

BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT:

Bulb Planting: Daffodil Bulbs for Schools

50 FREE daffodil bulbs per school are available for your school for use in school beautification projects which include student and teacher participation. **Bulbs must be planted at school.**

WHEN: Prepare planting bed in October
Bulbs available early November (you may have to pick them up from Beautification offices)
Bulbs must be planted by the third week of December.

PURPOSE: Beautification of school property
Community enhancement
To provide a school science project completed during the school year (plant in fall – bloom in spring)

Prior to ordering your bulbs, consider this: you will need to choose an appropriate site for your flower bed/beds. Your bed will need to be dug 12 inches deep. Daffodils look better in clumps of 12 or more, rather than in long lines one after the other. Daffodil bulbs like sunlight for most of the day but afternoon shade can prolong the life of the flowers and help retain their deep colors. Heavy shade from structures or a dense grove of trees will weaken bulbs and cause a less spectacular display the second year.

When to plant – in November or early December and they will bloom in March or April. Bulbs require a cooling period of about 14 to 15 weeks. Good soil preparation is the key to a successful daffodil bed. Spade and prepare the bed to a depth of 12 inches. Break up large clods of dirt. If your soil is heavy or has lots of clay, modify it by mixing in peat moss, sand, compost, humus, ground bark or sawdust. The soil should be loose and porous. The bulbs must have good drainage to prevent rotting and to aid the tender roots as they grow from the basal plate so they can penetrate the ground easily.

Daffodils should be planted 4 to 5 inches deep and 4 to 5 inches apart. **Be sure to plant the bulb pointed end up.** Cover bulb with earth to the top of the ground. Press down firmly but not hard. After your daffodils bloom, remove faded flowers or seed heads. Seed production takes food needed by the bulb for next year's blooms. **DO NOT CUT OFF LEAVES.** Allow them to remain until they have turned brown and dried.

DAFFODILS:

Most of us have seen and eaten bulbs. An onion is a bulb. Bulbs grow underground, so do rhizomes, corms and tubers.

A daffodil bulb is a true bulb. It consists of a tiny, fully-formed plant within a package of fleshy scales. If you slice vertically through a bulb at planting time, you can see a miniature life form with stem, leaves, bud and roots that has been forming during the summer months.

The scales surrounding the embryo are modified leaves that contain all the necessary foods to sustain the bulb during dormancy and early growth. The scales are rich and juicy with stored carbohydrates. They may be loose and open as a lily bulb or tight and compact, like those of an onion. If a tight bulb is cut crosswise, the scales are visible as rings.

Many bulbs have a paper-thin brown covering known as a tunic. At the bottom of the bulb is a hard, modified stem or basal plate, from which the roots emerge. This basal plate also holds the scales together. Daffodils have the ability to store food to carry them over a period of adverse weather conditions until their above ground growth begins again.



ORDER FORM FOR DAFFODIL BULBS
(50 PER SCHOOL)

NAME OF SCHOOL:

ADDRESS OF SCHOOL:

TEACHER CONTACT:

PHONE :

EMAIL ADDRESS:

Estimated number of people who will participate in the planting:

Where will the bulbs be planted?

Will planting be part of educational programming or overall school beautification? Describe:

Deadline to order bulbs: October 31

Please mail to: Daffodil Bulb Request
Metro Beautification & Environment Commission
750 South 5th St, Nashville, TN 37206 or send via Metro Mail

Or FAX this form to: 862-8799 **OR email to** jeffrey.ezell@nashville.gov