

Using a Digital Camera as an Aid to Making Maps

~by Suzy Wert

I don't like daffodils planted in rows which sounds funny coming from an exhibitor. I have some daffodils planted that way, but I don't like the look of them when in bloom. The problem with making an irregular planting is being able to map it accurately as an aid to bulb identification both at bloom and at harvest time.

Last fall I used a digital camera to take photos of my planted beds, printed them, and made accurate maps of my planting beds.



A crummy photo didn't matter in the map-making process because the planting was still fresh in my mind. If I were unsure of any placement I could just go out and look at the tags I had just placed.

Making an accurate map is usually hard to do unless a grid is placed on the ground, which takes me forever, and circles drawn in relation to that grid, which also takes me forever. Even so, my hand drawn maps always seems to be off when all the flowers bloom.

I made my map on the computer, but I do not think that is necessary and using tracing paper over a full-size printed photo will work just fine, but as with any map, making it the same day as planting is a wise decision.

Below is what will be blooming next year on my hillside. On this kind of map, I am not looking for the name of the flower blooming 3 feet from the left and 2 feet from the bottom; the positions are relative to one another. If there is an unmarked variety at harvest (there better not be!, but it sometimes happens) or one I want to know better at bloom time, I find one close by in the garden and then find it on the map. By looking at 12:00, 3:00, etc, I can determine the name of that pesky unnamed bulb at harvest or that beautiful blossom at bloom time.

2013 Map ____
 Woods - Miniature Hill by Weeping White Pine
 Mostly *N. jonquilla* & hybrids

