

The Daffodil Bulletin



Winter Issue

February, 1963

PINK DAFFODILS AS GROWN IN AUSTRALIA

By J. N. HANCOCK, *Kalorama, Victoria*

Australian hybridists are given credit for being the first to make progress with pink crowned daffodils and collectors look to this country for the latest and best in pinks. In point of fact, there is probably no more attention given to the pinks in Australia than to other types of daffodil, but hybridizing has been carried on vigorously since the beginning of the century, and significant results have been achieved in practically all divisions.

Every daffodil enthusiast is aware of the relatively slow rate of multiplication of the bulbs, and the lag between the appearance of a seedling and the ready availability of a new variety from commercial growers. Pink seedlings are presented each year at shows in Australia and the reports of their merits are tantalizing. No one will begrudge the hybridists their enthusiasm for the latest products of their skill, but other people will be more interested in older varieties which are in good supply and yet still win prizes — that is, in established varieties.

Early Season Sought

Probably the most outstanding of established pink daffodils is Tarago Pink (raised by O. Ronalds). This variety has great size, thick substance, very fair form and, above all, strong colour. Its only drawback is lateness of flowering. Just as in earlier days the task of the hybridist was to get pink colouring associated with good exhibition qualities, now the object is to get the combined form and colour associated with early flowering. Although the Irish catalogues give Pink Monarch (C. E. Radcliff)

number two timing, experience in Australia and New Zealand places this variety as late mid-season, or number four timing.

While there are dozens of excellent early pinks in existence, it is difficult to name established top-ranking blooms. One of the best is Confusion¹ (C. O. Fairbairn), a smart smooth variety with good colour which won the championship award at an early Melbourne show last year. However, stocks of this variety available in commerce are small, and it can scarcely be described as established. Perhaps the name to cite in this category is Pinkenba (A. O. Roblin). This is a refined flower with a cup of pure bright pink, and it comes in time for early shows.

Two Notable Names

The position changes when early mid-season is reached, and great names are plentiful. Nevertheless, highest perfection of form does not go with greatest expanse and strength of color. Two outstanding varieties are Pink Pearl (J. N. Hancock) and The Bride (O. Ronalds). These are splendid exhibition blooms with wonderful form, texture and proportion, but their colouring is confined to a deep band on the cup and is a lovely delicate shade, not an intense shade of pink.

Later mid-season brings the best known of all Australian-raised varieties, Mrs. Oscar Ronalds. This is a satisfactory show flower with a long cup of deep pink set off by a circular perianth. Vying for wider recognition are Sellada

(S. J. Bisdee), Roselip (J. Radcliff), Kuching¹ and Evening Mist (J. N. Hancock), and Pink Blossom (from the same cross as Mrs. Oscar Ronalds and similar in appearance to its sister seedling).

For distinction and character in the pinks, honours go to a remarkable variety raised by A. Overton—Longeray. The cup is shortish and goblet shaped and the colouring is dusty lavender pink, while the perianth is much overlapping and circular, making the bloom ideal for exhibition.

Full Pink Cup

The general run of strongly coloured pinks have rather large ruffled cups. A new variety which takes the development a stage further is Salad Days (J. N. Hancock). Here the cup is massively but evenly ruffled and serrated and the colouring is intense to the base of the cup. While a far cry from traditional show bench appearance, there seems to be no reason why a highly decorative bloom like this should not be acceptable to exhibition judges.

After the top exhibition varieties there come numbers of splendid pinks which will bring joy to any gardener and the chance of a prize on the show bench if conditions are favourable. The variety which has many admirers is Rosario. Though a trifle lacking in substance, this old favourite has surely the prettiest shade of pink imaginable. Then there is Mabel Taylor, raised by A. Clark. As one catalogue expresses it, this variety is "the most satisfactory pink for garden or cutting, and a very useful show flower. Good white perianth and large heavily frilled cup with broad band of brightest pink." Another novelty which arouses exceptional enthusiasm whenever it appears on display is Fairy's Flight, with its prettily frilled cup of amber pink.

Other Great Names

To return to the rarer atmosphere of high exhibition quality, there remains the field of the full pink trumpet. We have Pink of Dawn and Dawnglow, but the colour in these pioneer blooms, while it

cannot be described as anything else but pink, is very pale in shade and is soon lost to white. Pink Bonnington and Rostella are genuine pinks, but there is disagreement as to the normal length of the corona; they are doubtful borderline varieties. Phla¹ (W. Jackson) and Marilyn (J. N. Hancock) are worthy of mention, but the outstanding variety is Bon Rose¹ (J. Erp). At a show in Hobart, Tasmania, last season I had the good fortune to see numerous specimens of this flower. All had merit but one in particular, tucked away in the novice section, had the qualities of a grand champion. Though measuring only just a trumpet, the variety gives the appearance of classic trumpet proportions, and these are accompanied by first-class substance, smoothness and overlap, and good pink colouring.

