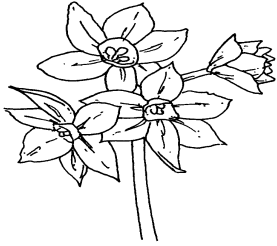


# PLANT LAND

GREENHOUSES • NURSERY • GARDEN CENTER

## Paper White Narcissus

Beautiful Paper White Narcissus are a sure sign of winter and the approaching holiday season in many homes. The delicate white flowers, lush foliage and lovely scent bring a touch of fresh flowers to the darkest days of the season. It is possible to have fresh blooms every week with just a little planning.



Paper White Narcissus are unique in that they do **not** require chilling, as do other bulbs such as tulips. They do not even require soil, they are happy to grow in water and gravel.

Select bulbs that are firm to the touch. You will notice that many will have a greenish stem started out of the top that leans to one side. This is important; that lean indicates what side the flowers will appear on. You may purchase and store as many bulbs as you think you will need for a season of bloom all at one time.

They are easy to keep in a dry, dark and cool (but not freezing) spot. Plant Land suggests using a brown paper bag, not plastic.

To time your display, plan on six weeks from potting to flower. It is possible to prolong this slightly with less light and cooler temperatures but you cannot speed it up with more light or warmth. If you want a flowering display for Thanksgiving, plant the bulbs around the second week of October. For Christmas, plant them around the second week of November and so on. If you want a continuous display, plant bulbs every week in a container you can switch out of your display.

We suggest growing Paper White Narcissus in water or soil. To grow them in water, select a watertight container that is at least 2 inches deep. It can be up to 6 inches deep. If you need a container to move in and out of a display, clear plastic trays are available and work very well. Put a layer of fine gravel in the bottom at least 3 inches deep. Arrange the bulbs on top of the gravel, pushing them down firmly. They will grow on top of the gravel, they do not need any more gravel added. Add water so that it touches the bottom of the bulbs. To grow them in soil, select a container that drains; include a saucer to contain water draining out. Plant the bulbs so that the tips are just showing. Water them in well and keep the soil evenly moist. For both methods, the bulbs can be touching, even crowded. Pay attention to the curve of the stem coming out of the top. Arrange the bulbs so that the curve faces in towards the center of the pot. The flowers will come out towards the inside of your container and they will stand up better than if they come out towards the edge and flop outward. The bulbs will start growing immediately. It is better to keep them in a cool (but not freezing) place to encourage lots of root growth and make the stems grow slower. This will also help the stems grow thicker and sturdier. If you must keep them out, keep them from direct or bright light for at least the first two weeks. Add water as evaporation occurs. Once the roots have grown, place the pots in a bright, sunny window. Flowers will appear near the six-week mark and last about three weeks. A warm room will make flowers fade faster, cooler temperatures (55<sup>o</sup>F to 65<sup>o</sup>F is ideal) may make them last longer.

Once Paper White Narcissus finish flowering, they are done. They cannot be saved and reused, discard them after the flowers fade.

These simple yet beautiful flowers will give you a taste of spring in winter and the satisfaction of growing something from start to finish no matter how deep the snow covers your garden! Try some and you'll want them every year!

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