September is the time to plant your bulbs to get beautiful spring flowers. Some of the more common are tulips, irises, daffodils, hyacinth, allium and crocus. Many bulbs are perfect for container planting — bring them into view when blooming and move out of the way when foliage is wilting and when dormant.

Let’s talk about tulips. True or False?. . Tulips were once worth more than gold and responsible for the crash of the Dutch economy in 1637.

According to Wikipedia, Tulip mania was a period in the Dutch Golden Age during which contract prices for the fashionable bulb reached extraordinarily high levels and then dramatically collapsed in February 1637. At one point 12 acres of land were offered for a Semper Augustus bulb, but historically, it had no critical influence on the prosperity of the Dutch Republic, the world's leading economic and financial power in the 17th century.

The 1637 event was popularized in 1841 by the book Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds, written by Scottish journalist Charles Mackay. Mackay claims that investors were ruined by the fall in prices, and Dutch commerce suffered a severe shock. Although Mackay’s book is a classic, his account is contested. Many modern scholars feel that the mania was not as extraordinary as Mackay described and argue that not enough price data is available to prove that a tulip-bulb bubble actually occurred. It definitely makes for a good story.

Did you know? .. . . Dragonflies can fly up to 20 miles per hour! They also hover and fly backwards. These insect-devouring hunters should be a welcome sight in any garden, consuming gnats, midges, beetles, moths, and mosquitoes.

Diane Harris, Secretary