



Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

Johnson's Garden Talk

September 2001



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Wichita, KS 67203
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TOLL-FREE NUMBER

888-542-8463

EMAIL

askus@johnsonsgarden.com

WEB PAGE

www.johnsonsgarden.com

April in Amsterdam

Mary Conrad, 2000 Holland Trip Winner

In the Fall of 2000, I was fortunate to win a trip for two to Amsterdam compliments of Johnson's Garden Centers. Since my husband was unable to go, our daughter from Chicago accompanied me during the week of the Holland Tulip Festival, April 13th. As a result of the weather being unseasonably cool, the daffodils and hyacinths were in full bloom with tulips just beginning to open. The many fields of flowers were beautiful!

We had selected a hotel in downtown Amsterdam, next to the world's largest floating flower market, in order to have easy access to the many museums, city tours and canal rides. During the first days we walked to the Rijkmuseum, the Vincent van Gogh museum, and other sites of interest. When our "tired feet" needed a rest, and not wanting to waste any time, we purchased tickets for a canal ride and a tour to Volendam, Marken and the Edam Cheesemaking facility. Even though these excursions were great we looked forward to a day with Johnson's bulb supplier, Pete Stuijbergen

On our last day in Holland, Mr. Stuijbergen was kind enough to take us to his business and to the Aalsmeer Flower Auction. The auction was unbelievable! Flowers had been shipped to Aalsmeer from many countries, auctioned, and then re-packed for shipping to buyers world wide within 24 hours. From there, we went to the Keukenhof Gardens and bulb fields where we spent several hours viewing the beautiful gardens and displays. The final excursion of the day was a visit to a small town where the residents of several communities were preparing floats made of flowers for a 20 mile, day long parade the following Sunday. Unfortunately, time did not permit us to stay for the parade.

Although the entire trip was very enjoyable, this last day exceeded all expectations! This one day alone was well worth the long trip to and from Holland. Pete's hospitality and that of his colleagues and the people of Holland was unsurpassed! We are very appreciative of Johnson's Garden Center for making this trip possible. And yes, we will return to the Garden Center to purchase additional bulbs this fall!