

# Preparing for the Daffodil Show

Spring is finally springing, and we can actually (hopefully!) forget about snow and begin thinking about blooming daffodils!

The April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature our annual Daffodil Show, including floral design, horticulture (daffodils, of course!), and photography shows. We would love for *everyone* to participate and hope that this article will make you more comfortable with the process.

## Getting Ready...

If you need to, you can cut your specimens up to two weeks before the show. Place them in water, cover them loosely with plastic, and place them near the back of your refrigerator. You could also place a soaked towel in the refrigerator with the blooms.

Bring your cut daffodils in the vase or carrier of your choice. All specimens will need to be transferred to the green bottles provided by the Horticulture Committee. Members will need to stage and tag their own specimens before being passed to the exhibit table, and all specimens must be in place by 11:30 on the 10th. You may exhibit **three entries in each division**, provided each is a different cultivar or species.

## Choosing the Right Daffodils...

How do you know which ones are the best? Think about the judging criteria:

**Condition:** A specimen should be fresh, clean, and in its perfect stage of development. Cuts, mechanical injury, bruises, dirt, rain spots, pollen, brown anther, swollen ovary, and a badly injured, mutilated or absent sheath are seen as faults.

**Form:** Form is the shape of the flower. Petals should be flat and overlapping; may be shovel-shaped, pointed or oval. All parts should look in balance to each other, including balance of the axis (when an imaginary vertical line bisects mid-rib or petal, sepal and stem. The cup should be round and even. Nicks, notches (sometimes called “mitten thumbs”), twisted or too much cupping of petals, and misshapen or uneven cup are seen as faults.

**Substance:** Substance is the thickness of the perianth (petal) tissue. Specimen should have thick, crisp tissues. Translucence at the petal edge and tip or thinning tissue indicates excessive age.

**Texture:** Texture refers to the smoothness or roughness on the surface of the perianth segments. The specimen should have smooth tissue, sheen, luster and no crinkles or “ribbings.”

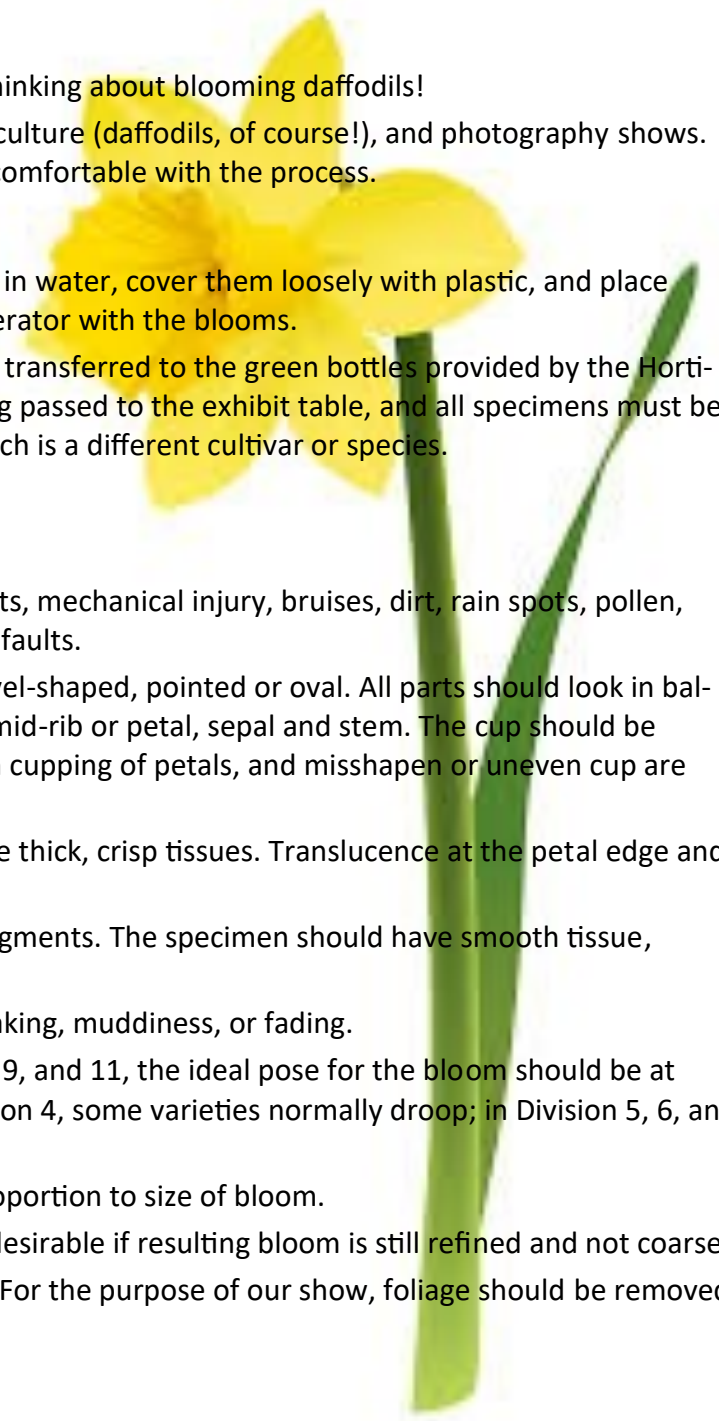
**Color:** Color should be clear and clean, true to variety. The specimen should have no streaking, muddiness, or fading.

