

florida daffodil society news

ISSUE NO. 18

October 1997

ANNUAL BULB SALE

Saturday, October 25, 1997

Our fourth annual bulb sale will be held at the home of Clara Jane Smith, 416 Plantation Road, Tallahassee. Plantation Road joins Meridian Road on the right, one and a half blocks north of John Knox Road (the street running along the south side of the Tallahassee Mall). At 9:00 and 9:15 a.m., there will be two brief slide shows illustrating the bulbs to be sold. Bulb sales will actually begin about 9:45. Refreshments will be served.

Most bulbs will be available at 5 for \$2.50. In some instances we have to charge \$2.50 for 4 bulbs to keep from losing money. Please pay for bulbs by check, as it is a lot easier on the treasurer. ***If you have not renewed your membership, be prepared to do so, so you may participate in the sale.*** Check your mailing label for when your dues are due! If you are unable to attend the sale and wish to buy bulbs, call John at 878-9753.

Bulbs marked (**) are from locally grown stock. A great variety of bulbs (25 species and cultivars) will be offered. We were fortunate to obtain Dick Wellband, Butter and Eggs and N. incomparabilis which are no longer on the general commercial market. Texan Keith Kridler dug the former two in his garden this year, and offered them to us at an unbelievably low price.

Mother Nature determines when the flowers will bloom, and there is often a considerable time difference from year to year. Season is listed as a general guide.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: No Prior Experience Necessary

Volunteers are needed on:

Thursday, October 16, 9:00 a.m. until noon: to help package and label bulbs at John's house.

Thursday, October 23: to help move daffodils, tables, and fertilizer to Clara Jane's house.

Friday, October 24: to help set up display tables, and arrange bulbs.

Saturday, October 25: to help staff tables at the sale.

Saturday, October 25: to weigh and bag fertilizer at the bulb sale.

Tuesday, November 11: to assist with bulb sale at Thomasville Garden Club.

Please call Mary Ann at 997 3986, Clara Jane at 385-3324, John at 878-9753, or Harriet Hawkins at (912) 226-0618.

ARE YOUR DUES DUE NOW?

And how do you tell? Simplicity itself! Just check the mailing label on the envelope which contained this interesting, informative and downright incredible little newsletter. On the far right, you should see "May 98" or "May 99". If you don't (bad!, bad!, bad!), you need to pay to maintain your membership in this wonderful organization and participate in the bulb sale *and* be invited to FDS events and open houses. Yes, you can pay your dues at the Bulb Sale – but feel free to mail the measly

\$5 (\$10 family) to Our Treasurer, Jane Leonard Smith,
2658 Noble Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32308

BULB FERTILIZER AVAILABLE

We had not been able to locate fertilizer formulated specifically for daffodils, so we took the bull by the horns, and went to a number of fertilizer plants and distributors. We had Waukeena Fertilizer make up a batch of 6-24-24 fertilizer with trace minerals. This is the mix used by commercial growers in the North as well as in the sandy areas of Virginia and South Carolina. It should be applied about a month before bulb foliage is due to emerge, around the first of December, and then a light fertilizing again immediately after blooming. This formula is great for all bulbs and for corms such as gladiolus, spraxis, ixias, etc., and tuberous plants such as caladiums. It will be made available to members at the bulb sale.

BERRY BASKETS

While we recommend planting most miniature bulbs (except jonquils) in pots, a limited number of plastic berry baskets will be made available for 25¢ at the bulb sale for those who purchase miniature bulbs and wish to plant them in the ground. One can easily fit 6 to 8 bulbs in a basket. Because of our limited supply, members are urged not to purchase more than the minimum they require.

DAFFODIL PROGRAMS

John Van Beck will present an illustrated program for members only, on planting and care of daffodils, Monday, October 13, at 9:30 a.m. in Jubilee Hall at Goodwood Plantation on Miccosukee Road. Emphasis will be on questions and answers.

Donna Legare will show slides, offer cultural tips and share information on "Daffodils That Thrive in Leon County" at

Native Nurseries, Centerville Road, Saturday,
October 18, 10:00 a.m.

DAFFODILS IN POTS

While most bulbs bloom well in pots, if you are bothered by moles you should definitely consider planting your miniature daffodils in pots. Mole tunneling kills bulbs: they don't eat 'em, they just toss them out of the ground! Remember that all miniatures require $\frac{1}{2}$ day of shade.

It is not difficult to grow daffodils in pots. They will grow in plain old dirt, potting soil that drains well, and some like pseudonarcissus do well with a lot of clay in the mix. Daffodils are deep rooted, and want 6 inches of soil **below** the base of the bulb so the pots must be deep enough. You can use a fancy ceramic pot, a plain old flower pot, or one of those ugly black pots that are used at all the nurseries. It can be wrapped in foil, or placed inside another container at "show time."

Tazettas may have the top of the bulb only $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below the surface; miniatures from 1 to 2 inches below the surface and others from a minimum of 2 inches up to 5 or 6 inches below the surface. When the bulbs are potted up, they should be watered well and set in the shade. Weekly watering should begin around December 1st. As soon as the bulb foliage breaks ground, the pot should be fertilized and moved into sunlight and kept **well watered** until they finish blooming.

When the blooms are spent, the pot should be lightly fertilized and moved to an inconspicuous location to get some sun, but where it won't cook! The bulbs can be tipped out of the pot and planted in the ground, the pot may be sunk in the ground, or leaves or pine straw pilled around the pot to keep the sun off it. Pots should be tended for 6 to 8 weeks after they quit blooming. At that point they may be tipped on their side, and put behind the wood pile until the following November. (September for tazettas.)
