

# DAFFODILS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

HAROLD I. JOHNSON, *California*

The following comments on daffodil varieties, arranged according to originator, may be of help to those who wish to try out daffodils under conditions similar to those in Northern California.

Daffodils do well in this region, and my one recommendation as to growing them would be that not too much water be provided in the summer months, especially in the heavier soils. Thorough watering once a month should be sufficient. Winter watering however, is desirable, particularly in December, January and February, if good rains are not forthcoming.

The other main factor is choice of the variety. I have listed all that I have grown with special comments on the outstanding and good, and the rest clearly written between the lines.

*P. D. Williams.* If any one of these hybridizers can be said to have introduced the varieties most suitable for our conditions, it is P. D. Williams. His daffodils are of Cornish origin, in the southwest of England.

The varieties I have grown of his are: ALIGHT, BODILLY, BRUNSWICK, CARLTON, CONTENT, CORNISH FIRE, CROCUS, DAMSON, GODOLPHIN, GREETING, HAVELOCK, JUBILANT, KENNACK, KILLIGREW, LANARTH, MEDUSA, MESSINA, NIPHETOS, PENBEAGLE, PENQUITE, PENTREATH, POLINDRA, PORTHILLY, ST. AGNES, ST. EGWIN, ST. IVES, SALTASH, SCARLET GEM, TREVISKY, TRIM, TROUSSEAU, TUNIS and WARLOCK.

Of these, CONTENT (Fig. 13) is the most outstanding in size and quality, and seems reasonably well adapted to our climatic conditions.

The most prolific and easiest to grow is CARLTON.

The good garden flowers are: ALIGHT, BODILLY, GODOLPHIN, LANARTH, PORTHILLY, ST. AGNES, ST. EGWIN, SCARLET GEM, TRIM, TUNIS and WARLOCK. All of these are strong growing with good stems; and in the now several years I have had them, have shown no signs of temperament. BODILLY, PORTHILLY and ST. EGWIN provide the most in garden value, though I would not want to be without the cluster-flowered SCARLET GEM or the jonquils, LANARTH and TRIM.

Flowers of great beauty, but not too satisfactory as growers, are BRUNSWICK, CROCUS, GREETING, POLINDRA and TROUSSEAU. They can well be tried, and I know POLINDRA grows beautifully along the immediate coast, judging from Mr. Reinelt's garden; but in my experience, they are touchy.

The rest are in most respects superseded, although PENBEAGLE and PENTREATH, because of their fine bulbs should be considered for breeding purposes.

*BRODIE OF BRODIE.* Of many flowers introduced from the garden of Brodie of Brodie, very few are truly outstanding under my conditions. His garden was in Northern Scotland.

Among those I have grown are: BOKHARA, CAPRI, CHEERIO, CHRISTIAN, COURAGE, CROMARTY, DAVA, DUNKELD, ELGIN, ESKIMO FAIRY CIRCLE, FIREWATER, FOREST FIRE, FORTUNE'S BLAZE, FORTUNE'S BOWL, FORTUNE'S CREST, FORTUNE'S SUN, KING OF THE NORTH, MARKET MERRY, MARMORA, MR. JINKS, NISSA, PAINTED LADY, POLDHU, PORTLIGHT, QUETTA, TOPIC and WHITELY GEM.

The good garden flowers have been: BOKHARA, COURAGE, FOREST FIRE, FORTUNE'S BLAZE, FORTUNE'S SUN, MARKET MERRY and WHITELY GEM. Of these, MARKET MERRY is the most outstanding in good years, but I would settle for BOKHARA as being the most satisfactory from all-round garden value.

ELGIN, FIREWATER and PAINTED LADY may be tried, because they will provide beautiful flowers under the best conditions, but the others I would not buy again.

**A. M. WILSON.** A. M. Wilson introduced very few but some quite fine daffodils. Those I have grown are: ANGELINE, CARBINEER, CICELY, DIPLOMAT, GARIBALDI, KING OF HEARTS, LUDLOW, OSLO and SCANDAL.

Of these, LUDLOW is the most outstanding because of its lovely white color and good carriage. CARBINEER is a very strong grower, but the color is not outstanding. ANGELINE and CICELY are fine cutting flowers particularly suitable for flower arrangements. OSLO is lovely, but dies out. The others are probably now superseded.

*De Graaff.* Of Dutch varieties introduced by De Graaff, I grow: CALORAMA, CRITERION, DAISY SHAFER, GOLDEN PERFECTION and PEKING.

GOLDEN PERFECTION is fine from all standpoints. DAISY SHAFER can be pleasing, but the others are either superseded or unsatisfactory.

