

TIPS ON GROWING DAFFODILS FOR CUT FLOWERS:

1. WHEN TO PLANT

Plant your daffodil bulbs in autumn when the soil temperature is below 60° F. Generally speaking, they can be planted once the soil temperatures have cooled down. Here in Western Washington, mid-late October is the usual time for planting daffodils and Dutch iris. Do not try to plant if the soil is saturated with water. Try to plant prior to the chance of night frost.

2. STORAGE

Please open the box immediately upon arrival. Bulbs need to breathe air just like we do! If you are not going to plant them immediately, store them in a dry place with plenty of air circulation, with ideal temperatures of 40-65°F. An unheated garage is a good example. Make sure to plant the bulbs before the ground freezes.

3. HOW TO PLANT

Choose a spot that is mostly sunny or has only light shade. Also make sure that the location has fairly good drainage and does not tend to get waterlogged. If you have heavier soils, such as wet clay, planting the bulbs in raised beds or hills will help improve drainage.

Daffodils can be planted at 9 to 12 bulbs per square foot. Dig a hole and place the bulb in the ground, planting the bulb pointed side up. Add 3-4" of soil on top of the bulb and a little extra if you are planting in a location that is susceptible to frost.

4. AFTER-SEASON CARE

Unlike tulips and iris, daffodils are a multi-year crop as you do not cut the foliage for the cut flower, only the stem. Because of this, through photosynthesis the leaves will create nutrients that the bulb will use for its next growing season. After a few weeks the foliage will automatically yellow and die back, when you can remove it. Now the bulb will be dormant and won't need any further care until next spring.