Southeast Area Best

Daffodils are grown in most settled parts of Australia except the far tropical north, but it is in the southeastern corner of the country, in the states of Victoria and Tasmania, that they perform best. The climate is warm and fairly dry in the summer, and wet and fairly cold in the winter. During the spring there is a good chance of the "sunshine and showers" type of weather which daffodils like so well. In areas where rainfall is

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variable and conditions can be extremely hot and dry, it is generally accepted that pink daffodils do not flourish. It is doubtful, however, whether the newer, strongly coloured varieties have been given a proper chance, and it is possible that they will be just as rewarding as any other type.

¹ Not found in *RHS Classified List and Register*—Editor.

REPORT ON MINIATURES READY FOR ACTION

The long-awaited report on miniature daffodils has been completed and printed. It represents three years' work by a considerable number of ADS members who are interested in the smaller species and varieties.

The report contains a list of species and garden varieties which it is proposed to classify hereafter as miniatures, and makes numerous recommendations in regard to exhibiting them at shows, and the judging and scoring of them. It also proposes special awards for miniature classes.

A special meeting of the members will be held during the 1963 convention to consider adoption of the report. If it is adopted, varieties and species classified as miniatures may no longer compete with daffodils of standard size at shows approved by the ADS.

Advance copies of the report will be sent without charge to all members who register for the convention so they may familiarize themselves with its proposals and be prepared to act upon them. The report is in the form of a 16-page booklet, 8½ x 11 inches in size, and has been published without expense to the Society. Members unable to attend the convention may obtain copies by sending \$1 to George S. Lee, Jr., 17 Chichester Road, New Canaan, Conn.

PLEASE note that the 1963 *Yearbook* roster, page 95, contains only new members, Board members, and changes of address.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

An unexpected business trip took me to Japan the latter part of October, and it proved to be a most interesting experience. As we've all heard, Japan has relatively little arable land (variously estimated, but not over 19%) and must therefore make efficient use of that land to supply as much food as possible for its dense population.

It is natural that the Japanese farmer seeks the crops that will bring him the greatest financial return. For that reason some of them started growing tulips nearly 40 years ago. By 1940 a fair quantity was being exported, but that ended with the coming of World War II. However, tulip production came back rapidly after the termination of hostilities and, according to the figures of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, 14 million tulip bulbs were exported in 1959. The main area of production is the eastern coast of Honshu Island, on the Japan Sea side, on soil which I understand is quite sandy.

Japanese bulb growers are also growing and exporting some forms of *Narcissus tazetta*. Among them I have recognized one of the forms of Paper White and what appears to be Grand Monarque. In support of narcissus growing the Research Section of the Yokohama Plant Protection Stations is conducting studies on a possible bulb nematode control, using a gas fumigation. This is only in its beginning.

* * *

As I write (December 21, 1962) snow is gently but persistently falling and the daffodil beds have a white blanket, at least half a foot deep. It looks like those who want a white Christmas will have their wish granted. That snow, melting slowly, should water the daffodils for a long time, but let's hope the beds are well drained. In my experience, poor drainage during the winter will harm daffodils and tulips more than cold weather.

* * *

I trust show committees won't over-

JUDGING SCHOOL RULES CHANGED

As the American Daffodil Society becomes older it becomes apparent that some of the provisions in the school program are not adequate. In some instances provisions had not been made because they were not necessary in a young society. To meet changing situations, the Board of Directors passed the following rules at the October meeting:

Students delinquent more than three years (three seasons) between schools will be dropped from the student list. Students now delinquent will be given until 1964 to take the necessary school.

Any student delinquent more than three years (seasons) must repeat the last school taken to reinstate himself.

In case schools were taken in inverse order, the school with the largest numerical number must be repeated in order to be reinstated.

ELEANOR HILL, *Schools Chairman*

look the possibility of using the new polyethylene plastic vases, for three stem entries, made by the Vlchek Plastics Company of Middlefield, Ohio. (See their advertisement in the 1963 *Yearbook*). The Washington Daffodil Society received the vases in time for the 1962 show and was well pleased with them.