**GRANT E. MITSCH.** Grant E. Mitsch of Canby, Oregon is one of the younger hybridizers, and undoubtedly there will be many fine intro-

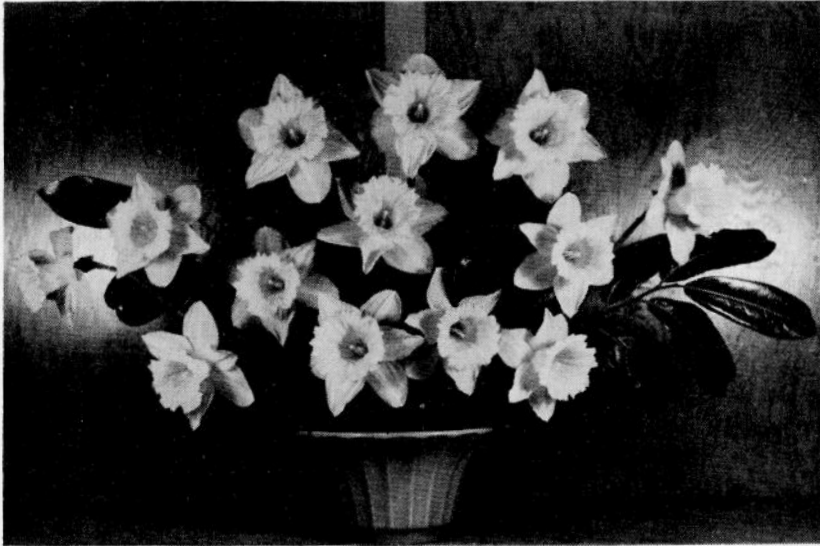


Fig. 17. Hybrid *Narcissus*—PAUL BUNYAN. Photo by Grant E. Mitch.

ductions from his garden in future years. His introductions so far are primarily intended for garden rather than exhibition use, and I grow CASABIANCA, CHINOOK, CIBOLA, FAIRY DREAM, GOLD CROWN, LEMON DROPS, LINN, PAUL BUNYAN, SANTIAM, and ZEST.

The best of these is PAUL BUNYAN (Fig. 17) with enormous size and fine carriage. LEMON DROPS is a very distinctive triandrus type.

The fine garden flowers are: LINN, SANTIAM, CHINOOK, CIBOLA and CASABIANCA.

The others are not particularly distinctive but except for FAIRY DREAM which appears to require more rainfall than California usually provides, they are all good growers.

*KENYON REYNOLDS.* Some originations of Kenyon Reynolds of Southern California were introduced by Mrs. Lena Lothrop some years ago. I have grown *COMANCHE*, *GAY DANCER*, *MARIPOSA*, *TEMECULA*, and Seedlings No. 9, No. 31, No. 65 and No. 212.

*COMANCHE* is a very good variety and the Seedlings numbered 9, 31 and 65 are all good garden flowers.

*MRS. R. O. BACKHOUSE.* Of the Mrs. Backhouse introductions, I have grown, including *CORONACH*, *ECLAIR*, *HADES*, *ISIDOR*, *MRS. R. O. BACKHOUSE*, *NORFOLK*, *PEERLESS* and *WHITE CONQUEROR*, only *HADES* seems worth growing, and that primarily for color.

*CORONACH* can be tried for hybridizing, but it is a poor doer.

*VARIOUS GROWERS.* I have grown miscellaneous daffodil varieties from various growers as follows: *ALBERNI BEAUTY* (Hilton), *ARANJUEZ* (Warnaar), *BEERSHEBA* (Engleheart), *BRIMSTONE* (Engleheart), *CHERIE* (W. F. Mitchell), *DIOLITE* (Miss Evelyn), *FORTUNE* (Ware), *JOHN EVELYN* (Cope), *KING ALFRED* (Kendall), *MITE*, *NIVETH* (H. Backhouse), *PENCREBAR*, *RIO RITA* (Warnaar), *ROYALIST* (Lower), *RUSTOM PASHA* (Miss Evelyn), *SILVER CHIMES* (Martin), and *SILVER PLANE* (A. E. Lowe).

Of these, *FORTUNE* is still the most outstanding and useful in the garden, while *KING ALFRED*, although completely superseded as a specimen stalk, seemingly enjoys our climatic conditions. Others in the outstanding class are *DIOLITE* and *RUSTOM PASHA*.

Good garden flowers are *ROYALIST* and *CHERIE*.

*ARANJUEZ*, *MITE*, *PENCREBAR*, and *SILVER CHIMES* are sufficiently distinct to be tried, but the last named has proved difficult. The others are either superseded or unsatisfactory.

