

7 gorgeous places to visit daffodils this spring



The daffodils at Blithewold in Rhode Island. —*Blithewold*

By Kristi Palma

It's daffodil season, and there's no shortage of the spring flower in New England, or of festivals and events dedicated to it.

At Bristol, Rhode Island's Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum, you'll find 50,000 daffodils.

"We have over 13 type of daffodils on the property," said Tree Callanan, director of communications and visitor experience at Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum in Bristol, Rhode Island, in an email. "They all bloom at different times. ... The visual impact is amazing."

Below, discover daffodil-inspired events taking place all over the region this month.

View daffodils at dusk in Bristol, Rhode Island

Each April, guests flock to Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum, the historic 33-acre estate on the shore of Narragansett Bay, for the blooming of more than 50,000 daffodils. And for two Fridays in a row this spring, guests can view the property's daffodils at dusk. This after-hours event will feature live jazz, a complimentary cocktail or lemonade, and the chance to explore Blithewold's spring gardens after the mansion is closed to the public. There will also be an outdoor scavenger hunt for children "and those who are still kids at heart." The event is free with mansion admission. (*Friday, April 28, and Friday, May 5 from 6 to 8 p.m.; Blithewold, Bristol, Rhode Island; mansion admission is \$14 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6 to 17, free for kids under age 6*)

Celebrate all things daffodil at the Daffodil Festival on Nantucket

The 43rd annual Nantucket Community Daffodil Flower Show is only part of the island's weekend-long flower-themed festival. The celebration will also include tours, brunches, art shows, contests, picnics, performances, wine tastings, exhibitions, and parades—featuring kids, dogs, and antique

cars. Here's a complete schedule of events. *(Friday, April 28 to Sunday, April 30 at various times; various Nantucket venues; some events are free and some charge admission)*

Visit Parsons Daffodil Field in Dartmouth

Wear sturdy shoes to this daffodil field, located at the Parsons Reserve in Dartmouth just south of Russell's Mills Village. You'll have to travel a quarter mile from the reserve entrance to get to it, and the dirt-covered trails have rocks, tree roots, hills, and wet spots. However, the beautiful view is worth it. More than 12,000 people trekked to the field in 2016, according to the Dartmouth Natural Resource Trust website. Note that parking is limited, and the trust asks that you follow the daffodil field rules. *(Late April and early May from sunrise to sunset; 50 Horseneck Road, Dartmouth; \$2 for non-members, free for members)*

Take a guided tour at Daffodil Days in Falmouth

Ask a master gardener all of your daffodil questions and take a guided tour of thousands of daffodils at the Spohr Gardens Daffodil Days. During this daffodil celebration that takes place the last two Saturdays of the month, you'll also find face painting; performances by the Falmouth Academy String Octet, a ventriloquist, and the Falmouth Fiddlers; items for sale; and a wishing tree. *(Saturday, April 22 and Saturday April 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Spohr Gardens, Falmouth; free, but donations are appreciated)*



Tower Hill Botanic Garden's Field of Gold. —*Tower Hill Botanic Garden*

Stroll through the Field of Gold in Boylston

The Tower Hill Botanic Garden's Field of Gold blooms with 25,000 daffodils. Visitors can sign a daffodil guest book at the scenic spot, and kids can go on a scavenger hunt through the field. If you

like your daffodils and other spring flowers with a guided tour, check out the Tower Hill's Spring Bulbs Tour on May 3. The tour is free with admission, but guests must pre-register for it. Or, on May 6 and 7, ogle daffodils at the Daffodil Show, which is free with admission. *(April and May at various times; Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston; \$15 for adults, \$5 for kids ages 6 to 18)*

Walk among the flowers at Laurel Ridge Farm in Connecticut

In 1941, Remy and Virginia Morosani moved to Laurel Ridge Farm in Litchfield, Connecticut, and decided to plant 10,000 daffodil bulbs. Their love of daffodils has since become a tourist attraction maintained by the Laurel Ridge Foundation, run by the couple's relatives. The public is welcome to view the Litchfield Daffodils, as they are known, from sunrise to sunset during daffodil season in April and May. Visitors are asked to follow the parking and conduct rules while walking the private property. *(April to May from sunrise to sunset; Laurel Ridge, Litchfield, Connecticut; free, but donations welcome)*

Have a spring-filled party at the Meriden Daffodil Festival in Meriden, Connecticut

Next weekend, the 39th Meriden Daffodil Festival will take over Hubbard Park in Connecticut, and 650,000 blooming daffodils will be the guests of honor. The giant festival comes with craft fairs, fireworks, food vendors, and carnival rides. About 3,000 local residents and bands will take part in a daffodil parade, complete with floats, and many musical guests will perform on three different stages throughout the weekend. Kids can enjoy readings, juggling, and martial arts at the children's entertainment stage, as well as face painting, animal demonstrations, balloons, and a meet and greet with Spiderman (no apparent relation to daffodils). *(Saturday, April 29 and Sunday, April 30 at various times; Hubbard Park, Meriden, Connecticut; free)*