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

Find a daffodil. Choose a healthy daffodil with several flowers, if possible. The petals should be open and bright. Look for the six anthers covered with pollen. They surround the stigma.

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.

About 3 months later

Harvest and plant ripe seeds. When you shake the dried seed pod or ovary and can hear the mature seeds rattle inside. It’s time to plant the seed pod. Plant seeds in a light soil mix one-half inch deep.

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.

Two years

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

Three to seven years

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

What is a daffodil?

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.