DAFFODILS AND THE NOVICE
By Mrs. H. Rowland Timms, Vice President, Northeast Region

The main difference between the gardening practices and planting methods of the novice and the experienced gardener is one of great care—on the part of the novice! It is only by experience that we get to know the right spot in our gardens for all plants, the tilth of the soil, the drainages, the fertility and the exposure. As novices we cannot afford to take chances and run the risk of disappointment, nor are we philosophical enough to shrug a mediocre bloom off as a result of the season. No one is as dedicated as a convert and all novices want to win blues immediately (it is only with experience we realize this isn’t always possible).

While daffodils are amenable to many situations, they, like all plant material, do best when grown under prime conditions. By and large daffodils grown for exhibition require sun; there are some exceptions to this among the red cups which tend to burn in the sun and hold their color better in light or filtered shade. If we are using these red cups for show purposes or cut flowers they can be picked at their peak; however in the landscape they may be disappointing as they would lose their color impact. Daffodils grown for personal enjoyment are less demanding in their location and requirements.

Must Be Well Drained

Daffodils also require a well drained spot. Look your place over and if you find spots where water is left standing after a rain do not plant daffodils there without correcting the situation completely.

The third point in daffodil culture for the novice to consider is the feeding program, which I shall discuss under bed preparation.

Let us consider the varieties for the novice to choose (it goes without saying that you buy your bulbs from a very reliable source—someone who handles top grade bulbs, true to name, and that you avoid mixtures and so called “bargains”). Where do you want to plant your daffodils—in the landscape picture, the perennial beds, or the cutting garden? Why do you want to plant them; by that I mean are they for your own pleasure at home, or for exhibition? Read your catalog, the ADS Yearbook, daffodil garden books, visit test gardens, talk with experienced gardeners, and then select the right daffodil for the right place. You will get much more satisfaction from your efforts than if you just blindly pick from the remembered varieties seen at shows.

Massed Color for Drifts

When planting woodland paths or drifts choose varieties that can be left undisturbed for years and at the same time multiply and be long-lasting. The object of a naturalized drift is a mass effect of color and not the individual beauty and perfection of each bloom. They should be planted in an informal pattern with the space between each bulb varying from almost touching to six inches. By “pattern” I do not mean a rigid square or circle. Roll out bulbs like
playing a child’s game of jacks and plant them where they land. Shallow planting (four inches) will yield a more immediate increase; deeper planting (six inches) will be more long-lasting. Planting along woodland paths can be in clumps or small drifts under oak or beech trees where each flower can be enjoyed as you walk along. Varieties differ in their performance across the country, but as a rule the small cups of Division 3 and the jonquils, Division 7 are very dependable. Check your region; if you are using cyclamineus Division 6 and Triandrus Division 5, use the older varieties which are closer to the species.

The trumpets, Division 1, and large cups, Division 2, are strong and bold in beds and borders, and are very effective when planted to carry out a color scheme, using six to ten of a variety in each clump, depending on the size of your border. When selecting varieties for your cutting garden you do not have to consider blooming sequence or color combinations, as these rows are usually hidden from view.

Must Remain for Years

Daffodils used in front of a shrub border should also be those that can be left for several years, not only from a labor standpoint but from the point of damage to the roots of the shrubs from too frequent digging. Azaleas and Rhododendrons are very shallow rooted. Consider the scale and proportion of daffodils and shrubs. Tall, heavy, bold flowers of strong vibrant colors can overpower small, newly planted shrubs, and it would be more pleasing to wait a season or two until these shrubs can hold their own against such competition. Here, as in the perennial beds and borders, we want to consider color; perhaps some of the delicate pinks to bloom with the new coppery foliage of the Photinia serrulata or Stranvesia, followed by late yellows to complement the more mature foliage; or try white blooms to face down the gray Elaeagnus.

Perhaps you have a spot for miniatures, such as the top of a low wall, or a well-drained sunny corner near your garden steps where you can see them from your terrace.

Exhibition Planting

Exhibition blooms need to be planted at least six inches apart in straight rows so that they do not compete with other plant material for soil nutrients. I prefer to dig a trench never less than 12 inches deep, and as deep as 24 inches if drainage is a problem. In the deeper trench I put lots of rocks covered with soil to bring it up to 12 inches from the ground level. My trenches are dug in the summer and left to settle until the bulbs arrive. Into the 12-inch trench I put sifted compost, sifted top soil or garden loam, and bone meal. Daffodils prefer a slightly acid soil, so if necessary add sifted peat moss. If your soil is of the heavy clay type you may have to incorporate sand. The object is to have loose, friable soil of good tilth (composition) for the leaves and stems to push up through; many an otherwise good exhibition flower has been marked down by the judges because of a twisted stem that had to push its way up through hard soil, or maneuver around pebbles and other foreign material. In the judging scale of points the stem counts 10 percent, which is a reflection of your horticulture practices.
WANTED!

Cooperation of ADS members in compiling the following:

1. Names of varieties that increase and persist in the garden.
2. Names of varieties that disappear after a year or two.
3. Any information available pertaining to causes of disappearance.

Compiled information will be shared with anyone upon request. Send your data to W. E. J. Gottshall, 227 East Mason Ave., Alexandria, Va.

And now for the actual planting. Usually the soil has settled several inches since the beds were prepared and since I prefer deep planting (the bulbs are kept cooler in hot weather and there is less heaving in freezing weather) at least twice the depth of the bulb, I measure down six or more inches from the ground level, make a depression with a narrow trowel, add a little sand, set the bulb on this clean, sharp sand and place the marker. Then on to the next bulb until the trench is completed. Then I fill in the entire trench at one time with loose soil to ground level, firming it carefully. It is impossible to give exact measurements to the inch as bulbs of the different divisions and varieties vary in size. Just remember the soil from the top of the bulb should be about twice the depth of your bulb which would mean anywhere from four to six inches of soil on top of your bulb. Naturally this does not apply to miniatures, which should be planted with only a drift of an inch or two of soil on top of them.

Keep Names Straight

Bear in mind that no flower can be exhibited without being named. I am very careful to keep a detailed account of all plantings in my files, showing their exact location, since garden labels can get lost or destroyed. Examine each bulb carefully making sure it is a clean, healthy, sound bulb worthy of your time and labor.

As with varieties for naturalizing, varieties for blue winners in shows vary across the country; however, the excellent symposium that Mr. Tuggle compiles for the Yearbook is a guide that can be used to advantage. Select varieties that are known to have winning qualities, study the scale of points used by the judges, and then plant accordingly.

With established plantings I like to scatter bone meal in the fall when the rest of the garden is being put to bed for the winter, and then in the spring I give all the daffodils a light feeding of a fertilizer low in nitrogen as they break through the ground. As the stems lengthen and the flower buds swell I mulch the rows that I am going to use for exhibition. I have used wood chips in the past but am going to try cocoa hulls as I like their performance in the rest of the garden.

Don’t Tie Foliage

The foliage after blooming is a problem, but one you simply have to accept. Under no circumstances remove it before it has died down; don’t tie it up in bunches in an effort to keep your garden neat. Let this foliage die down naturally and freely, unhampered; sun and air cannot get to the foliage when it is tied. The advantage of rows of daffodils out of sight of the living area is that you are not concerned with the looks of these dying leaves; just bear in mind these leaves are manufacturing next year’s food. If there are six leaves and you remove even two of them you have denied your bulb one-third of its food for next year. This is why we do not cut foliage from our bulbs for arrangements (there is always a wornout clump somewhere from which you can take a few leaves to enhance the artistic effect).

In your perennial beds and borders you can plant annuals after your foliage has disappeared, but leave the marker in place! Annuals are shallow rooted, and you can pull them out in the fall without disturbing your deeply rooted daffodils that are already making growth preparatory to next year’s bloom.
FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

Mrs. Goethe Link, who has served the Society devotedly as chairman of the Daffodil Study and Show School Committee since its inception, has asked to be relieved of her duties to spend her time in her own daffodil garden next spring. Under her direction, the Society's judging schools have been formulated and nearly 100 members have been trained as accredited judges for daffodil shows. About 200 others have qualified as student judges, and upon completion of further courses and judging practice will soon become accredited judges for the Society. All of us are grateful to Helen for her exceptional service, and we all hope that her new seedlings will be as good or better than Towhee, her beautiful large cup bicolor.

