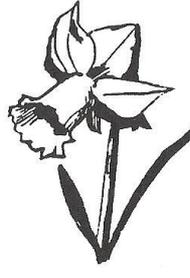


ADS YOUTH NEWS



American Daffodil
Society

November, 2006
Special Notice

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Free Bulb for You!

Congratulations on your free daffodil bulb donated by Elise Havens of Mitsch Daffodils in Oregon. Elise's father was Grant Mitsch, who started Mitsch Daffodils, and now Elise and her husband run the company. Elise learned how to hybridize or invent new varieties of daffodils from her father. This process begins with pollination, when pollen from the anther of one daffodil is placed on the stigma of another daffodil. The resulting seeds that may develop in the plant's ovary can be grown into new varieties of daffodils. (Refer to the included drawing of parts of the daffodil.) It can take from five to seven years before the seeds grow into bulbs ready to flower. Usually these seedling flowers are observed for several years before the flower is given a name. A seedling is a daffodil that has not yet been named. Before a daffodil is named, it goes by the name of the hybridizer or inventor of that daffodil followed by a number or code used to track that seedling.

Elise donated bulbs of three different seedlings, Mitsch 2T23/5, Havens VH9/1, and Mitsch 2H4/3. The two bulbs with Mitsch in the name were hybridized by Grant Mitsch and the Havens one by Elise. Be sure you record which seedling you receive on your daffodil list and don't forget to keep a map of the location where you plant it.

Mitsch 2T23/5 is a 2W-W (Division 2, large cupped daffodil, with white petals and a white cup) and was hybridized from daffodils 'Broomhill' and 'Canisp'. The bulbs of Havens VH9/1 are not coded by division or color, but were hybridized from 'Glenfarclas' and an unnamed 1 W-P seedling. Mitsch 2H4/3 is a 5W-P (Division 5, Triandrus daffodil, with white petals and a pink cup) hybridized from 'Accent' and *triandrus*, one of the original wild daffodils.



Elise Havens of Mitsch Daffodils

Planting & Growing Tips

- ★ Plant pointy end up. (I bet you knew that!)
- ★ Plant daffodils 3 times the height of the bulb. If the bulb is 2 inches tall, plant it in the bottom of a 6 inch deep hole.
- ★ Plant when the soil temperature has cooled to 54 degrees or less.
- ★ Label bulbs and keep planting maps.
- ★ When planting bulbs a low nitrogen fertilizer, such as 5-10-10, can be added to the soil, though most daffodils do fine for years with no fertilizer.
- ★ Beds should have good drainage (the most important factor for miniatures); correct bad drainage by adding lots of coarse sand to the soil or by planting in raised beds.
- ★ Water your bulbs after planting; flowers will be best if plants receive 1 inch water each week from the time when leaves appear to flowering.
- ★ Mulch your beds for four good reasons: 1) keep weeds from sprouting and growing, 2) keep soil temperature cooler in summer and warmer in winter, 3) keep soil moist, and 4) help prevent dirt spots on blooms.
- ★ After the daffodil blooms, let the foliage mature. This builds next year's flower inside the bulb. The leaves should not be folded, tied, mowed or removed until they begin to die down.