29: WTGC Scarecrow Display, Birmingham Park, Corner of Bear Tavern and West Upper Ferry Roads, West Trenton, NJ

OCTOBER 5: GCNJ State Board Meeting - 10 AM - 12 PM (Virtual Zoom Meeting)

OCTOBER 5: WTGC Monthly Meeting (Virtual Zoom Meeting) - 7PM; Program: "Suitable for Framing: A Victorian Woman's Place in Botanic Art and Illustration." See Page 20 for details.

OCTOBER 6-9: Gardening Study School, Course III, Series IX. Virtual Zoom Courses TBA - Dates May Change. See GCNJ website for updates.

OCTOBER 8: GCNJ Judges Council - 10 AM - 12 PM (Virtual Zoom Meeting)

OCTOBER 14-15: GCNJ Symposium at Holiday Inn/National Conference Center, East Windsor, NJ. - postponed to the Fall of 2021. See GCNJ website for updates.

OCTOBER 19: District VII Meeting - 7PM (Virtual Zoom Meeting).

OCTOBER 26: GCNJ Fall Conference and President's Day, Bridgewater Marriott - 8 AM-3 PM.

OCTOBER 26: WTGC Board Meeting - 7PM (Virtual Zoom Meeting).

Happy Birthday!

Dolores Brezak – October 9; Christiane Chandonnet – October 23; Ingrid Fair – October 27

Don't Forget!

FLOWERS FOR EWING LIBRARY: Iliana Okum

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE: Virtual Zoom Meeting; Hospitality not required.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



Please submit all info for *The Garden Path* to Jeff Tryon by the 15th of the month. wtgcnewsletter@gmail.com

2020 West Trenton Garden Club Fall Bulb Sale Order Form

Name: _____ WTGC Member: Y or N

Address: _____ Phone: _____

RETURN FORM TO SHARON JOHNSON: 11 Sheffield Road, Mercerville, NJ 08619. You may also call or email your order. (609) 890-0116; email: sharon2johnson@verizon.net
 Orders must be submitted no later than Friday, October 2. Sue Fair will be present to distribute your pick-up orders at Ingrid Fair's house, 6 Honeywood Ln, Ewing, NJ on Friday, October 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m..

BULBS	\$ PER PKG.	# OF PKG.	\$ TOTAL
DAFFODIL - Golden Harvest (Pkg. of 6)	\$8.00		
DAFFODIL - Golden Harvest (Pkg. of 12)	\$14.00		
DAFFODIL - Golden Harvest (Pkg. of 24)	\$22.00		
Golden Harvest - An old-timer but incredible daffodil. Huge yellow flowers that can be seen for what seems like miles. In cool weather, very long lasting blooms. Deer and Rodent Proof 16-18" height - Early Bloom			
WTGC Favorite - by Popular Demand			
ALLIUM - Purple Sensation (Pkg. of 6)	\$8.00		
ALLIUM - Purple Sensation (Pkg. of 12)	\$14.00		
ALLIUM - Purple Sensation (Pkg. of 24)	\$22.00		
Purple Sensation - Beautiful, perennial, affordable. 4-inch globes of rich purple flowers on tall stems. Blooms on the heels of late tulips. Deer Resistant 28-32" height Late Bloom			
Birmingham Park Tulips for Blue Star Memorial			
TULIP - Arrow Space (Pkg of 6)	\$8.00		
TULIP - Arrow Space (Pkg of 12)	\$14.00		
TULIP - Arrow Space (Pkg of 24)	\$22.00		
Arrow Space - A patriotic mix of red and white bulbs emerge from this foliage. Introduced in 2018. 20-24" height Mid - Late Bloom			
TULIP - Moris Gudanov (Pkg of 6)	\$8.00		
TULIP - Moris Gudanov (Pkg of 12)	\$14.00		
TULIP - Moris Gudanov (Pkg of 24)	\$22.00		
Moris Gudanov - Stunning! A big, beefy bloom filled with peach and red petals, sometimes streaked, sometimes solid. Nursery claims that one flower could feed a family of four! 18-20" height. Mid - Late Bloom			
TOTAL			\$



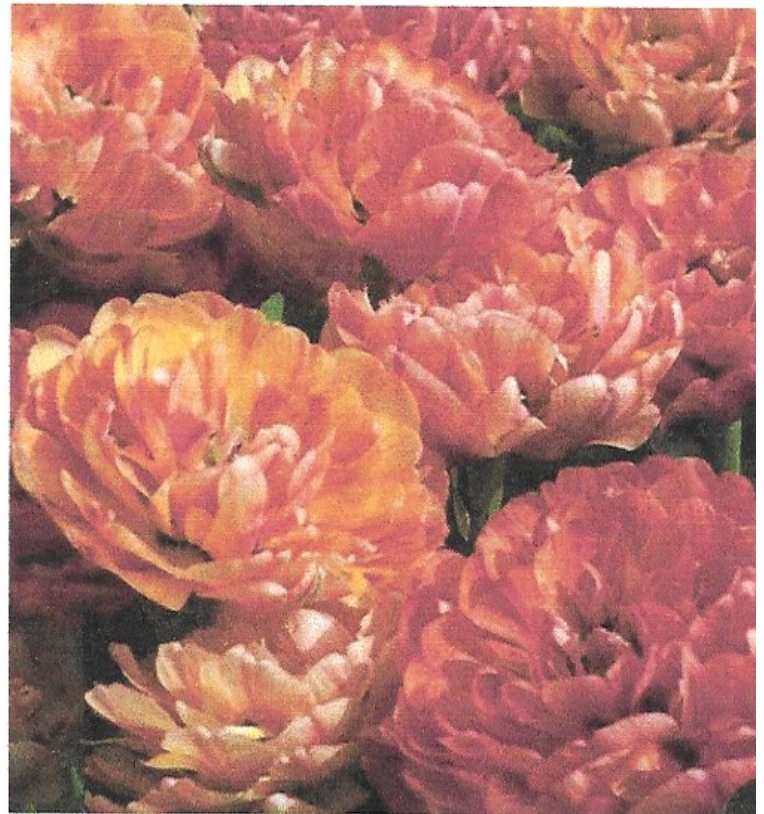
Golden Harvest Daffodil



Purple Sensation Allium



Arrow Space Tulip



Moris Gudanov Tulip