



Fast Facts!

Naked Ladies

Amaryllis Belladonna
in the Princess Diana Bed

- “Naked” because the leaves die back completely to the ground in June and the plant appears dormant before blooms suddenly appear on 2 foot stalks in the July-August timeframe.
- Amaryllis means “to sparkle” and is taken from a shepherdess in Virgil’s pastoral eclogues.
- Belladonna means “beautiful woman” in Italian.
- Sometimes called “Jerusalem lilies,” researchers find no likely reference to this flower in the Bible.
- Perennial in Virginia, they are cold hardy if mulched. Baking in a hot summer seems to encourage blooms.
- Needs well drained soil. Clay soil needs to be amended with organic matter such as leaf mold, sphagnum, peat moss or compost.
- Deer resistant.
- Ingesting the bulbs has poisoned humans and could be dangerous to pets. The principal toxin is lycorine.
- Native to Cape Province in South Africa and naturalized in many places around the world: Africa, Portugal, Australia, Cuba; and in the United States in California, Texas, and Louisiana.
- This is not
 - The Amaryllis that blooms for the holidays. That species is Hippeastrum.
 - “Jersey Lily” *Lycoris squamigera* that has a similar flowering pattern.