**Pose:** Pose refers to how the bloom is held in relation to the stem. For Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, and 11, the ideal pose for the bloom should be at right angle to the stem or slightly above. The flower should “look you in the eye.” In Division 4, some varieties normally droop; in Division 5, 6, and 7, heads may droop; and Division 8, head should be dome-shape.

**Stem:** Stems should be straight; free from blemish and ridges down sides; and in good proportion to size of bloom.

**Size:** Full credit is given for normal size. Above-average size suggests good culture and is desirable if resulting bloom is still refined and not coarse.

**Foliage:** No points are given for foliage, which is not judged when exhibited with blooms. For the purpose of our show, foliage should be removed from the exhibited stem (except the sheath, which should never be removed).



## Tagging Your Specimens...

Finally, you will need to identify your specimen using the Royal Horticulture Society's (RHS) daffodil classification system and a color code to describe both the perianth (petal) color and the cup color. Don't panic! It's not as complicated as it sounds!

When looking at a 'daffodil code,' the first number is the division used to categorize the daffodil. All daffodils are classified into one of 13 divisions. Each daffodil cultivar or garden hybrid belongs to one of the first 12 divisions. Those daffodils distinguished solely by botanical name belong in Division 13. Please look at the next page for help identifying the division of your specimen.

The letter or group of letters that follows the number represents the perianth (petal) color. The petal color is described by beginning at the outside edge of the petal, then the middle, and lastly the inside part next to the corona.

The second letter or group of letters represents the color of the corona (trumpet or cup) starting from the eye-zone, then the mid-zone and extending out to the edge or rim.

Daffodil colors are identified as follows:

