

Showing Daffodils – A Guide for Newbies, a Reminder for the Rest of Us

Plan ahead: Before cutting decide what blooms to pick. Look for fresh, clean, symmetric, normal size blooms with no flaws - holes, tears, discoloration. Floppy blooms will be floppier by the time of the show. Spot potential good blooms a couple of days in advance of cutting. Have their names at hand, if possible. Think about whether you may have blooms for a vase of 3 or one of the collections described in the show schedule. (They bring prettier ribbons but require more preparation.)

Cut the blooms: Use a sharp knife or shears, but beware of transmitting diseases this way. Write the name on the stem with an indelible pen. Then put blooms in water and protect them from bouncing against others when moved.

How will you transport them? In tubes and blocks – if you own them. In Gekē bottles (showing my age!) water bottles, securely packed in a box or crate. In a bucket or cut-off plastic milk bottle of water (the handles are useful). Use some technique to keep them from bashing themselves while in transport. Carefully laid in tissue in long boxes – only for long distance or overnight transport.

If you know the name: Label each flower with Name and possibly with Color Code. (See ADS Show and Grow or look online at daffseek.org). It could be helpful to have the names and color codes on a sheet of paper and this will give you a record of your efforts. Enter the name and color code on an entry card. Use the color code and division data from a reference to look up the Section number and Class letter in the show schedule. This may be done at the show, just before entry. Inquire whether the info at the bottom is required. The bottom section is folded up to hide your name.

Entry cards will be available at the show. Next time get them in advance from the Show Chair and prepare the cards ahead of time. Address labels are a nice way to save time.

If you don't know the name: Prepare a card, leaving the Name line open. Practice identifying the Division and Color Code and enter that data, being ready to be corrected by someone who may know your bloom. If nobody can identify your bloom, enter it in Section U (Unnamed). This won't qualify for an ADS award, but local ribbons may be awarded. And, your flower will be there for the public and your friends to see. And, it will be a good learning experience to prepare you for the next time.

Enter: Place bloom in a tube with block. Use greenery provided to fix its position. Don't include any leaves. Groom the flower. "Clock" it for symmetry, leaving a petal at 12 o'clock. Use Q-tips to remove all dirt and pollen.

Check the data on the card for accuracy. Put a rubber band or hook provided on the card and place the rubber band around the base of the tube or the hook over the lip of the tube.

Place the entry on a cart in the prep area. Someone else will place it according to the data you have indicated.

Wait: To find if you win any ribbons.

Learn: Look at what others have done. Take notes. Resolve to do better. **Enjoy!!**

Section _____	 AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY		
Class _____			
Name, Div. & Color Code if Req'd _____			
Exhibitor _____ Address _____			
1st <input type="radio"/> Award	2nd <input type="radio"/> Award	3rd <input type="radio"/> Award	Honorable <input type="radio"/> Mention
1st <input type="radio"/> Award	2nd <input type="radio"/> Award	3rd <input type="radio"/> Award	Honorable <input type="radio"/> Mention
Section _____	Class _____		
Name _____			
Exhibitor _____			
Address _____			