* * *

The New Year 1963 is almost here as I write, and before we know it March and April will come with the daffodil shows and our annual meeting. Mrs. Joseph D. Nelson, the New England regional vice president, the Society's able first vice president, John R. Larus, and George S. Lee, Jr., a former president of ADS, are working with the local committee, and the tentative program I've seen makes it look like our Connecticut meeting will be very worth while. So, start making your plans to be at Stratford the last of April. And may 1963 be the best year yet for you and your daffodils.

WILLIS H. WHEELER

NAMES OF SHOW JUDGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Due to the length of the list of accredited, approved and student judges, it has been decided, as a matter of economy, not to print the names in the BULLETIN. The list changes frequently, and by publication date would not be current.

It was therefore decided that all those who need this list could have it by writing to the chairman of judges, Mrs. H. Rowland Timms, Wellingford, Pa. We would appreciate it greatly if you would send a quarter to offset the cost of duplicating and postage. From time to time the names of those students who have completed their requirements and are fully accredited judges will be published in the BULLETIN so that those who have purchased lists can keep them current.

At the request of Charles Meehan, Chesterfield, S. C., and Dr. Harold S. King, Darlington, Md., their names have been removed from the special list of approved judges.

NANCY TIMMS,

Chairman, Judges Committee

CHECK THAT FLOWER!

Although most gardeners are well aware of the ease with which plants can become mixed up in the garden, many have a blind faith in the labels that come with newly-acquired bulbs. When a new bulb blooms for the first time, it is wise to check with the description given by the originator if possible, otherwise, with some reliable source.

Sometimes it is difficult to decide whether a flower is true to name or not, but where the mistake is obvious, the gardener can start in pursuit of the correct name right away. Sometimes the flower is good enough to keep until it can be identified; often the best way out of the dilemma is to present the bulbs to a friend who has two easy classifications: "the yellow ones are jonquils, and the white ones are narcissus."

* * *

DON'T miss the convention in Connecticut April 25-27.

DAFFODIL SHOW DATES FOR 1963

March 19—Arkansas Third Annual Daffodil Show by American Daffodil Society and Garden Clubs of El Dorado; information: Mrs. Carl R. Amason, Rt. 3, Box 180, El Dorado, Ark.

March 23-24—ADS Texas State Flower Show, World Exhibits Building, State Fair Grounds, Dallas; information: Mrs. James K. Kerr, 3920 Cobblesotne, Dallas 29, Texas.

March 30-31—Memphis Garden Club Daffodil Show; information: Mrs. Richard D. Harwood, 5910 Fairwood Lane, Memphis, Tenn.

March 30-31 — S.W. Regional Show, Garden Center, Tulsa, Okla.; information: Miss Eleanor Hill, 1577 E. 22nd St., Tulsa 14, Okla.

March 30-31 — Tidewater Daffodil Show, Homer L. Ferguson High School, Newport News, Va.; information: Mr. Franklin Seney, 35 Greenwood Road, Newport News, Va.

April 4—Fleur-de-Lis Arrangers' Club Daffodil Show, Muskogee, Okla.; information: Mrs. V. A. Branum, 2817 East Monta Place, Muskogee, Okla.

April 5—Eldorado, Ill.

April 5-6—The Chouteau Garden Club Daffodil Show, Electric Service Building, Chouteau, Okla.; information: Mrs. John Daly, Choteau.

April 6-7—Huntington Council of Garden Clubs Twenty-Second Annual Show, 3065 Eighth Street Road, Huntington, W. Va.; information: Mrs. Franklin A. Rouse, 1570 Washington Blvd., Huntington, W. Va.

April 9-10—Garden Club of Virginia Twenty-Ninth Annual Daffodil Show, Court House Country Club, Rt. 123; information: Mrs. S. Gail Landon, Jr., Box 308, Fairfax, Va.

April 17-18—Maryland Daffodil Society Forty-first Annual Show, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore.

April 17-18—The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and Northeast Region Show, Philadelphia National Bank, Broad and Chestnut Sts., Philadelphia; information: from the Society, 389 Suburban Station Building, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

April 18-19—Norristown Garden Club Eighteenth Annual Show, Stewart Memorial Armory, Norristown, Pa.; information: Mrs. Dudley Carl, 30 S. Whitehall, Norristown.

April 19—Berwyn Garden Club Show, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Berwyn, Pa.; information: Mrs. Richard L. Freeman, 1348 Sugartown Rd., Berwyn.

April 18-19—Royal Horticultural Society Daffodil Show, New Hall, Vincent Square, London S.W.1.

April 19—Regional ADS Show, Cincinnati, Ohio.

April 19—Harford County Daffodil Show, St. Mary's Parish House, Emmorton, Harford Co., Md.; information: Mrs. Andrew A. Thompson, Mt. Felix, Star Rt., Harve-de-Grace, Md.

