

How do daffodils grow?

Our daffodil story begins and ends with a flower.
Discover the steps needed to produce a new flower—from
pollination to flowering bulb.

Pollination starts the process

Be like a bee

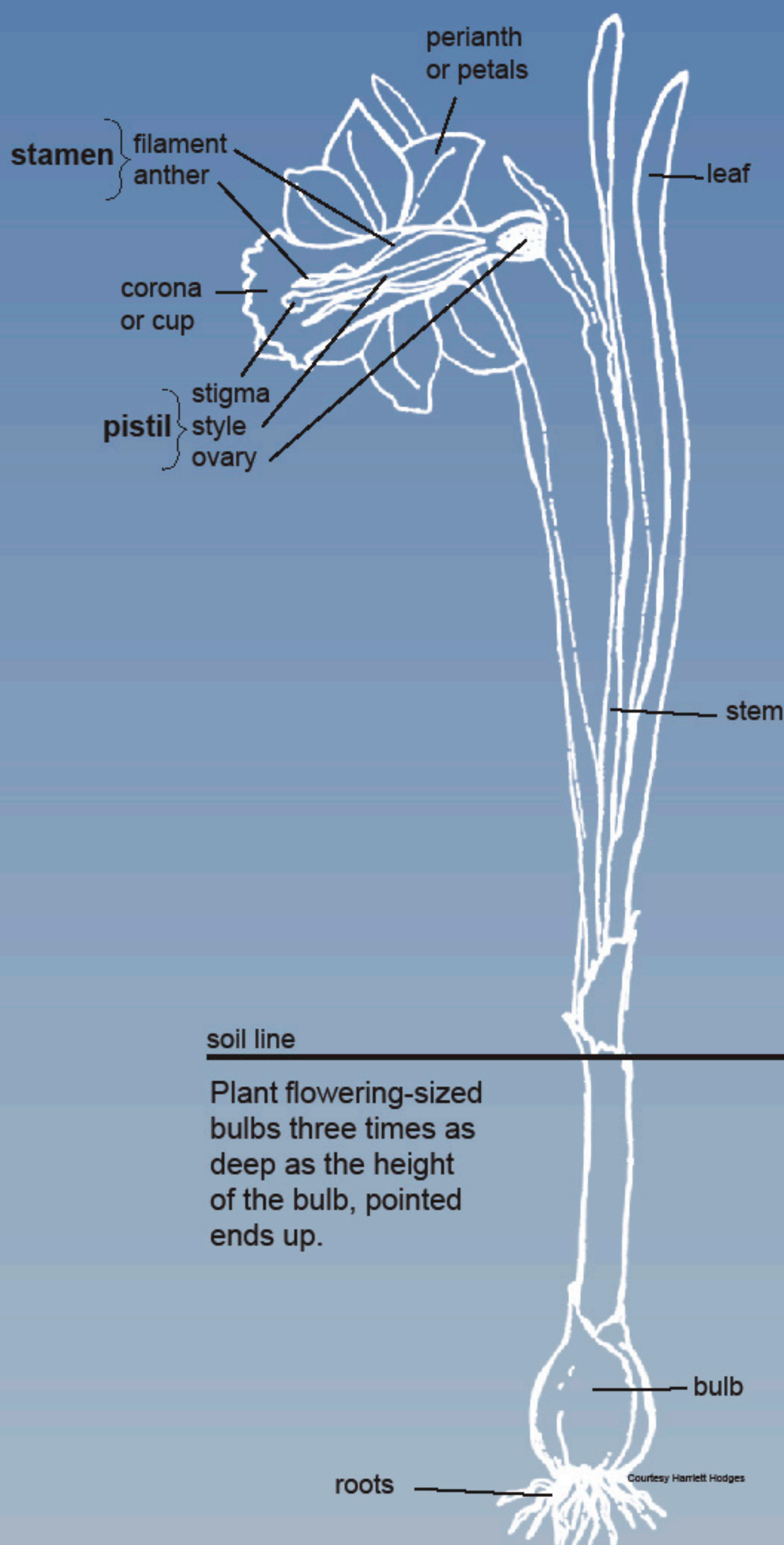
Pollinate a blossom using tweezers or a paintbrush. Take tiny pollen grains from the anther of one daffodil and transfer them to the stigma of another growing daffodil flower.



Look for the six anthers covered with pollen. They surround the stigma.



Notice that the entire stamen is being used to dab the pollen.



Within hours of pollination

Wait for fertilization

Each pollen grain grows from the stigma down the style to fertilize one immature egg cell in the ovary and may result in one daffodil seed.



Locate the stigma, style, and ovary in this cutaway daffodil.



Can you find the immature egg cells in this close-up of a cutaway ovary?

About 2 months later

Harvest and plant ripe seeds

When you shake the dried seed pod or ovary and can hear the mature seeds rattle around inside, it's time to pluck the seed pod. Plant seeds in a light soil mix one-half inch deep.



Look for small, black daffodil seeds like these inside the seed pods.



Notice the small seeds dropped into slight depressions in the soil. The soil should be kept slightly moist until the seeds sprout.

One year

Nurture young seedlings

Be sure your plants receive at least half a day of full sun. Check with your local growers about water requirements.



Young daffodil seedlings look like small, wild onion sprouts. Their little bulblets must grow several years before they flower.

Two years

Grow bulbs over time

Dig and replant young bulbs as needed to give them room to grow.



Like an onion, daffodil bulbs grow in layers and increase in size. These tiny bulblets are still 2 to 5 years from mature bloom-size bulbs.

Three to seven years

Plant mature bulbs

It takes from 3-5 years for a miniature or 5-7 years for a standard daffodil to bloom from seed.



Daffodil bulbs multiply and divide over time, providing more bulbs to plant or to share with a friend!

What is a daffodil?



Courtesy Becky Fox Matthews

'Orange Queen' 7 Y-Y
'Orange Queen' is a jonquil hybrid or Division 7 daffodil with yellow petals and a yellow cup.

Daffodil or Narcissus?

They're the same thing!
Narcissus is Latin, and daffodil is English for the same thing.

Daffodil or Jonquil?

They're not the same thing!
Jonquils are only one division of daffodils (Division 7). So all jonquils are daffodils, but not all daffodils are jonquils.

