

What??? Daffodil Season Is Over Already???

May, 2002

Daffodil growers like to say that growing daffodils is “eleven months anticipation and one month of aggravation.” That description might actually fit this year, though of course there were good flowers. But it was another one of those strange years, weather-wise, when first it looked like it would be an early season, then it got cold and things slowed down, then it got hot and everything opened and quickly wilted in the heat. So for the first time in many years, I have no daffodils blooming into May. Well, a few bulbs new to my garden are just opening. But since I wrote at the end of February that I had blooms in my coldframe, I guess I shouldn't complain, since that's two months of daffodil blooms.



As usual, one of the last flowers to bloom in my garden is the miniature 'Baby Moon'. This golden yellow flower blooms at the end of the season. It is wonderfully fragrant. It's a cross of *N. jonquilla minor* x *N. jonquilla*, and resembles *N. jonquilla*. You can usually find these bulbs in garden centers in the fall, and I can heartily recommend it. Shown here with violas (at the edge of the

photo), it makes a pleasing picture in the garden. Incidentally, I discovered these violas last fall (marked down in price) and they were guaranteed “to bloom in the spring when planted in late summer or autumn.” I really expected to write for a refund, but they have been wonderful. They are called Icicle™ Violas. I'm going to look for more this fall. The blues and violets go so well with the daffodils.

Another late blooming daffodil is 'Grace Note', shown here with some dwarf iris. This flower can be shown in classes for “Intermediate” daffodils, since its size is usually under 3 inches in diameter. I like it because it blooms late, when most shows are over, and it can be enjoyed just for being there. Its pristine white petals set off the small green cup edged with yellow. A friend of mine, who enjoys both daffodils and music, has a “music daffodil garden,” and I was able to share bulbs of 'Grace Note' with him.





I do a bit of daffodil hybridizing, and one of my own seedlings, which I have named 'Final Curtain', is one of the last to bloom. Easy to see why it got its name, isn't it? Its mother is 'Grace Note', but 'Final Curtain' is a larger flower. This, along with my 'Happy Ending', a small white double on a tall stem, always brings down the curtain on daffodil season.