

Daffodils as cut flowers



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If you have driven through Southern Kentucky lately you would have seen the daffodils in bloom. Here in Taylor County, expect to see them blooming within the next week or two. The scent of daffodils is one of my favorite flower fragrances. They bring such sunshine to any room, letting us know spring is on the horizon. Daffodils make excellent cut flowers. Cut blooms low on the plant before the bloom opens when the bud is bent downward. For jonquil types, or those with

multiple blooms on the stem, cut when only one flower is open on the spike. Once cut, immediately place in a bucket of clean water with floral preservative. Place in a cool, bright location indoors. Most blooms will last about one week. The daffodils will last fewer days if you pick them in full bloom.

Daffodils exude a slimy substance from their cut stems that will shorten the vase life of other flowers. To avoid this, place fresh cut daffodils into a separate vase of water for a few hours. The daffodils can then be added to arrangements with other flowers.

Blooms can also be stored for up to two weeks at 34 degrees Fahrenheit and high rela-

tive humidity of 90%. Store stems upright. Stems laid horizontally will bend upward.

The recent ice had no effect on the daffodils. I have seen no damage to mine. Once bloom has passed, please do not remove the foliage. Wait until they turn brown. This way, you know nutrients have been transferred from the foliage to the bulbs and the bulbs are healthy and able to bloom next year. I know it is not the most pleasing look to your flower garden, but removing while they are still green will cause fewer or even no blooms next year. I have seen it take multiple years for blooms to return when the foliage was mowed down prematurely.

Farmers

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This will allow them to better plan their 2026 spring planting budget more accurately.

Pre-filled applications are currently available online to producers with a Login.gov account who accurately filed their 2025 acreage reports. Producers with a Login.gov account can access and submit their pre-filled application from fsa.usda.gov/fba. Additionally, producers can also request their pre-filled FBA application from their FSA county office.

The deadline for producers to submit a completed FBA program application is April 17, 2026. Producers can complete their pre-filled applications online or submit them to their FSA county office.

Eligible commodities covered under the FBA program include: Barley, Chickpeas, Corn, Cotton, Lentils, Oats, Peanuts, Peas, Rice, Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat, Canola, Crambe, Flax, Mustard, Rapeseed, Safflower, Sesame, and Sunflower.

Important Eligibility Information for

Specialty Crop Farmers Program:

On February 13, 2026, the USDA announced the Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF) program, which will provide \$1 billion in assistance for specialty crops and sugar commodities not covered under the Farmers Bridge Assistance Program.

Qualifying producers of specialty crops are encouraged to ensure their 2025 acreage reporting is factual and accurate by 5 pm ET on March 13, 2026. Payment rates set by the USDA will be released by March 31, 2026.

Specialty commodities covered by the ASCF program include: (A) Almond, Apple, Apricot, Aronia berry, Artichoke, Asparagus, Avocado (B) Banana, Bean (Snap or green; Lima; Dry edible), Beet (Table), Blackberry, Blueberry, Breadfruit, Broccoli (including Broccoli Raab), Brussels Sprouts (C) Cabbage (including Chinese), Cacao, Carrot, Cashew, Cauliflower, Celeriac, Celery, Cherimoya, Cherry, Chestnut (for Nuts), Chive, Citrus, Coconut, Coffee, Collards (including Kale), Cranberry,

Cucumber, Currant (D) Date, Dry Edible Beans and Peas* (E) Edamame, Eggplant, Endive (F) Feijou, Fig, Filbert (Hazelnut) (G) Garlic, Gooseberry, Grape (including Raisin), Guava (H) Horseradish (K) Kiwi, Kohlrabi (L) Leek, Lettuce, Litchi (M) Macadamia, Mango, Melon (All Types), Mushroom (Cultivated), Mustard and Other Greens (N) Nectarine (O) Okra, Olive, Onion, Opuntia (P) Papaya, Parsley, Parsnip, Passion Fruit, Pea (Garden; English or Edible Pod; Dry edible), Peach, Pear, Pecan, Pepper, Persimmon, Pineapple, Pistachio, Plum (including Prune), Pomegranate, Potato, Pumpkin (Q) Quince (R) Radish (All Types), Raspberry, Rhubarb, Rutabaga (S) Salsify, Spinach, Squash (Summer and Winter), Strawberry, Suriname Cherry, Sweet Corn, Sweet Potato, Swiss Chard (T) Taro, Tomato (including Tomatillo), Turnip (W) Walnut, and Watermelon.

Additional information on FBA and ASCF is available online at fsa.usda.gov/fba. Producers can also contact their local FSA county office for assistance.

License

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For newcomers to all the great outdoor opportunities that Kentucky has to offer, a reduced-cost sportsman's license is now available for resident first-time buyers. Only individuals who have not purchased an annual Kentucky hunting or fishing license – or a combination license that includes an annual license - since 1996 are eligible. The \$37 license includes a resident hunting and fishing license, spring turkey permit, fall turkey permit, trout permit, state migratory bird and waterfowl permit and statewide deer permit.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife provides a number of resources to assist avid outdoor enthusiasts and newcomers alike with information on waterbodies, public lands, fishing and hunting education and all the regulations to help anglers and hunters make the most of their time outdoors via its website and the hunting and fishing guides it produces annually. This includes the new Fish-

ing and Boating Guide available online and in print.

Another great resource is the Fish Boat KY app. Available free from the Apple App Store and Google Play, the app helps anglers find waterbodies, boat ramps and other water access from the palm of their hand. Users can also search by species of fish, store copies of their licenses, and much more using the smartphone app.

The department receives its primary funding through revenue

raised by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and permits, as well as federal excise taxes generated by the sale of recreational firearms and ammunition, archery gear and fishing equipment.

For questions, the public may refer to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Licenses webpage or type "Licenses" into the search bar on the agency website (fw.ky.gov), or contact the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information Center at 800-858-1549 or at info.center@ky.gov.



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