

Should You Divide Your Daffodil Bulbs This Year?

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The absence of flowers or presence of many small flowers in the clump is an indication of crowding. Bulbs that have multiplied to the point of crowding should be lifted and divided.

Allow a minimum of 6-7 weeks to pass after blooms fade before beginning the task. Whenever feasible the bulbs should be lifted from ground which is moderately dry as this will mean that the soil will fall away without the need for a lot of handling. Allowing the foliage be your guide. cautiously dig around then underneath the bulbs with a spade or fork. Lift the whole mass — bulbs and roots. Gently shake off loose soil and separate bulbs. Discard damaged bulbs, and keep various cultivars separate, labeled, and out of direct sunlight. Gently remove foliage, but do not remove roots. Remove soil from bulbs by spraying with water from a garden hose. If bulbs are to be treated for basal rot control, they should be dipped in a fungicidal bath within the hours prescribed by the treatment.

Many growers do not treat bulbs at all especially those used for landscaping purposes. Soil type, climate, and susceptibility of individual varieties all are factors influencing the occurrence of basal rot. Some evidence indicates that treating bulbs helps maintain their integrity during storage.

Bulbs can either be immediately replanted or dried. Shallow open trays in the shade permit bulbs to dry quickly. Once dry, bulbs can be placed in loosely filled mesh bags as they allow air to circulate around bulbs.

Hang bulbs in a dry atmosphere with good air circulation until planting day.

Conventional wisdom dictates that *poeticus* cultivars and many miniature daffodils prefer replanting rather than spending their summers in storage. The roots of *poeticus* hybrids grow nearly throughout the year. The smaller size bulbs of miniature daffodils may succumb to dehydration when stored.