

SOME COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the difference between a daffodil and a narcissus?

None. The two words are synonyms. Narcissus is the Latin or botanical name for all daffodils, just as ilex is for hollies. Daffodil is the common name for all members of the genus Narcissus, and its use is recommended by the ADS at all times other than in scientific writing.

What is a jonquil?

In some parts of the country any yellow daffodil is called a jonquil, usually incorrectly. As a rule, but not always, jonquil species and hybrids are characterized by several yellow flowers, strong scent, and rounded foliage. The hybrids are confined to Division 7 and the term "jonquil" should be applied only to daffodils in Division 7 or species in Division 10 known to belong to the jonquil group.

How many kinds of daffodil are there?

Botanists differ, but there are at least 75 species, some with a great many different forms, and about 65 natural hybrids. In addition to the species, DaffSeek www.daffseek.org lists over 20,000 hybrids, many with photos, which are divided among the twelve divisions for hybrids of the official classification. Species are classified in Division 13.

Will squirrels and other rodents eat daffodil bulbs?

No. The bulbs and leaves contain poisonous crystals which only certain insects can eat with impunity. They may, however, dig up the bulbs.

Are daffodils expensive?

Bulbs are priced from around \$1.00 up to about \$100, depending on the newness or scarcity of a cultivar and not necessarily on its desirability. There are many prize-winning exhibition cultivars that can be bought for under \$2.50. Cultivars for naturalizing cost even less, but mixtures of unnamed cultivars are not recommended.

How long do daffodil bulbs last?

Under good growing conditions, they should outlast any of us. While some kinds of bulbs tend to dwindle and die out, daffodils should increase.

How long is the flowering season of daffodils?

From six weeks to six months, depending on where you live and the cultivars you grow.

What are miniature daffodils?

Daffodils come in all sizes from 5-inch blooms on 2-foot stems to half-inch flowers on 2-inch stems. Largely for show purposes, but also for guidance in gardening, certain species and named cultivars have been determined by the ADS to be miniatures and must

compete by themselves in daffodil shows. Current lists of miniatures are published in *The Daffodil Journal* or may be obtained separately from the ADS.

Why should I exhibit at daffodil shows?

For the satisfaction of helping to present to the public and other gardeners an outstanding display of a flower whose variety and merits are too little known. A show will also give you a chance to see blooms of the newer cultivars and to become acquainted with others who share your interest in daffodils. Eventually your skill may be recognized by awards and you may wish to take the courses and examinations which would qualify you as an Accredited Judge.

Are daffodils difficult to grow?

No. They are probably the easiest and most dependable of all the families of flowers and ideal for a beginner in gardening in most regions of the United States.

Can daffodils be grown throughout the United States?

Daffodils are quite tolerant of cold, especially with a covering of snow, and are grown to the Canadian border. The only exceptions are a few tender cultivars, usually tazettas, such as the popular Paper White. Daffodils can also be grown in most parts of the South, including parts of Florida, depending on the selection of cultivars. Along a narrow band adjoining the Gulf of Mexico from Florida to Texas there are certain types and named cultivars which have been found to do better than others.

How can I learn more about daffodils at home?

By joining the ADS and by carefully reading *The Daffodil Journal*, and by reading articles on daffodils in the Society's online library www.dafflibrary.org. Join those interested in learning more on Daffnet www.daffnet.org. Daffodil lovers from around the world relate their experiences and discuss problems which they have encountered or which others have raised.

Will daffodils grow in the shade?

They will grow in the shade of deciduous trees because they have finished flowering and the foliage has begun to mature by the time deciduous trees leaf out. However, it is better to grow them outside the drip line of deciduous trees rather than under them. Also, deciduous trees with tap roots are preferable to shallow-rooted trees. Daffodils will not long survive under evergreen trees and shrubs.

Do ground covers have an adverse effect on daffodils?

The two will be competing for nutrients and moisture, so the answer depends on the fertility of the soil and the aggressiveness of the ground cover. Vigorous, tall-growing, and deeply rooting plants, such as pachysandra and ivy, are likely to discourage daffodils, but they will usually do well in the company of shallow-rooted, trailing plants, such as myrtle, foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), or creeping phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*).