



*To see a world in a grain  
of sand and heaven in a  
wild flower. Hold infinity in  
the palms of your hand  
and eternity in an hour.*

*~William Blake*



*Softly the grass sways  
Not knowing that the day brought  
Hope for tomorrow*

*The English proverb tells us  
that April showers bring  
forth May flowers and  
nowhere is that more true  
than here in the greater  
Seattle area.*



*If you think squash is a  
competitive activity, try  
flower arranging*

*Alan Bennett*

## Fun Facts about Spring Flowers

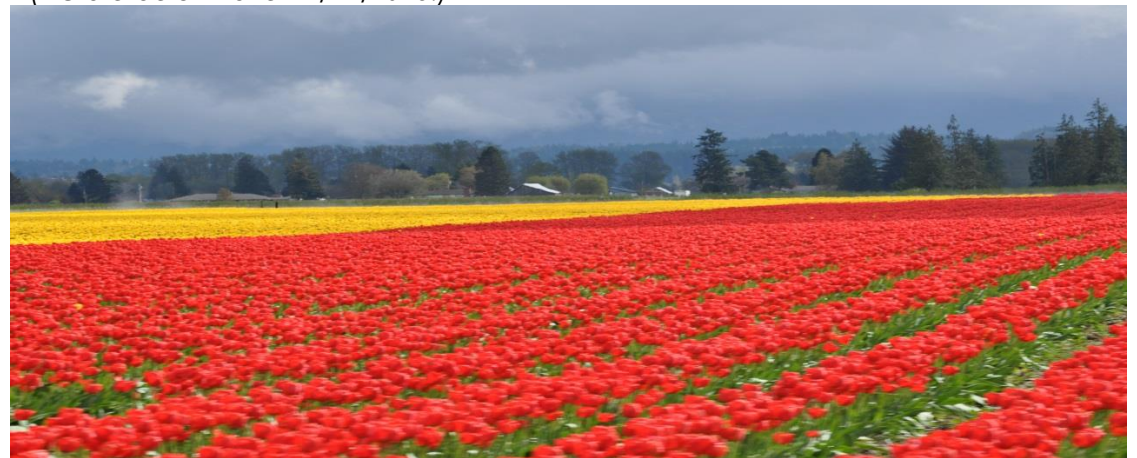
### From mid to late spring they take our breath away

**Flowering Cherry:** The Japanese flowering cherries collectively known as Sato Zakura (meaning domestic, village or cultivated cherry trees grown solely for ornament), have been extensively bred for hundreds of years. They symbolize both clouds and mortality. The gift of 3000 flowering Cherries from the Japanese government to the city of Washington DC in 2012, is still celebrated annually National Cherry Blossom Festival <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/Japan/Japanese%20Flowering%20Cherry%20Trees.pdf>

**Peony:** One legend suggests the name originates from the physician of the Greek gods, Paeon, and the roots are still used today in medicine. The Peony has been cultivated in China for over 4,000 years and is named Sho Yu, which means most beautiful. Plant in full sun and feed when you feed your bulbs, herbaceous peonies can continue to produce their blooms for over a hundred years.

**Tulips:** The name originates from the Persian word for "Turbin". Once they reached Holland in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the bulbs became a precious commodity and very highly valued. Each color symbolizes a different meaning, red is considered perfect love, yellow tulips convey cheerful thoughts while white conveys forgiveness. While they have a short life of only three to seven days, they bring amazing joy to us all.

*\*(Picture below taken 4/14/2013.)*



### Mother's Day May 12, 2013

Mother's Day continues to be the suggested time for planting your summer annual color.

What we know as Mother's Day was, originally started in 1868 by Anne Jarvis, to bring families torn apart by the civil war back together. It became a national holiday in 1910. Ironically, Anna Jarvis, daughter of Anne, became disillusioned with the commercialization of the holiday. Spending her inheritance and the rest of her life fighting what she perceived as an abuse of the celebration. Regardless of the controversy we wish a happy Mother's Day to all.

### What's Growing on.. News & Noteworthy

We spent Sunday exploring the tulip fields in the Mt Vernon area and discovered a great farmers market, Snow Valley Goose. They serve over-sized scoops of Cascade Glacier or Lopez Island Creamery on home-made waffle cones.

