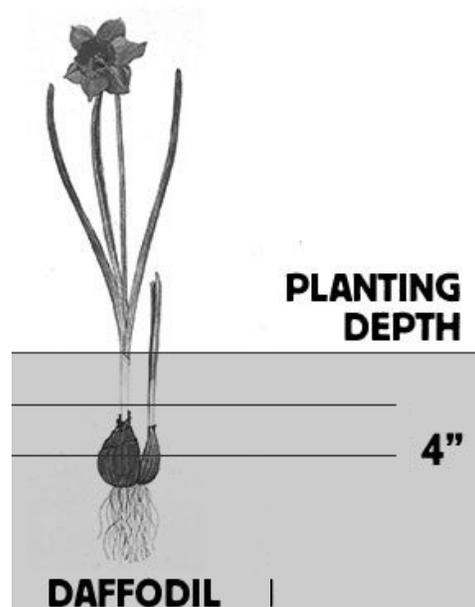


Growing Daffodils

Fall bulbs can be planted anytime before the ground begins to freeze – there’s no need to rush. The ideal planting time is when you’re raking leaves and doing other fall cleanup chores. Bulbs actually prefer being planted into cool soil, so wait to start planting your bulbs until after the first killing frost.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU PICKUP YOUR BULBS

Bulbs should be planted soon after you get them in fall. If you cannot plant right away, you can store bulbs for up to a month by following these steps. Open all bags and boxes and place bulbs in a cool, dark, dry area with good air circulation (e.g., root cellar, basement, or garage). You can also store your bulbs in the refrigerator crisper drawer, but do not store them with ripening fruits; ethylene gas released by ripening apples and other fruits can cause the flower inside the bulb to abort or incompletely form. Temperatures of 38–65°F (3–18°C) are fine. The cooler the better, but do not freeze your bulbs.



How to Plant

Prepare the Soil

Like most plants, bulbs grow best in loose, fertile, well-drained soil. They will not tolerate soil that is soggy or compacted. You can improve soil texture and drainage by incorporating peat moss or compost. Before planting, loosen the soil a little deeper than the recommended planting depth so the bulb’s roots can grow freely.

Check the Depth

Bulbs are usually planted 2-3 times deeper than their height. Planting bulbs a little deeper protects them from extreme cold and may also help protect them from nibbling rodents. For daffodils plant at 4" below the soil lone.

Pointy End Up

Most bulbs have a flattened bottom where the roots will grow, and a tapered top where the stem will emerge. When planting, the tapered end of the bulb should face up. If you can’t determine bottom from top, don’t worry. Bulbs are forgiving and will grow toward the light and warmth.

Plant in Groups

Spring bulbs look best when they are planted in odd numbers and irregular shapes. To plant a large area fast, dig out the soil from the planting bed and place it in a tarp. Position the bulbs and then gently replace the soil.



This Resource Guide is prepared by Keep Growing Detroit for participants in the Garden Resource Program. For more info please contact 313-757-2635, info@keepgrowingdetroit.org or visit our website at WWW.KEEPGROWINGDETROIT.COM. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram.