

Too Hot to Garden—Let's Shop!

August, 2005

When the temperature hovers between 95 and 98 degrees, it's just too hot to even think about getting out in the garden. So, if you haven't already ordered daffodils for fall delivery and planting, take the time to do it as soon as possible.

My favorite American supplier of choice daffodil bulbs is Mitsch Daffodils, located in Hubbard, Oregon. Grant Mitsch was the dean of American hybridizers, and his daughter, Elise, and her husband Dick Havens continue the business. The bulbs are mostly Mitsch and Havens hybrids, and all are grown by the Havens. They also grow some of the fine cultivars from David Jackson in Tasmania, Australia. The 2005 catalog is the 78th issued by the company.

John Reed, breeding and growing daffodils in Niles, Michigan, and doing business as Oakwood Daffodils, has only been at it for 22 years. His list includes his own hybrids as well as those from other prominent breeders. He acquired some stocks of Bill Pannill registrations from Oregon Trail Daffodils when they ceased doing business. This past spring, John exhibited a daffodil with a completely green cup. He grows what he sells.

David Burdick, doing business as Daffodils and More, offers "undiscovered varieties belonging in all gardens." These are usually not the newest, most expensive cultivars, but still some of the finest cultivars that can still win prizes on the show bench and put on a great display in your garden. The "More" part of the business includes Snowdrops, Galanthus, Camassia, Trollius, tools and notecards.

Steve Vinisky, doing business as Cheery Creek Daffodils, lists his own hybrids along with those from other hybridizers.

Brent and Becky Heath, doing business as—what else—Brent and Becky's Bulbs, carry a long list of Dutch-grown bulbs, not just daffodils. Their selection is extensive, and includes a few of the new hybrids bred by Brent. Most are priced in quantities of 5 or 10.

McClure and Zimmerman is another firm that sells Dutch-grown bulbs, usually priced in quantities of 5 or 10.

If you're interested in historic or heirloom bulbs, then Old House Gardens is a good place to shop. Proprietor Scott Kunst searches the world for great old bulbs that are at risk, and recruits small farmers to grow them. His "Old House Gardens Newsletter" is always interesting as well.

There are some excellent overseas growers, too, but you'll really have to hurry to get off an order to them as shipping begins in September. And by all means, choose air mail shipping, even though it is more expensive.

Ringhaddy Daffodils, in Northern Ireland, has combined the business of Frank Harrison's Ballydorn Bulb Farm and Brian Duncan Daffodils, and the offering consists mostly of bulbs raised by those growers. Proprietor Nial Watson has embarked on his own hybridizing program, and we can expect to see some of his flowers on offer in the future.

Ron Scamp's Quality Daffodils, located in Cornwall, England, grows his own bulbs, and has one of the most extensive lists of daffodils around. He lists not only his own new hybrids, but also excellent cultivars from growers around the world. He also lists historic daffodils.

John Pearson of Hofflands Daffodils issued his final catalog this year. John's catalog consists mostly of his own choice hybrids, many in the pale yellow shades. I understand John's bulbs will be available from Ron Scamp in the future.

There are also some excellent growers in the Southern Hemisphere, but since this isn't the time to be ordering from them, we'll deal with them another time.

Mitsch Daffodils, P.O. Box 218, Hubbard, OR 97032; 503-651-2742; havensr@web-ster.com; www.web-ster.com/havensr/Mitsch/

Oakwood Daffodils, 2330 W. Bertrand Rd., Niles, MI 49120; 269-684-3327; oakwooddaff@direcway.com

Daffodils and More, P.O. Box 495, Dalton, MA 01227; 413-443-1481; daffodil@berkshire.net; www.daffodilsandmore.com

Cherry Creek Daffodils, 21700 S.W. Chapman Rd., Sherwood, OR 97140; 503-625-3379; stevev@cherrydaf.net; www.aracnet.com/~bobvin/

Brent and Becky's Bulbs, 7900 Daffodil Lane, Gloucester, VA 23061; 804-693-3966; www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com

McClure and Zimmerman, P.O. Box 368, Friesland, WI 53935-0368; 800-883-6998; www.mzbulb.com

Old House Gardens, 536 Third St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103; 735-995-1486; Charlie@oldhousegardens.com; www.oldhousegardens.com

Ringhaddy Daffodils, 60 Ringhaddy Road, Killinchy, Co. Down BT23 6TU, Northern Ireland, UK; 028 9754 1007 (from the US begin with 011-44 and drop the leading 0) rindgaff@nireland.com

Quality Daffodils, 14 Roscarrack Close, Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 4PJ, UK; (011-44, drop leading 0) 01326 317959; rascamp@daffodils.uk.com; www.qualitydaffodils.co.uk

Hofflands Daffodils, Little Totham Road, Goldhanger, Maldon, Essex, CM9 8AP, UK; (011-44 drop leading 0) 0 1621 788678; hofflands@care4free.net