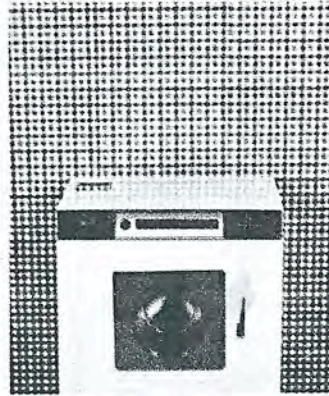
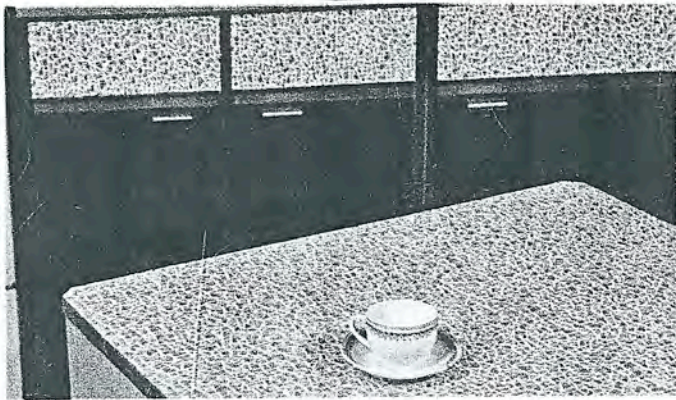


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Living Aug. 1968

When you keep getting dirty looks

# Don't snap. Snip!



## Fablon puts a bright new face on things.

Put a bright new face on furniture, walls and similar surfaces. It couldn't be easier with Fablon. Just take a Fablon roll, a pair of scissors and snip away madly (choose from dozens of gay patterns, textures, woodgrain and marbled effects). Fablon is self-adhesive, wipes clean in a flash and comes 18" wide at 4/3 a yard; 27" at 7/3 a yard; 36" at 9/9 a yard. See our full-colour guide in department stores and do-it-yourself shops everywhere.

(Top) Use Fablon to cover your kitchen table and protect it at the same time. A Fablon surface is easily cleaned and looks great. Just cut to size, strip off backing, and stick down.

(Left) Give a chest of drawers a completely new look, and save yourself some cleaning headaches. Use any of Fablon's decorative patterns.

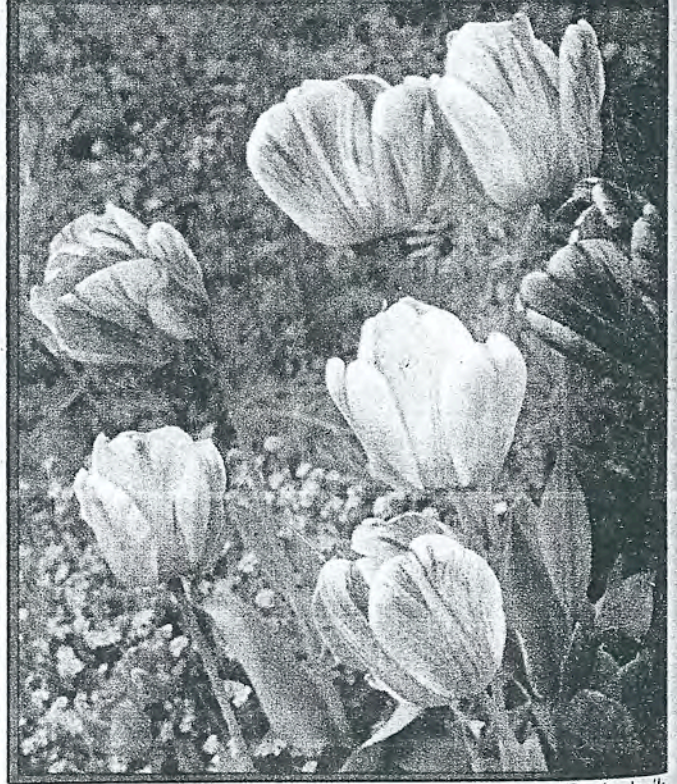
(Right) The wall above the washing machine gets steamy and stained. Cover it with Fablon. It's splash-proof. Wipes clean quickly. Looks great.

Snip snap, that's that with **Fablon**

## From My Garden

by H. E. BATES

### The Splendour of Tulips



Tulip Gudoshnik

As I indicated last month, there are certain marked differences in the behaviour of crocus species and those of tulips. This is not to say that tulips cannot equal, or even surpass, the glory of the crocus. Indeed if the crocus are the winter queens, then certainly tulips are crowned emperors of late winter and spring.

It is their geographical origins that provide the clue to the differences. Baku, Caucasus, Afghanistan, Iran, Parnassus, Bokhara, Taurus, Smyrna—all these spell only one thing: the heat of a powerful sun. Never, in this country, does summer provide the necessary oven for the baking these tulips get in their native torrid desert habitat, a baking without which, in my experience, they fail either to increase or survive for very long. But if their glory is brief it is often of stunning splendour.

Unlike the crocus species these tulips do not begin their reign until after Christmas, though *T. violacea* Violet Queen will bloom early in February, or even in January, as I discovered when its

purplish heads once opened for me on January 18. This earliness is the chief of its virtues, since its colour, rather muddy as it is, will certainly not please all tastes.