We are very fortunate in having Miss Eleanor Hill of Tulsa, Oklahoma, succeed Mrs. Link as chairman of the Schools Committee. Eleanor is well qualified to carry on this difficult job, and under her direction our very important problem of competent judges for daffodil shows will be solved.

Our New England Region has a new vice president. Mrs. Joseph D. Nelson, Jr., of Greenwich, Conn., has accepted the responsibility of the New England territory and is looking forward to the annual convention of the Society in that region in 1963. Mrs. Nelson is a granddaughter of the Mr. Krippendorf of Cincinnati who is mentioned in Elizabeth Lawrence's book, “The Little Daffodils.” We are all looking forward to meeting Mrs. Nelson and wish her well on her new assignment.

The Fall Meeting of the Board of Directors will be October 28 at the Burlington Hotel in Washington, D. C. Notice of the meeting will be sent to all directors by our secretary, Mrs. Ernest J. Adams, and we hope that as many as possible will attend.

There are still a few members who have not yet sent in their 1961 dues. Our treasurer, Mrs. Grover Roennfeldt, has sent out reminders and those who do not renew their membership promptly will be dropped from the roster in the next Yearbook.

It is not too early to make your plans to attend the Society's next convention, in Nashville, Tenn., April 5-7, 1962. If the weather will cooperate, as it did this year, we should have a repeat of the very successful meeting we had at Roanoke. Now is also the time to plan for more daffodil shows. Contact Mrs. T. E. Tolleson, 441 Langhorn, S.W., Atlanta, Ga., chairman of our Awards Committee for ADS ribbons available for approved shows.

Larry Mains, our Photography Committee chairman, should have some fine new slides available this fall for showing to garden club meetings. Many were taken with the new Kodachrome II film which is an improvement over the old film in accurately reproducing the color of daffodils. They may be obtained for a fee of $5 to cover the Society's cost in obtaining and handling the slides. Write to him at Drexel Institute of Technology, Philadelphia 4, Pa. —Wells Knierim

CLASSES FOR FORCED BULBS

ADS members interested in forcing bulbs will find two classes open to them in the 1962 show in New York. Class 6 calls for Cragford in an 8-inch pot or pan, and Class 12 is for Mt. Hood in an 8-inch pot or pan. The show will be in March, so bulbs must be planted and forced to reach maximum perfection at that time.

CALLING FOR NEWS

The Bulletin will be of more interest and more helpful if we have contributions from all parts of the country. Don't expect the same people to always supply you with daffodil reading matter! Write up a few paragraphs on your own experiences and observations—the sort of thing that will be helpful to others. Send your material to our editor before the deadline. Save her from nervous collapse.
GREETINGS TO AMERICAN DAFFODIL HYBRIDIZERS

The Breeding and Selection Committee hopes all of you have had a good season, with many interesting crosses attempted and accomplished, good germination from last year's seeds, promising first blooms from crosses of several years back, and the opportunity to show your seedlings to other daffodil growers whose opinion you value, or to enter them in competition. We not only hope these things, we are anxious to hear more about them.

From the beginners we should like to hear what your general aims are, your plans for achieving them, and any experiences that may be helpful to other beginners. If you have questions we shall try to answer them.

Some of the more experienced hybridizers may be able to contribute interesting articles for the next Yearbook or the BULLETIN. Mrs. John C. Wister, Publications Committee Chairman, would be very glad to hear from potential contributors. (Her address: Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.)

Information Needed

We invite and urge the participation of all of you in a new project: an attempt to accumulate systematically information that may in time be used to draw some useful conclusions. We have no desire to regiment you, or to ask for information that would be burdensome to compile, but we do believe that if each of you will form the habit of reporting certain facts the data can be combined, in time, to further our aims of producing better daffodils in this country. We believe that anyone interested enough to wait four, five, or six years for seedlings to bloom will be willing to give a little time to report on certain phases of his experiences for the benefit of others. As a start, we thing the following types of information would be easiest to report:

1. Any failures: crosses not producing seed, or seed not germinating. (Also crosses producing very low proportions of seed or germination.) Comments as to probable reasons for failure (weather conditions, etc.) would be welcomed, but are not essential.

2. Any particularly successful crosses, giving notably high proportions of seed or germination.

3. Any varieties self-seeding or open-pollinated.

4. Any reciprocal crosses made (same parents used both ways). If you have had blooms from such crosses have you noticed any significant differences?