April 20—Garden Club of Springfield Show, Township Building, 50 Powell Rd., Springfield, Pa.; information: Mrs. E. Marshall Harvey, Kirk Rd., Media, Pa.

April 20-21—Dayton, Ohio, Council of Garden Clubs Show.

April 20-21—Sixth Annual St. Louis Daffodil Show, National Council of Garden Clubs Building, 4401 Magnolia Ave., St. Louis, Mo.; information: Mr. Willard B. Thomas, 4518 Ringer Road, St. Louis 29, Mo.

April 20-21—Washington, D. C. Daffodil Society Fourteenth Annual Show, Woodward and Lothrop, Seven Corners, Falls Church, Va.; information: Mrs. Harold Parsons, 2830 Beechwood Circle, Arlington 7, Va.

April 23—Indiana State ADS Show, Indianapolis.

April 23-24 — Chambersburg Garden Club Annual Show, Chambersburg Recreation Center, South Third St., Chambersburg, Pa.; information: Mrs. John H. Cormany, 639 Philadelphia Ave., Chambersburg.

April 25-26—Connecticut Eighth Annual Show with Greenwich Garden Club as hostess, Ekman Center, Electrolux Auditorium, Old Greenwich; information: Mrs. Joseph V. Quarles, Round

JUDGING SCHOOLS FOR 1963

School I—March 22, 9:30 a.m., Dallas Garden Center, State Fair Grounds. Fee: school—\$5, lunch—\$1. Chairman: Mrs. Royal A. Ferris, Jr., 4125 Turtle Creek Blvd., Dallas, Texas. Convenient motels: Holiday Inn, 4070 N. Central Expressway; Tropicana Inn, 3939 N. Central Expressway; Parkway Motor Hotel, 4245 N. Central Expressway.

School II—April 5, St. David's Church, Baltimore, Md. Information: Mrs. Lawrence R. Wharton, 4504 Roland Ave., Baltimore 10, Md.

April 30, Swarthmore Friends Meeting, Swarthmore, Pa. Fee: school, lunch included, \$5. Information: Mrs. Zachary T. Wobensmith, Dark Hollow Rd., Jamison, Bucks Co., Pa.

School III—April 3, Trinity Church, Upperville, Va., information: Mrs. Lawrence R. Wharton, 4504 Roland Ave., Baltimore 10, Md.

April 20, Cincinnati, Ohio, information: Mrs. Glen Kildow, 504 E. Jackson St., Alexandria, Ind.

April 28, following Eighth Annual ADS meeting, Stratford, Conn. Information: Mrs. Joseph D. Nelson, Jr., 20 Glenwood Drive, Greenwich, Conn.

CLAIMS YOUNGEST MEMBER

The following letter was received:

"Dear Mrs. Bridges,

"May I please become a junior member of the American Daffodil Society?

"Sincerely yours,

"Betsy Baetjer.

("Please list my name as follows: Mary Elizabeth Baetjer, Stevenson, Md.)"

Betsy is ten years old, has seven varieties of daffodils, hopes to exhibit this year, and is particularly fond of "Bambi and other miniatures."

Hill Rd., Greenwich, Conn.

May 4—Second Annual Daffodil Show of the Connecticut Horticultural Society, Children's Museum of Hartford, West Hartford, Conn.

WHAT ADS GIVES YOU— WHAT YOU CAN GIVE ADS

As a member of ADS have you ever asked yourself this question: What kind of a Society would this group be if every member was just like me?

Did you know that as a member, the following are available to you? The privilege of attending our Annual Convention. The convention gives us much valuable horticultural information, shows us the finest flowers of the locality and from commercial growers both in the U.S. and abroad. Then we make new friends and meet old ones again at these wonderful meetings.

You receive our fine *Yearbook* and quarterly BULLETIN, which are full of daffodil information.

Books from our library at Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, may be borrowed by members.

Kodachrome slides may be rented for your club programs. Send \$5 to cover the cost of producing and handling the slides. Make your arrangements for their use with Prof. L. P. Mains, Drexel Institute, Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Newsletters from your regional vice-president and taking part in regional activity.

Judging schools, if you wish to be a daffodil judge.

Several awards for your daffodil shows if they are according to ADS specifications.

The privilege of visiting the gardens of fellow members.

Help from any officer, director or chairman of any committee.

Belonging to a robin for exchange of information on daffodils.

What can you do for ADS?

Grow good daffodils. They do not need to be expensive bulbs.

Label all your daffodils in the garden—name and classification.