**W** – White or Whitish

**G** – Green

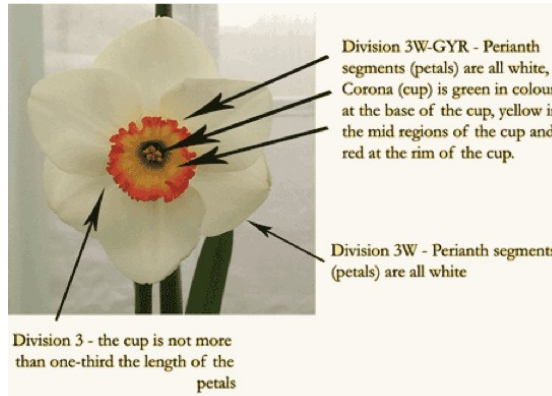
**Y** – Yellow

**P** – Pink

**O** – Orange

**R** – Red

**See the example photo of Kaylee Ann to the right.**



Please don't let all of this information frighten you away from bringing daffodils to exhibit! We will have helpers available when you bring your specimens on the 10th (between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.), but we encourage you to take a shot at finding the appropriate division and color coding before you arrive! Feel free to write your 'code' on a sticky note, and you can transfer it to a specimen tag when you arrive. The Horticulture Committee will provide tags and plastic for staging your daffodil. Members will need to stage and tag their own specimens before being passed to the exhibit table. You may exhibit up to **three entries in each division**, provided each is a different cultivar or species.

## Online Resources

For more detailed information on judging criteria, please see the GCV's *Guide to Entering a Flower Show*, which can be found on the GCV website. The American Daffodil Society maintains and hosts a family of helpful daffodil websites: the main website (DaffodilUSA.org), a discussion forum (Daff-Net.org), a free online library (DaffLibrary.org), a daffodil database with photos (DaffSeek.org), and a daffodil presentation website (DaffTube.org).

## Past GCV Daffodil Collections

If you are looking for names from the GCV's Daffodil Collection, you can find the collections by logging onto the GCV website, then looking in the Menu under Our Work -> Flower Shows -> Daffodil Links -> GCV Daffodil Collections. Also, please note that you cannot enter the 2017 collection this year.

We hope this information will be helpful and will encourage you to bring your daffodil specimens on the 10th, when we will finally celebrate the coming of spring!

# DAFFODIL CULTIVAR DIVISION GUIDE

## Division 1: Trumpet Daffodil



One flower to a stem; corona (trumpet) as long as, or longer than, the perianth segments (petals).

## Division 5: Triandrus Daffodil



Characteristics of *N. triandrus* predominant: usually two or more pendent flowers to a stem; perianth segments reflexed.

## Division 9: Poeticus Daffodil



Characteristics of the *N. poeticus* group predominant: usually disc-shaped, with a green or yellow center and one flower to a stem; perianth segments pure white corona usually a red rim; flower fragrant.

## Division 2: Large-cupped Daffodil



One flower to a stem; corona (cup) more than one-third but less than equal to the length of the perianth segments (petals).

## Division 6: Cyclamineus Daffodil



Characteristics of *N. cyclamineus* clearly evident: one flower to a stem; perianth segments significantly reflexed; flower at an acute angle to the stem, with very short pedicel ("neck")

## Division 10: Bulbocodium Daffodil



Characteristics of Section *Bulbocodium* clearly evident; usually one flower to a stem; perianth segments insignificant compared with corona; filament and style are usually curved.

## Division 3: Small-cupped Daffodil



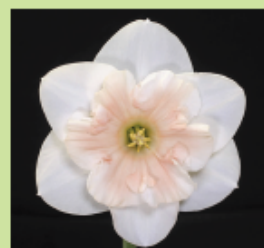
One flower to a stem; corona (cup) not more than one-third the length of the perianth segments (petals)

## Division 7: Jonquilla and Apodanthus Daffodil



Characteristics of Sections *Jonquilla* or *Apodanthi* clearly evident: one to five flowers to a stem; perianth segments spreading or reflexed flowers usually fragrant.

## Division 11: Split Corona Daffodil



Usually one flower to a stem, corona split (not lobed) for at least one-third and usually half of its length.

## Division 4: Double Daffodil



One or more flowers to a stem, with doubling of the perianth segments or the corona or both.

## Division 8: Tazetta Daffodil



Characteristics of the *N. tazetta* group predominant: usually three to twenty flowers to a stout stem; leaves broad; perianth segments spreading, not reflexed; flowers fragrant.

## Division 12: Other Daffodil

Daffodil cultivars which do not fit the definition of any other division.

## Division 13: Daffodils Distinguished Solely by Botanical Name

All species and wild or reputedly wild variants and hybrids