5. Any crosses involving varieties in Divisions 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8. (Seed or first blooms.)

6. Any crosses involving one or more species. (Seed or first blooms.)

Other Facts Useful

In all cases quantitative records would be especially useful, if you keep such records (number of pods, number of seed, etc.). If you do not, simply report the cross, giving the name of the seed parent first.

If each of you will contribute some information, even though your time or records may permit answering only one question on a postcard, we shall have made a significant start in this venture in cooperation. Fuller accounts, including information on past experience, will be received with interest, although the immediate aim is to collect, with the minimum of trouble to all concerned, information on this year's results in the limited areas covered by questions 1 to 6.

Reports on any of your seedlings winning in seedling or other classes in shows would also be appreciated.

—ROBERTA C. WATROUS, Chairman

ADS PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Many publicity clippings were received by the ADS Publicity Committee following the Roanoke Convention and the spring shows. These are a tremendous help in compiling the history of the organization, and Mrs. Henry C. Prange, chairman, thanks all who so kindly sent them.
IMPORTED BULBS
GET CLOSE INSPECTION

Narcissus bulbs imported from foreign countries are examined by representatives of the Plant Quarantine Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, either at the first port of entry, or in certain cases in the country of origin.

In either case, every effort is made to insure that the bulbs finally received by the importer are as free of pests and diseases as possible. All daffodil bulbs entering by mail through the port of New York (including Hoboken, N. J.) are fumigated with methyl bromide to make certain they are free of the bulb scale mite, Steneotarsonemus laticeps, the narcissus bulb fly, Lampetia equestris, and any other pests that might be present.

A careful inspection is made of each shipment to detect possible fungus infections and infections by the bulb and stem nematode, Ditylenchus dipsaci. If new and dangerous fungus infections are found for which no available treatment is known, the importer is given the choice of having the bulbs destroyed or returned to the shipper.

Bad Bulbs Burned

If bulbs are found to be so badly injured by nematodes that treatment will not save them, those bulbs are removed from the shipment and burned. Other bulbs of the same variety in a shipment are then given the standard hot water treatment to eliminate any possible infection. Thereafter, the bulbs are carefully dried, repacked, and forwarded to the importer, with a report covering any action other than the routine fumigation.

Inspection for nematodes is done both in the country of origin and at the American port of entry by cutting thin sections off the tip or “nose” of the bulb. Sound white flesh is good evidence of nematode freedom, but brown tissue extending down the neck into the bulb is cause for a microscopic examination of such brown tissue. This necessary cutting of the tip of the bulb is immediately followed by the exudation of a mucilaginous material which soon hardens. Bulbs so examined apparently suffer no injury.

Basal Rot Progressive

Inspection for the presence of the fungus, Fusarium oxysporum f. narcissi, the cause of “basal rot,” requires a careful examination of the basal plate and the living outer bulb scale at the point where it joins the basal plate. To make that examination it is necessary to lift up or peel away the dead brown skins or scales that cover the normal daffodil bulb. If that is done with care no injury results.

Basal rot infection is a progressive thing. When a bulb is first lifted it may appear to be quite normal. A few weeks later it may show the tell-tale signs of infection, or it may not. Still later, some of those bulbs that at first appeared to be clean will show evidence of the disease. And finally, when October or November comes, even more bulbs will show infection. Therefore, bulbs inspected first in the country of origin and later at the American port of entry may finally show disease when the importer prepares to plant them, even though they appeared to be sound during earlier examinations.

Packing Materials Cited

The foregoing has dealt with pests and diseases, but one other point deserves mention. Plant quarantine requirements specify that imported bulbs and other plant material shall be free of sand, soil, or earth. Those same requirements list approved packing materials that may be used with bulbs or other plant items. To avoid the rejection of importations shippers should use approved packing materials only. Paper and excelsior, the things customarily used with bulbs, are approved. Anything not on the approved list which might resemble soil could result in the rejection of the importation, since the inspection stations do not have the time to determine the nature of unknown packing materials.
BOTANICAL AUTHORS FOR REPRINT OF NARCISSUS ARTICLE

Dr. Frederick G. Meyer has kindly supplied us with a list of the botanical authors of the Narcissus names in his article, "Exploring for Wild Narcissus." Those who buy the reprint will probably want to copy in the authors’ names where the species appear in the article. In a group like Narcissus where there are so many synonyms and shifts of nomenclature, the inclusion of the authors’ names is a necessity.

