

A dozen hardy Hort enthusiasts braved the chilly weather yesterday to attend the Bulb Workshop at Christ Church. Daffodil Doyenne Jennifer Brown gave a wonderful demonstration on readying your bulb pots for show. And Gaby Hall shared her hort wisdom too.

Following are a few photos and a lot of handy tips. In addition, there are some handouts on our website (<http://www.greenfingersgardenclub.org/#!hort-committee/c1zx>) with tips for how to groom and ready plants and bulbs for shows.

Also, Hort co-chair Darrell Lorentzen has additional wire and moss to help with your bulb staking. If you need materials, please email her at darrell.lorentzen@gmail.com .

There are two styles to stake bulbs. One is placing a wire into each bulb, next to the stem. The other is placing stakes around the edge of the pot and making two loops of string around the outer periphery. See photos below.



Stake into each bulb, next to the plant stalk.



Secure stake with thin green wire.



Bulb staking method **two**, stakes on outer perimeter with green cloth thread woven around stakes at mid-section and top.

Clean your pots. Scour, then brush with a paper towel with a bit of wesson or olive oil. Not too much, just enough to give the pot a nice clean sheen.

Stakes should NOT be higher than your plants.

While growing, 'soft stake' your plants with pantyhose or strips of soft cloth. Do the wire staking a day or two before you bring them in to the show.

A Lazy Susan is a great tool to have to do this work. Great for floral arranging too.

Try to keep fingers off the leaves, they leave ugly marks.

Keep your bulb dirt moist, it keeps the flowers from flopping over.

When you are done staking, edge the bulbs with dripping wet moss. The moisture helps the moss conform to the pot.

Plants growing too fast? Put them in a cool/dark spot. Too slow? Bring them to the heat and light. Either place on a radiator or a hot plate on it's lowest setting, and give as much light as possible.

Turn your pots daily to keep growth upright.

Finally, ENJOY your beautiful blossoms.



Jennifer, passing on her wisdom.



Darrell Lorentzen, setting up for the Bulb Workshop