

Storing/shipping Daffodil Blooms Minneapolis 2019

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For those of you who missed a really great ADS convention!

There was a really good discussion of using refrigeration for storing cut daffodil blooms for up to three weeks. Cold and humidity was discussed. For our Master Gardener group this past winter I purchased:

AcuRite 00613 Indoor Thermometer & Hygrometer with Humidity Gauge

So that I could track the high low temperature and high low humidity readings at multiple grow light, multiple locations of mini greenhouse grow areas for plant cuttings and seedlings. I ended up buying four of these for about \$9.00 each. Amazon has these for about \$11.00 this morning. I like the ones with the clip on and with the magnetic back combination. The temperature high low was very accurate between all four units and was within 1°F of my older high \$ mercury high low thermometer for my main greenhouse. They ranged from 22°F to about 125°F over the course of a couple of months. Humidity high lows varied between the four units but for what I was growing it was OK. These would work at tracking daffodil folks refrigeration units who are storing daffodil blooms. These can also be put inside the shipping boxes if you are having to put boxes of blooms in "Checked Luggage" in the hold of a plane, and or if you put the boxes in the trunk of a vehicle to see how hot and or how cold shipping is.

Issue is they auto reset every 24 to 36 hours or so but for the price they are a great high low thermometer!

Question also was experimentation for what types of water, (distilled, well water, chlorinated city water ETC) will make your blooms last longer in a vase. What can you add to the water to make the blooms last longer, gin, vodka, whiskey, sugar, Epsom salts ETC.

OK for experimentation/education for school children and Master Gardeners I have used white daffodil blooms, then I carefully split the stem of a daffodil into approximately three equal sections, making about a test tube high split. I make special test tube block holders so that three single stem test tubes are tight against each tube. Then fill the tubes with water, then put in two drops of food coloring into each tube. Carefully put in 1/3 of the whole stem in each tube of food coloring so that this flower stem is now sitting in a 6" deep Red, Blue and green colored water, and in about 24 hours, depending on the humidity you will have a white bloom that shows all three colors. As the veins in the stems pull up water for only a segregated section of the bloom. Even the pistil if you look at higher magnification will also be segregated as to color. The different filaments will be certain distinct colors.

Issue I am bringing this up is that over the course of three days or so for my food coloring the 1/3 or so of the bloom that is "Red" veined will always die a day or two or even three days before the green and blue coloring. Even if I recut the bottoms of the stems every day, it appears that the red food coloring that I am using will plug up the veins and the red 1/3 of the flower will wilt and die ahead of the other two colors.

It would be pretty easy to split "any" color daffodil stem into two stems, then test distilled water to various concoctions to see which side of the bloom will last the longest. Does the PH of vase water make any difference to the daffodil bloom longevity? By using half of the stem in one solution and half in the other solution you are eliminating the variation between two different blooms, even if you used the same cultivar. Keith Kridler North East Texas, 7.07 Inches of rainfall in April, 9+ inches of rainfall so far in May, still raining this morning, now we are under severe thunderstorm warnings

Daffnet.org

For people interested in growing, showing, or hybridizing daffodils.

<https://daffnet.org>

for the rest of the day.