

HIHS Meeting 16th August 2017

How To Grow Daffodils For The 2018 Spring Show

Presented By Peter Rogers



Peter started by saying daffodils are one of the easiest and least demanding of flowers for entering shows. They do not need large gardens, much input of your time and for the most part look after themselves in the garden.

Getting the right bulb is critical. Show daffodils have been developed over successive seasons to present blooms to the criteria that judges are looking for. Procurement from an accredited grower is essential. Peter indicated these four: [Bramcote Bulbs](#), [R and A Scamp](#), [Miniature Bulbs](#), [Johnny Walker](#) in order of quality and cost.

Daffodils do not all bloom at the same time, different varieties bloom across an 8 week season. The suppliers indicate by the season code when each cultivar is generally in flower **VE**= Very Early (Christmas/January), **E**= Early (Feb/March), **M**=Mid Season, **L**= Late Season, **VL**= Very Late Season, The hours of daylight and ambient temperatures have influence, so to be in best bloom for the HIHS Spring Show on Saturday 24th March 2018 pick your variety of bulbs from the **Early** and **Mid Season** category. If a cold start to the year the **Early** daffodils will shine, if a mild start then the **Mid Season** will be on song.

The next criteria is to pick bulbs from the correct division as required by the Show Schedule. Class 1 *The Open Daffodil Championship* requires 3 vases from 3 different divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4, with 3 blooms to a vase. The division is the definition of the flower form: Division 1 is Trumpet, Division 2 Large Cup, Division 3 Small Cup and Division 4 Double Daffodils. To assist in identification there is a diagrammatic chart on the [HIHS Website](#).

Some Classes in the Show Schedule also specify the daffodil colour, so requiring, when purchasing your bulbs to pick the appropriate variety to meet that specification.

The HIHS Website contains a pdf giving indication of [what the judges are looking for](#) examining entries in the daffodil classes.

With so many varieties on offer it is best to pick tried and tested show favourites.

The Daffodil Society publish a list of the varieties achieving ["Best Bloom in Show"](#) in all affiliated society's Shows. Peter's *"Golden Choice"*, the winner in our HIHS 2017 Spring Show, is also listed as winning for other exhibitors in Dundee and Paxton. Peter also recommended *"Midas Touch"* a winner in Hawkhurst, together with *"Pink Silk"* a winner in Jersey and *"Misty Glenn"* a winner in Woodborough. A strong contender from the list is *"Banker"* winning in 6 Shows and *"Jetfire"* a winner from Division 6. Further recommendations by Peter are included in following photos:

DIVISION 1: TRUMPET



"Midas Touch"
Mid Season



"Pink Silk"
Mid Season



"Pops Legacy"
Mid Season

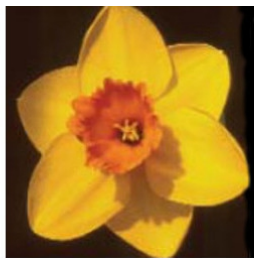


"Uncle Duncan"
Early

DIVISION 2: LARGE CUPPED



"Banker"
Early



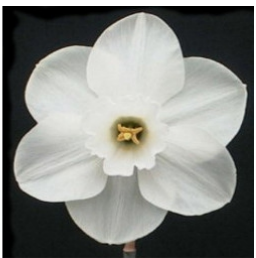
"Celestial Fire"
Mid Season



"Gold Convention"
Mid Season



"Golden Choice"
Mid Season



"Misty Glen"
Mid Season

DIVISION 3: SMALL CUPPED



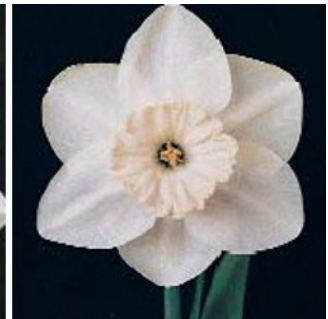
"Badbury Rings"
Mid Season to Late



"Cool Crystal"
Late



"Doctor Hugh"
Mid Season to Late



"Park Springs"
Early

DIVISION 4: DOUBLE



"Gay Kibo"
Mid Season to Late



"Gossmoor"
Early to Mid Season



"Heamoor"
Mid Season



"Unique"
Mid Season

DIVISION 6: Cyclamineus



"Jetfire"
Early



"Rapture"
Early to Mid Season

In August give the bulbs a through inspection, clean all debris, remove any remaining roots, discard any that are rotting or diseased. Ensure the labels are not mixed by keeping in the individual bags.

In September it's time to plant either in the soil in single lines, in raised beds or in 10" pots initially stored in the garden on raisers to keep up clear of the patio or ground level.

If using pots choose the compost specific for bulbs or a good general potting compost well mixed with grit as good drainage is essential. Initially daffodil bulbs do not require added fertiliser. Plant 5 bulbs to a pot 100mm (4") deep spaced equally apart.

Pots offer the advantage of being able to move into the green house or poly tunnel in order to better control the time of flowering. Through the winter months do not overwater, maintain just slightly damp, keep weeds at bay.

In February give a light feed with blood, fish and bone or sulphate of potash. When the leaves start forming it is time to start watering and 8 weeks from the show date to monitor the progress of the flower and act accordingly. From the time of the first showing of the flower stalk through the soil it is 25 to 30 days to reaching full flowering but white blooms take longer.

Maintain watering and adding a little more (just half a tea spoon per pot) of sulphate of potash. As flower shows first sign of colour carefully fold back the husk. Don't splash the flowers with water to keep pristine. Keep the green house cool, daffodils do not enjoy heat, use a fleece covering inside the glass. Extra shade the plants with red or pink flowers because they can burn in full sunlight and discolour. Gently tie to stop flopping or from wind damage. Remove from greenhouse if flower forming is progressing to fast and place in cool shady location to delay full blooming to meet show date. If stem is weak then try applying another feed, perhaps a liquid mix of Tomorite.

To avoid avoidable error when entering the Flower Show check:

- You are in the correct Class of Open or Members Only.
- The bloom is in the right division stipulated for the Class.
- You have the right number of stems.
- The bloom colour is as stipulated for the Class.
- The presentation of the blooms is the best you can make it.
- The label is neat and correct.



When judges find equal quality entries presentation can make all the difference. Arrange the blooms in triangular formation to present all blooms in full view, parallel and if championship classes all, three by three, entries vertical centre.

With multiple single entries stack alternate white red. Use moss to pack the vase to hold stalks vertical and rigid. Use two leaves, length cut to below the blooms, in vases of three blooms. When using the HIHS bikini vases utilize the 7" for single specimen bloom entries, the 11" for 3 standard blooms and the 22" for 5 or more stems.

"I hope to see you at the Spring Show and wish you every success", Peter Rogers

END