

Additional Information

Your best source for additional information about collected and propagated bulbs is the Gardener's Guide to Plant Conservation, published by The World Wildlife Fund and Garden Club of America.

Order the Gardener's Guide to Plant Conservation from World Wildlife Fund, P.O. Box 4866, Hampden Post Office, Baltimore, MD 21211 (tel: 410-516-6951). The cost is \$12.95

You may also contact the American Daffodil Society for information on *Narcissus*.

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WILD-COLLECTED BULBS
DRAFT DATED 12/14/93

Look For the label!

If you are thinking of buying any species or "minor" bulbs, *take care*. The bulbs may have been dug from the wild rather than propagated in a nursery. *Please do not buy the bulbs if you cannot be certain that they have been propagated*. Look for a label or catalog description which clearly states that the bulbs have been propagated or grown from cultivated stock.

Which bulbs are potentially taken from the wild?

Be particularly cautious about lady's slipper orchids and trilliums, which at this time are propagated by only a few specialists and not in sufficient quantities to supply commercial demand. **ADD ANY OTHERS?**

Other bulbs that may have been taken from the wild include

- windflowers, including *Anemone blanda*
- Colchicum* species
- "hardy" *Cyclamen*, including
 - C. hederifolium* or *C. neapolitanum*,
 - C. coum*, *C. cilisium*
- winter aconite *Eranthis cilicus* and *E. hyemalis*
- dog-tooth violets *Erythronium*
(*E. "Citronella"* and *E. "Pagoda"* are propagated hybrids)
- Fritillaria* lilies, including *F. persica*
and *F. imperialis*
- snowdrops *Galanthus* species
- "botanical" or species iris, especially North American iris such as *Iris cristata*, *I. lacustris*, *I. prismatica*, and *I. verna*; and *I. siberica* ssp. *elegantissima*, *I. milesi*, *I. paradoxa*, *I. persica*, *I. sari*, and *I. (or Hermaodactylus) tuberosa*
- species lilies, especially *Lilium canadense* or *L. canadensis*, turk's cap *L. martagon*, *L. michauxii*, wood lily *L. philadelphicum*, and *L. ciliatum*
- snowflakes *Leucojum aestivum*,
L. autumnale, and *L. vernum*
- species narcissus, especially *Narcissus asturiensis*, hoop-petticoat *N. bulbocodium*, *N. cyclamineus*, *N. juncifolius* or *requienii*, *N. rupicola*, *N. scaberulus*, *N. tazetta* ssp. *laticolor*, *N. triandrus albus*, *N. triandrus concolor*
- winter daffodil *Sternbergia* species
- "botanical" tulips, including *Tulipa aitchisonii*, *T. biflora* or *T. polychroma*, *T. eichleri*, *T. hageri* or *T. orphanidea*, *T. humilis*, *T. kurdica*, *T. praecox*, and *T. undulatifolia*

How can you know whether the bulbs were propagated?

In response to conservationists' concerns, Dutch dealers have promised to place on the package label or in the catalog description, the words "**Bulbs Grown from Cultivated Stock.**" Collected bulbs are to be labelled "Bulbs from Wild Sources".

Unfortunately, American dealers, many of whom have Dutch-sounding names, *are under no obligation to inform their customers* about the origin of their bulbs (or other plant stock). While some American nurseries have publicly pledged not to sell wild-collected bulbs, others continue to sell them, either with no information or with a misleading claim that the bulbs have been "nursery grown."

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission has issued Guides for The Nursery Industry which *allow* nurseries to label as "nursery grown" plants taken from the wild -- as long as they have been maintained in the nursery for as little as one growing season. For many bulbs, a growing season may be as little as two or three months. The fact remains that these plants were *originally* collected from the wild. Unfortunately, the FTC's Guides result in a situation in which our federal government *sanctions* misleading claims regarding wild-collected plants. Despite a 1991 petition from the GCA, NRDC, WWF and nine other environmental organizations or nurseries, later supported by the American Association of Nurserymen, the Federal Trade Commission has not yet amended its Guides for The Nursery Industry.

As a result, *you* must play detective. Look for any label -- it may be inconspicuous, located at the bottom of the reverse side of the label beneath the planting instructions. In the case of bulbs sold loose from open boxes, or in bulk, the label may be a small sticker on the front of the box.

Even if you find a label or a statement in the catalog, **ASK your dealer** where he or she obtained the bulbs. **MORE QUESTIONS TO BE ADDED**

The American Daffodil Society, Garden Club of America (GCA), Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) are working together with companies in the flowerbulb industry to educate gardeners about the probable wild origin of certain types of plants they may be considering purchasing. NRDC, GCA, and the American Daffodil Society urge you not to buy bulbs collected from the wild until effective controls to prevent harmful overexploitation are instituted. Existing controls are not effective. Nor is there scientific research into the species' life cycles and ecological needs that would determine sustainable harvest levels.

Wild-collected bulbs make up only a tiny fraction of all bulbs exported by The Netherlands, but they provide most of the stock of certain types of bulbs. Because Dutch growers are concerned about the possibility that trade may pose a threat to certain species, the Dutch industry has adopted this labelling system. The Dutch are also funding programs to promote propagation of the most popular species that until now have been taken from the wild.