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Reports keep coming in of an extra-early bloom season in many parts of California. Unusually cold weather in November-December, followed by warm rains in January-February, has put us several weeks ahead in the Bay Area-Central Valley region. In the Los Angeles basin the winter was mild, with temperatures occasionally in the eighties. Perhaps it is not surprising, then, that some cultivars are not looking typical this year.

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As a follow-up to the last newsletter, I am reporting on my own experience in treating virus-infected daffodils with a spray of acetylsalicylic acid. I found a container of EL CAPITAN with one badly infected bulb in the center, and another container of 2Y-Rs with two badly infected bulbs in the center. I isolated these containers when the foliage had emerged from the ground just enough to detect the striping. Using the formula of 1/3 t. pure aspirin, 1 T. DMSO, and 1 gallon of water, I sprayed both containers three times, a week apart. (The chemical is supposed to work by causing the daffodils to produce special anti-viral proteins to combat the infection.) One effect I noticed right away was a spurt in foliage growth of all bulbs. Three weeks later a careful inspection of the infected bulbs revealed that the original striping was much less noticeable. The most encouraging sign, however, was that new inner foliage spears seemed perfectly normal and free of outward signs of virus. (The three infected bulbs did not bloom and no evaluation of flowers was possible.) The crucial evaluation will come next spring. I will leave these bulbs in their containers and then check to see (1) if the originally infected bulbs still show virus symptoms and (2) if the originally healthy bulbs surrounding them are still clean. I was unable to experiment with the other method, using 2,4-D, because I could not obtain any.

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A hybridizing enigma. Since so many of you are now hybridizing daffodils, I thought this item might be of interest. A first seedling now blooming from LITTLE SOLDIER (bulbocodium obesus x CHEMAWA) x bulbocodium conspicuus is half as high (4") and half as large as either parent. It is a 1Y-Y, with the perianth full and flat and the trumpet (1/4" across) showing not the least bit of "inflation" characteristic of a bulbocodium cup. Of thirteen other siblings, four show dwarf foliage like the one in bloom. Have I stumbled upon some pattern for dwarfing and miniaturizing? Has the double presence of bulbocodium triggered some recessive gene combinations? Would backcrossing a cyclamineus hybrid give the same results? In short, can anybody shed some light on this subject? The standard cultivar CHEMAWA must have played an important role, too, because the form of the seedling most resembles CHEMAWA.

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Judging School III will be held during the SCDS show at Descanso Gardens (see below). If you wish to enroll, call Marilyn Howe immediately: (213) 827-3229. (Accredited judges are required to take a refresher course periodically.)

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 8-9 Daffodil and Flower Show, Fortuna Garden Club, Monday Club House, Sixth & Main Streets, Fortuna, CA. Contact: Christine Kemp.
- March 15-16 Pacific Regional Show, Northern California Daffodil Society, Heather Farm Garden Center, Ygnacio Valley Road & N. San Carlos Drive, Walnut Creek. Chairman: Robert Spotts.
- March 22-23 Annual Show, Southern California Daffodil Society, Descanso Gardens, 1419 Descanso Drive, LaCanada, CA. Chairman: Joan Christensen.

Jack S. Romine, RVP  
 Pacific Region