

# Dig and divide daffodils

**BY JENEEN WICHE**  
IN MY GARDEN

If your daffodils didn't bloom well this year, ask yourself these two questions: did you allow the foliage to die back naturally last summer before you cut it off; and has it been eons since they were last divided?

Patience is a virtue when it comes to daffodils. Often the first color to appear in early spring, their beauty is long awaited. Then we must wait another two months before we can remove the dulling green foliage.

The foliage gathers nutrients for the bulb to store

over winter, allowing it to grow and bloom next spring. If you remove the foliage prematurely, you reduce the blooms for next year.

Dead heading the spent blossoms will help prolong blooming and allow more nutrients to be absorbed by the bulb when the bloom cycle is complete.

If it has indeed been eons since you last divided your daffodil clumps plan to do so when the foliage dies back naturally in mid-June. Daffodils can be divided every five to seven years; and if you do it when the foliage is ready to be cut back at least you can easily locate what

you want to dig!

Use a garden fork to pop up your bulbs. A garden fork is less likely to sever the bulbs in half and helps to loosen the soil around the bulbs.

Once the bulbs are out of the ground, clean them off and then check them over. Discard any bulbs that are soft, bruised or punctured. Pretend you are selecting onions from the grocery store. Any damage means that they are more likely to rot.

Break apart the loosely attached "baby" bulbs, leaving those that are firmly attached to the mother bulb. These larger bulbs will produce more bloom next spring. The baby bulbs will need a year to grow.

It is best, and more convenient, to replant your bulbs right away. This way you do not need to worry about curing and storing them properly until fall planting.

I like to plant clusters of large and small bulbs, so the smaller non-flowering

bulbs are not so noticeable. Or plant the smallest bulbs in an area where they can mature for a year and then move them where they can be enjoyed.

A well-drained environment is essential to growing healthy daffodils or else they may rot. To prepare your planting area dig down about 10 inches so you can add a special concoction to

ensure good drainage.

The legendary Helen Trueblood, a Southern Indiana daffodil aficionado, called it "chomp" because she added perlite, river gravel, sand, compost and calcium enriched bulb-boosting fertilizer (low in nitrogen) and then

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Fiscal Year 2026-2027

**BUDGET HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED USE OF COUNTY ROAD AID AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (LGEA) FUNDS.**

A public hearing will be held by Grant County Fiscal Court at 101 N. MAIN ST., the purpose of obtaining citizen's comments regarding the possible uses of County Road Aid (CRA) and Local Government Economic Assistance (LGEA) Funds.

All interested persons in Grant County are invited to the hearing to submit verbal or written comments on possible uses of the CRA and LGEA funds. Any person(s) who cannot submit written comments or attend the public hearing, but wish to submit comments, should call the Office of the County Judge/Executive at 101 N. MAIN ST., WILLIAMSTOWN, KY 41097 by 06:00 pm, so that arrangements can be made to secure their comments.

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