

Most of my daffodils didn't come up this year and the ones that did have very small flowers. What's going on?

There could be a number of things going on here. Always plant daffodils in a sunny location. If you don't, they will likely bloom the first year but not in subsequent years. Also, take a look at where they're planted. If daffodils are planted in an area without adequate drainage it may result in bulb loss. Daffodils need a well-drained location, consider building a raised bed for them. Did someone mow down the foliage after they bloomed last year? The following year's bloom begins to form in the bulb immediately after blooming. Early cutting down of the foliage will result in next year's flower not being formed in the bulb. Wait at least six weeks after the last blooms have faded before cutting down the foliage. Lastly, if your bulbs have been in the ground for three years or more they may have become too thick, dig them out, clean them, and place them in a mesh bag. You can re-plant them in the fall and they should bloom nicely in the spring!

Usually we find that given the right soil conditions and treatment, daffodils naturalize readily and we end up with a big surplus of daffodils over the years, rather than the opposite. It is relatively easy to dig them up, clean and store them, and re-plant them again in the fall where you want some sizzling spring color.