

# Peter Seabrook



GARDENING WITH

with STEVE and VAL BRADLEY

# Don't cut costs

## YOU KNOW IT MAKES SCENTS

**EVERYONE** loves a bargain – but the drive to lower prices in gardening products is leading to damaging cuts in quality.

I have been dismayed by the falling standard of cheap potting composts as fierce competition forces prices ever lower.

If we are going to spend months tending plants in pots, it is false economy to buy poor-grade composts that have insufficient plant foods.

Too many people are being persuaded to buy heavy, inferior peat-free composts.

It is a similar story with autumn bulbs. Bigger ones of any variety may cost a little more but they give larger and better flowers.

If you plant top-size tulips, you stand a much better chance of them coming up year after year.

Modern vegetable and flower seeds in good F1 hybrid forms will cost a little more but they bring more disease resistance. They also offer improved yields of tastier crops and vigorous

uniform growth. You should plant top-quality rose bushes in well-prepared soil in early autumn and they will flower from early summer to Christmas for many years.

To prepare the soil, dig the area a spade's depth, ideally breaking up subsoil a bit with a fork as you dig.

Mix in plenty of well-rotted garden compost or manure

Avoid planting roses where roses grew before. The same goes for apples, pears, plums and cherries.

### Value

Where replanting is unavoidable, replace the soil in each planting hole with fresh soil from another part of the garden. Another option is to treat the base of the hole with Root-grow, a mix of five natural fungi that grow large secondary root systems on the rose roots.

A good bed of roses underplanted with tulips for spring flowering will pay dividends. If you want to improve the value of your house, invest in quality roses. You can start with our excellent roses offer below.

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EVERYTHING will be coming up roses next summer with this superb offer – and you can save up to £39.

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