Not so, I think, the many early species that follow it in February and March, when some of them blaze so savagely scarlet that the eye can hardly bear the brilliance of their dazzling silken petals slashed within, as many are, with equally striking yellow and black. *T. fosteriana* (of which much more later), *T. praestans* and its hybrid Fusilier, *T. eichleri* and its hybrid Excelsa, and *T. hageri*: all these are of dazzling regal splendour. The quieter tones of the so-called Water-lily Tulips, *T. kaufmanniana*, though rich, are of greater refinement and provide even greater delight because, apart from *T. violacea*, they are the earliest of all to flower. More of them later too.

Of very strong appeal to me is our own native tulip, *T. sylvestris*, which of all the species I have ever grown is alone in its unbroken persistence over many years, increasing and naturalising itself with complete happiness. It is found in many counties all over England and in a few places in Scotland, too. It is very like a pure yellow fritillary, the flower head drooping like a bell from a thin exquisite swan-neck of a stalk. The foliage is of a pleasant tender green, the flower yellow within and without. It would seem that *T. australis* is very like it and that *T. florentina* is an improved form. It is found also as far south as Persia, but not, alas and alack, any longer in catalogues, or at least it would seem so, judging by the current ones I have before me. But at least one firm offers seed, as it does of a dozen other species.

Difficult to grow is that most graceful of jewels, *T. clusiana*, rightly called the Lady Tulip, since nothing could be more feminine in its painted fragility. Its candy stripes of pink and white are as beautiful as the blue eye that lies in its heart.

Although mention of the tulip came comparatively late in botanical history it has nevertheless been known in Europe for some 400 years (*T. sylvestris*, for example, was recognised in 1576 and *T. clusiana* was also known to early botanists). It is all the more remarkable therefore that it is only comparatively recently that any extensive work of hybridisation has been attempted among the species. But such work already done has produced new glories, of which the crossing of *T. fosteriana* with certain Darwins has produced hybrids that are positively spectacular. The vigour of the Darwins combined with the earliness and splendour of *T. fosteriana*, has resulted in the theatrical Holland's Glory, quite the largest of all tulips—indeed it might well be said that its great flaunting scarlet petals are too large to brave the winds of March—together with Apeldoorn, also red but not so large, Gudoshnik, yellow flushed red, Red Emperor and my favourite among them all, White Emperor or Purissima, really not purest white but a tender and exquisite shade of cream. All these are among the earliest tulips to flower.

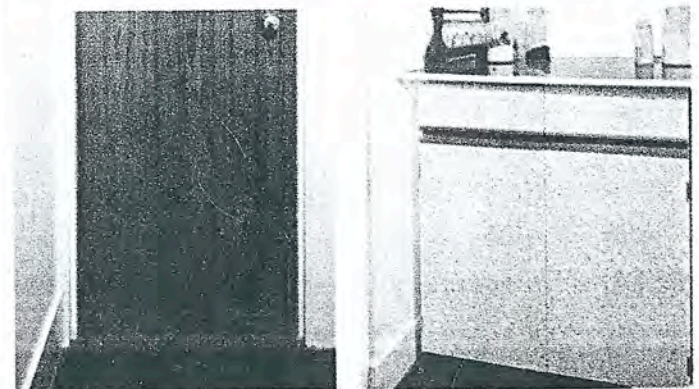
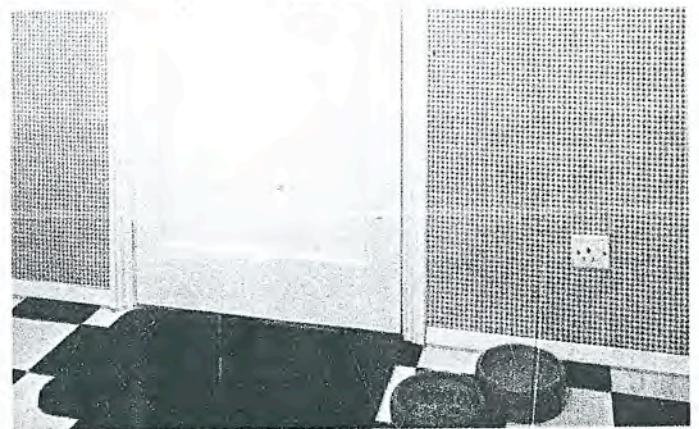
They are, however, generally a little later than the now very numerous *T. kaufmanniana* hybrids, all of much shorter growth, many striped, many with delightfully mottled leaves. The First, white with an exterior crimson band, Stresa, a strong yellow with a dark red outer band, Berlioz, gold with delicate scarlet tips on the pointed petals, and Alfred Cortot, crimson scarlet with a touch of coal black: all these come before the swallow dares.

In yet a third group, *T. kaufmanniana* has been married with *T. greigii*, whose original home is Turkestan, to give us much progeny of singular beauty, again very early to flower, delicate but sturdy of habit and many again, such as Red Riding Hood, Cape Cod, Zampa, Mary Ann and Yellow Dawn, with mottled leaves. I should add that none of these are cheap to buy, but groups of a dozen or even half a dozen will prove immensely rewarding. All the more reason, therefore, that you should take the utmost care that mice are denied a free banquet

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When he leads you a dog's life

# Don't snap. Snip!



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(Top) Use Fablon to face your kitchen walls. They'll be bright and always easily cleaned. Just cut to size, strip off backing, and stick down.

(Left) Give your door a bright new look with Fablon wood-grained facing. Paw marks wipe clean in a second. (So do children's fingerprints.)

(Right) Cupboard doors stay beautifully clean. And the bright Fablon patterns can do wonders for a kitchen. Cooking hours just zip by in such cheery surroundings.

Snip snap,  
that's that with **Fablon**