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Looking for a way to counteract virus in infected daffodils? An aroid grower claims victory over virus on an alocasia which was heavily infested. Bill Welch came across this information in a newsletter of The American Plant Life Society, the editor of which had in turn borrowed his method from a scientific journal called VIROLOGY (Vol. 99(2), December, 1959, "Acetylsalicylic Acid Induces Resistance to Tobacco Mosaic Virus in Tobacco," by R. F. White). The chemical works by causing the plant to produce special anti-viral proteins to combat the infection. Acetyl-salicylic acid can be obtained by crushing a 100% pure aspirin tablet! The grower who "cured" his alocasia used 1/3 teaspoonful of crushed aspirin dissolved in a tablespoonful of DMSO (Dimethyl Sulfoxide). He diluted this with a gallon of water. He sprayed the entire affected plant once a week for two weeks. The alocasia in the experiment recovered from the virus and has shown no symptoms of virus infection for the past two years. (Caution: DMSO is a powerful penetrating agent and can take toxic chemicals right into your system if it gets on your skin.) Bill suggested I might like to try this method with daffodils, and I am passing on the suggestion to anyone else who might be interested. The method is simple to employ.

For those of you who really wish to experiment, here is another, much more radical method of combatting virus. Dr. C. D. Hilton, of Port Alberni, B.C., in the 1961 North American Lily Society yearbook, reported he had "cured" some virus-infected formosanum lily seedlings by spraying them with 2,4-D at normal weedkiller strength. Later an NALS member applied 2,4-D spray to regale lilies and other types with no seeming ill effects and a good deal of improvement the following year. Obviously this will not be a popular method of treating virus-infected daffodils. Still, we all occasionally have bonfire candidates, so why not try this kill-or-cure method? As your RVP, I would appreciate hearing about anyone's experience with either method I have outlined.

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Several Southern California members report good success with a new method of acclimatizing daffodils purchased from the British Isles and from cold-region growers such as Murray Evans. Bulbs are soaked in warm water (90-100°) for an hour, then planted right away. This treatment appears to prevent the "decline" that often seems to affect first-year bulbs.

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The ADS has accepted an invitation from the Northern California Daffodil Society to sponsor the 1989 national convention. Since so many members of NCDS are also members of the SCDS and the Fortuna Garden Club, we might think of this convention as being sponsored by the Pacific Region. If you have suggestions for making this a worthwhile convention, please notify me in writing. It is not too early to begin making our plans.

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Judging school III will be held during the SCDS spring show in 1986 (see below). If you would like to begin judge's training, let me know and I will see that you get the information you need to enroll.

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SHOW DATES IN 1986

Fortuna Daffodil Show, Fortuna	March 8-9
NCDS Daffodil Show, Walnut Creek	March 15-16
SCDS Daffodil Show, Descanso	March 22-23

Jack S. Romine, RVP  
Pacific Region