Narcissus asturiensis (Jord.) Pug.
bulbocodium L.
bulbocodium var. citrinus Bak.
calcicola DC.
cyclamineus DC.
jonquilla L.
poeticus var. majalis (Curtis) Fernd.
poeticus var. verbanensis Herb.
pseudonarcissus L.
pseudonarcissus subsp. nobilis (Schultes f.) Fernd.
pseudonarcissus subsp. tortuosus (Haw.) Fernd.
rupicola Duf.
scaberulus Henriq.

DAFFODIL CORSAGES

We growers of daffodils are glad to exhibit our flowers, and where better than adorning a lovely lady? Daffodils are by nature of their form designed for artistic corsages. Camellia, Daphne, Thalia, Sweetness and a host of others are exquisite for this purpose. It surprises me that they are not so used to a greater extent.

Perhaps one disadvantage is the need for keeping them fresh. Therefore, it may be of interest to describe a method I have used for a number of years.

The blooms are cut, placed in warm (110°) water and left to cool. Before being made up into corsage the stems are cut off at right angles to the desired length with a safety razor blade. Wet absorbent cotton is pushed up the step with a toothpick. Some cotton should project out. The end of the stem is then placed in the center of a small square of aluminum foil. The foil is folded in half and rolled around the stem to give a waterproof protector that will hold moisture in contact with the end of the stem. If it is at all loose, a tiny rubber band may be slipped on. Flowers so treated remain fresh when worn for a number of hours.

—HAROLD S. KING

WATER ESSENTIAL IN SPRING

The beautiful growth we saw in the Tuggles’ garden at Martinsville, Va., when we visited it during the convention made many people ask “How do you do it?”

The soil differs from garden to garden, and the great quantities of peat moss Harry used in preparing his beds might well not be desirable everywhere, but his watering practices deserve a special note. A rain gauge is sunk in one of the flower beds. Harry sees to it that his daffodils receive the equivalent of an inch of water a week. Whatever part of the inch is not supplied by natural rainfall is added by sprinkler.

The ground often dries out very quickly in spring. With all vegetation starting into growth and transpiring large quantities of water, and with warm, drying winds, damage can often take place to growing plants before we realize it, unless a definite program of checking rainfall is carried on. When plants such as daffodils in an active growing condition are checked by lack of water, their quality for that season will be impaired.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Please report any changes of address promptly to our treasurer, Mrs. Roennfeldt, so that the directory in the new Yearbook will be as accurate as possible. We may not publish another directory for two or three years.

INDIANA DAFFODIL SOCIETY

The Indiana Daffodil Society will celebrate its fifth anniversary with a guest tea August 10 at Holliday House in Holliday Park, Indianapolis. Miss Marian Hill, an IDS member, will present the program.
Nine judging schools were held in 1961 for the ADS. Course I was given at Little Rock, Ark., Tulsa, Okla., Dayton, Ohio, and Greenwich, Conn. This is the record number of Course I schools since the beginning. Course II was given at Nashville, Tenn., and in California. Course III was given at Roanoke, Va., Tulsa, Okla., and in California. Since not all school rosters are completed, we do not have accurate count of the number of new students for 1961, but evidence leads us to think that the number will exceed that for previous years.

The four years I have served as school chairman have been pleasant ones, but there comes a time when one feels that he has served his duty to an organization and that new personalities might stimulate more activity. It is with regret that I felt it necessary to resign. I hope the membership will support the new chairman in the same cooperative way in which they have supported my work. I wish to thank those who have served on my committee. Their help has been most valuable.

Instructor's Manuals have been completed and will be ready for use in 1962. This will enable all instructors to follow an outline, and we hope, will make the schools more uniform.

Mr. Willis Wheeler has compiled a set of slides, along with text matter for their use. These slides will be used in Course II when diseases are discussed. Mr. Wheeler's kind consent to prepare this material is greatly appreciated.

—Helen K. Link

FALL BULLETIN DEADLINE

The deadline for the fall issue of the Bulletin will be October 20. This late deadline is due to the fact the Bulletin will be delayed awaiting decisions made at the October Board of Directors meeting.