

Horticulture News!

April Gardening Tips from the Horticulture Committee



“Each time you happen to me all over again.”

Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*

Hello April, 2024!

The April Flower of the Month Program’s 20 entries ranged from a Peace Lilly flower (*Spathiphyllum*) to Hellebores and Forsythia to a “Chicago Cold Hardy” Fig tree (*Moraceae Ficus carica*) but it was no surprise that 8 of the entries were Daffodils, it is April after all.

In the process of reviewing the entry cards of these gorgeous entries, I found that many of the Daffodil entries were mislabeled and I found myself asking the question: What is a Jonquil and what actually is a Daffodil? One might think this an easy answer but noooo. My research took me to the American Daffodil Society and other sites which taught me the following: The Genus is *Narcissus*, the parent plant of perennial flowering bulbs that bloom from March to May of over 50 flower species within which there are thousands of varieties. Thousands, I say!

All members of this Genus *Narcissus* are Daffodils. This family includes Tazeta Daffodils such as the Paperwhites “Ariel” and “Ziva”, Trumpet Daffodils like “Mount Hood”, Large-cupped Daffodils, Cyclamineus Daffodils like the “Tet a Tete”, Globet Daffodils, Wild Daffodils, Tenby Daffodils, *Narcissus bulbocodium*, the “Hoop Petticoat Daffodills”, Double Daffodils like “Sir Winston Churchill”, “Tahiti”, “White Lion” and “Cheerfulness”, Small-cupped Daffodils, Poeticus Daffodil-*Narcissus Actaea*, Triandrus Daffodills, the Orchid Daffodils like “Ice Wings and “Thalia”, Winder Daffodils which are Fall-flowering, Split-cupped Daffodils and Wild Daffodils.

Last but not least is the Jonquilla Daffodil, popular since the 17th century and characterized by a strong fragrance, being the latest to bloom, a cup which is ½ the length of the petals and which produce small flowers, 3 or more to a stem with short wide petals held at right angles to the cups. Examples of Jonquilla Daffodils or Jonquils include “Silver Smiles”, “Baby Boomer”, “Quail”, “Baby Moon”, “Pueblo”, and “Sailboat”.

In short, all Jonquils are Daffodils but not all Daffodils are Jonquils; they are a specific Division of the Daffodil family. Question answered!

Horticulture Tip of the Month- Plant more Narcissus and widen your variety! Also, share some with a friend; they will always think of you when they see them in the years to come.

Have a gardening tip you'd like to share? Drop your suggestion at the Flower of the Month table. We would love to share it!

Spring Swap- Plans for a Spring Plant Swap have been tabled for the moment. Stay tuned for some news on this.

Flower of the Month Program News- May is the last Flower of the Month Program so let's make it a real standout! Everyone, please bring in something from your yard which is special to you. We will help you identify it as best we can. Don't feel bad if you can't. Remember, I'm that one that took three websites and lots of reading to understand what a Daffodil is!

Multiple entries are encouraged. Our table is set up each month at the back of the room for members to display their horticulture and yes, arboriculture, including: flowers, shrubs, herbs, vegetables, fruits and trees. Come early to the meeting and we will help you set up your entry with glass vases ready and index cards available for you to tell us the Botanical Name and Common Name of your entry. Add the cultivar name if you know it! Be sure to put your name on the back.

Select your entries with good form, condition and color and after the meeting come to pick up your entries and check your card to see your score of a possible 5 points! Check page 25 of your yearbook for additional info on the Flower of the Month program. Cards and helpers from the Horticulture Committee are available to make submitting entries easy and fun! Even if you are not submitting an entry, stop by to see the beautiful entries from fellow members and to say Hi and to compare notes with other gardeners. We love talking about and sharing Horticulture!

We hope you enjoy your April days!
Martha Pendergast, Chairwoman
FGC Horticulture Committee