

Mini daffodils, with their tiny golden-yellow flowers, positively glow in the late-winter garden. (Richie Steffen)

Great Plant Pick: Narcissus 'Tete-a-tete,' miniature daffodil

These delightful golden-yellow flowers positively glow in the late-winter garden.

By Richie Steffen
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What: Nothing trumpets the arrival of spring like early-blooming miniature daffodils. The delightful Narcissus "Tete-a-tete" positively glows in the late winter garden. Its 2½-inch golden-yellow flowers nod atop a sturdy 12-inch stem in the awakening boarder. Planting "Tete-a-tete" bulbs in groups makes for a natural look in the landscape. Hostas and deciduous ornamental grasses are a good combination because they will cover/disguise the foliage of the Narcissus as it dies back by early June.

Where: Narcissus grows best in full sun, although light shade is acceptable. Plant the bulbs in well-drained soil, although they will tolerate sand and clay.

Size: "Tete-a-tete" grows to be 1 foot tall and spreads about 1 foot when mature.

Care: Once established, Narcissus is drought tolerant. Faded flowers can be removed, but do not cut the foliage back until it yellows come June. New bulbs can be planted in the fall; large clumps can be divided and replanted once the foliage starts to yellow. Narcissus generally does not need to be divided, and old clumps can give a spectacular show in the spring.

— Richie Steffens, Great Plant Pick



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