

DO'S:

- Always plant daffodils in a sunny location (too much shade will result in the daffodils not blooming after the first year down).
- Always plant daffodils in a well-drained location (areas where water regularly stands will result in bulb loss). Where good drainage does not exist, building a raised bed is a good solution.

DONT'S:

- Don't cool daffodil bulbs in the refrigerator before planting. This practice isn't recommended for daffodils as it will cause them to bloom early with very short stems.
- Don't mow the daffodil foliage down after blooming; let it die down naturally. Controlled experiments have shown that cutting daffodil foliage down shortly after blooming will result in severe bulb loss and fewer blooms in subsequent years. Next year's bloom begins to form in the bulb immediately after blooming. Thus, early cutting down of the foliage will result in next year's flower not being formed in the bulb. If you must mow down foliage, you should wait until six weeks after the last blooms have faded.
- Don't plait the daffodil leaves or tie them up in bunches! This will interfere with the making of food in the leaves which is carried down to feed the bulb and the developing flower contained therein.

PLANTING:

- Plant standard bulbs six inches deep and six inches apart in trenches or holes which have been dug in well-prepared soil. As a rule, miniature bulbs are planted only one to two

inches deep. Clay can be loosened by the addition of gypsum and/or sand (not red sand) to the bed during preparation. Organic matter in the form of peat moss or peat humus can be added to the soil. A little sand (1/2 - 1 inch) or Perlite at the bottom of the trench or hole is said to facilitate rooting of the bulb and supposedly provides good drainage as well.

- After planting, mulch the beds with 2 - 3 inches of pine straw. Pine straw helps keep down weeds, reduces the amount of dirt splashed up on the blooms, and keeps the soil cooler in summer. However, the pine straw mulch helps retain moisture in the soil which is not necessarily good for most daffodils in the Deep South if the summer proves to be a wet one. Also, garden slugs are known to hide during the day below the pine straw and then emerge at night to climb up your favorite daffodil and devour the bloom. Despite these problems, most growers of daffodils will use a pine mulch if the pine straw is available to them.
- In the Deep South, the best time to plant daffodils is from the middle of October up until Thanksgiving.

FERTILIZING:

- Avoid high nitrogen fertilizers as they are associated with bulb rot; also, avoid fresh manures for the same reason. Fertilizing options after planting include: 1) broadcast 0-24-24 (N-P-K) at the rate of 1½ lbs/100 square feet; or 2) broadcast 1 lb 8-24-24/100 square feet; or 3) broadcast 1 lb 8-8-8 or ¾ lb 13-13-13/100 square feet. A one pint fruit jar contains approximately one pound of a granular fertilizer. Alternatively, fertilizer can be worked directly into the soil at the time of bed preparation.

- Some authorities recommend that daffodils be fertilized three times a year: 1) at planting, 2) as the foliage emerges from the ground, and 3) after blooming. However, other authorities feel that fertilizing three times a year is probably excessive unless the soil is extremely sandy and all the nutrients are continually being leached from the soil.
- The final word: "Have your soil tested periodically by the Agricultural Extension Service; see your County Agent for details."

DIGGING:

- When the foliage has died down naturally, but not disappeared, dig the bulbs, wash them with a hose after cutting off any remaining foliage, and place them in a mesh bag.
- Hang the bags of bulbs in a well-ventilated garden shed or garage. After several months, the bulbs can be cleaned by hand to remove dried outer scales, etc.
- In order to keep the daffodils from becoming too thick and decreasing in bloom, dig and replant the bulbs about every three years.

Daffodil Show
Third Weekend in March
Centre Court
Northpark Mall
1200 E. Country Line Road
Ridgeland, MS

Catch "Yellow Fever"...

Join the Central Mississippi Daffodil Society:

Dues: Individual - \$5.00/yr
Family - \$7.00/yr
Sustaining - \$15.00/yr

Make checks payable to 'Central Mississippi Daffodil Society' and mail to:

Ms. Mary C. Price
57 Briar Court
Brandon, MS 39042

Join the American Daffodil Society:

Dues: Youth (17 or younger) - \$5.00
Individual - \$20.00 yr
Household - \$25.00 yr
Individual Sustaining - \$50.00 yr.

Make checks payable to 'American Daffodil Society' and mail to:

Mrs. Naomi Liggett
Executive Director
American Daffodil Society
4126 Winfield Road
Columbus, OH 43220-4606

Growing Daffodils in the Deep South



Central Mississippi Daffodil Society
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