Invite interested persons to see your garden and talk about ADS.

Get at least one new member for ADS in 1963.

Talk and show daffodils at every opportunity.

Put some new bulbs in your garden each year to keep your own interest high.

Attend the Annual Convention, if possible.

Join in all local and regional activity concerning daffodils.

Share your knowledge of daffodils with others, as well as your excess bulbs.

Visit the daffodil gardens of members and other interested growers in order that you may see and know as many different varieties as possible.

With the help of each member of ADS we can add to our group many interested growers of our favorite flower—daffodils.

MARGARET THOMPSON,
Membership Chairman

STATE SHOW LIMIT LIFTED

At the Board of Directors meeting last October it was decided that the old limitation of one state show per year per state be eliminated. This change was made because of the variance of blooming dates in some states.

At this meeting a motion was passed that all ADS approved shows, both state and regional, will be open to all ADS members in the future.

Shows offering ADS awards may or may not have a section for arrangements. However if an arrangement section is provided, daffodils must predominate in one class.

Please remember to send the permission of your regional vice president and your tentative schedule with your request for ADS awards.

Those wishing the Carey E. Quinn Award will accompany their request with an *undated* check for \$4. The reason for leaving the check undated is that in the past in some cases too much time has elapsed between the date of the check and the time it was received by the ADS.

Please send your requests for awards as early as possible.

MARGARET TOLLESON
Chairman, Awards Committee

ADDED SHOW DATES

March 23-24—Third Mississippi State Show, Batesville, Miss.; information: Mrs. Paul Pattridge, Batesville.

April 9-10—Fifth Tennessee State Show, Nashville; information: Mrs. Fred A. Allen, 899 Van Leer Dr., Nashville.

April 11—First Kentucky Show, by Kentucky State Daffodil Society, Bowling Green and Warren Co. Garden Club; at Bowling Green; information: Mrs. O. W. Thompson, 1767 Nashville Rd., Bowling Green.

AMERICAN FLOWER WINS "BEST IN BRITISH SHOW"

An American-bred daffodil won designation as best flower in the show at the annual display of the Midland Daffodil Society in Birmingham, England, last Spring. The story is told in the following excerpt from the *Journal* of the Midland Daffodil Society for August, 1962, supplied by F. E. Board and C. Reginald Wootton:

"As a kind of savoury to their feast of form and colour, the several judges together assembled decided which is the best bloom in the entire Show. . . . Everything but a laboratory analysis was resorted to, and finally the honour fell to Aircastle . . . a magnificent example of a beautiful flower. This is the first recorded instance of an American-raised daffodil being awarded the accolade of the best flower in the show in the British Isles. Our congratulations are given not only to Mr. Noton, who grew it, but to Mr. Grant Mitsch, the gentle American who raised it in Oregon, and whose introductions into the English daffodil scene are so welcome and so much admired."

NEXT BULLETIN DEADLINE

Would you like a report of your daffodil show in the next BULLETIN? Please send a story of about 100 words, not just a list of awards, to the BULLETIN editor by April 22, deadline for the next issue.

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DUES PROPOSAL PLANNED AT ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the annual business meeting of the members of the American Daffodil Society, Inc., will be convened at 7:30 P.M., April 25, 1963, in the Guildhall, Stratford Motor Inn, Stratford, Conn. At that time the following amendment to the by-laws, having been unanimously passed by the Board of Directors on October 20, 1962, and recommended to the membership for affirmative action, will be submitted for final approval:

RESOLVED: That Article I, Sec. 3, be amended to read as follows:

Dues.—the dues of members shall be—

a. Non-commercial members:

Annual, \$5.00 for each calendar year or \$12.50 for three years. Sustaining, \$7.50 for each calendar year.

Contributing, \$10.00 or more for each calendar year.

Family, \$7.50 for each calendar

American Daffodil Society, Inc.
7426 Lynn Ave.
University City, St. Louis 30, Mo.

year, or \$18.75 for three years, for husband and wife who shall receive one copy of all publications given in consideration of membership.

b. Commercial:

Three times foregoing amounts.

There will be a meeting of the retiring Board of Directors at 2:00 P.M., April 25, 1963, in the Guildhall, Stratford Motor Inn, Stratford Conn., and of the newly constituted Board of Directors at 4:30 P.M., April 27, in the Guildhall, Stratford Motor Inn, Stratford, Conn.

MAXINE M. LAWLER, *Secretary*

GAY ENTERPRISE

You wish to witness marvels?

Wait a little.

This is the season of gay enterprise—

When jonquils whet their small green
knives,

And whittle

Winter down to size.

JANE MERCHANT