*AUSTRALIAN—NEW ZEALAND GROWERS.* The Australian-New Zealand introductions I have tried are *AVENEL*, *BINKIE*, *BONNY*, *CAMBERWELL KING*, *CARMOA*, *CARNGHAM*, *CHARIS*, *CORONELLA*, *CRANBOURNE*, *CRUSADER*, *DAVID WEST*, *EVANSFORD*, *FAHAN*, *FIDELIS*, *GLENALBYN*, *GLEN ALVIE*, *ISOLA*, *JEAN HOOD*, *KIMBA*, *MABEL TAYLOR*, *MAKEUP*, *MALVERN GOLD*, *MELVA FELL*, *MORTLAKE*, *RED RADIANCE*, *RUBRA*, *SCARLET QUEEN*, *SHIRLEY WYNESS*, *TANGERINE*, *TELOPEA*, *VERA WEST*, *WALTER J. SMITH*, *WARATAH*, *WARFLAME* and *ZOE*.

Nearly all of these are quite vigorous under our conditions. Unfortunately, many of them are not very distinctive, and are hardly the good quality flower we have been led to expect from the major hybridizers.

The most outstanding flowers are *MORTLAKE* and *FAHAN*.

For color, *MABEL TAYLOR* and *BINKIE* (Fig. 14) are fine; and the first named may be the best pink for our conditions.

Good garden flowers are *WARATAH*, *RED RADIANCE*, and *VERA WEST*.

Worthwhile trying are *FIDELIS*, *JEAN HOOD*, *MALVERN GOLD*, *RUBRA* and *SHIRLEY WYNESS*. The others are superseded but because of their vigor, they provide good garden value if obtainable at a reasonable price.

*J. LIONEL RICHARDSON.* J. Lionel Richardson of the Irish Free State has been responsible for some of the greatest "name" daffodils exhibited in recent years. However, garden value and exhibition

value are two different things. Of his introductions I have grown: ALEXANDRIA, BALLYFERIS, BEIRUT, BIZERTA, BLARNEY, BUNCRANA, CASTLEDERMOT, CLEENA, COTOPAXI, FERMOY, FIREMASTER, FLAMENCO, GALWAY, GREEN ISLAND, HARRIER, HONG KONG, JERPOINT, KINGSCOURT, KRAKATOA, LIMERICK, MEXICO, MONACO, NANKING, PEIPING, ROSE OF TRALEE, ROYAL MAIL, ROYAL RANSOM, SEBASTAPOL, SUDAN, TUSKAR LIGHT.

Outstanding is GALWAY, one of the best of all daffodils.

Vigorous or otherwise fine are BUNCRANA, FLAMENCO, MEXICO, ROYAL MAIL and SUDAN; and CASTLEDERMOT and MONACO look promising. Others have been definitely disappointing, among them highly commended varieties like CLEENA, GREEN ISLAND, KRAKATOA, KINGSCOURT, ROYAL RANSOM, and ROSE OF TRALEE. Also some of them seem most unhappy under our conditions, and I have lost BALLYFERIS, FERMOY, LIMERICK and most of TUSKAR LIGHT.

*GUY L. WILSON.* Guy L. Wilson of Northern Island, has introduced many fine varieties, and I have grown: ARMADA, BANN, BREAD & CHEESE, BRANIEL, CANTABLE, CANTATRICE, CARNLOUGH, CARNMONEY, CHUNGKING, CLONARD, CLONTARF, CORRYMEELA, DREAMLIGHT, EVENING, GARRON, GOLDEN MELODY, GREENLAND, GREY LADY, GUARDIAN, HOME FIRES, INDIAN SUMMER, JACK SPRATT, KANCHENJUNGA, KIBO, KLINGO, KWANNON, LISBREEN, MARAVAL, MAY MOLONEY, MOONGOLD, MOONSTRUCK, MYSTIC, PINKEEN, PREAMBLE, PROMPTITUDE, QUIP, ROUGE, ST. BRIDE, SAMITE, SHANACH, SHINING WATERS, SHIPMATE, SILVER WEDDING, SUN DANCE, SUNKIST, SYLVIA O'NEILL, TIBET, TRUTH, ULSTER PRINCE.

Outstanding are ARMADA, MOONSTRUCK, and HOME FIRES.

Vigorous and fine garden flowers are BREAD & CHEESE, BRANIEL, GARRON, GOLDEN MELODY, and MARAVAL.

Very distinctive, but less vigorous are INDIAN SUMMER, KIBO, LISBREEN, CHUNGKING, and ROUGE.

I would not want to be without the rough but tall TIBET, and the short-lived but beautiful TRUTH. SUN DANCE with its suggestion of red on the trumpet flange is another fine flower even though it is weaker than many of the trumpets. The others so far are either less satisfactory or less distinctive. Their quality is generally very high, but many are late blooming flowers which generally are poor doers in this region.