Old House Gardens
Heirloom Bulbs

Only the daffodil pages are included here.

OldHouseGardens.com
For 2019 Spring & Fall Planting
DEER-PROOF PERENNIALS
Animals don’t eat daffodils! They’re enduringly perennial, too, and surprisingly diverse.

EGYPT & BEYOND
Native mainly to the Mediterranean, narcissus were grown by the Egyptians and Greeks and brought into English gardens by the 1200s. They were minor garden plants, though, overshadowed by tulips and hyacinths until about 1860. Then a few British enthusiasts set to work and by 1900 there were hundreds of new varieties. Another 6000 were introduced by 1930, making the early 20th century their Golden Age.

HARDINESS & OTHER TIPS
Don’t believe sources that say all daffodils are hardy in zones 3-9. Hardiness varies a lot, depending on ancestry. Daffodils like full sun and soil that’s well-drained but not too dry. They can do well in light shade, too, especially in the South. Bulb sizes vary widely, and heirlooms are often smaller. We always get the biggest we can, and all are guaranteed to bloom gloriously for you!

NORTHERN LIGHTS
Got snow? If you garden in zones zones 4-6 (or 4-8 on the West Coast), this sampler of diverse, beautiful, time-tested WHITE daffodils is made for you. All are easy to grow – and glorious,
3 ‘Broughshane’
3 ‘Irene Copeland’
3 peahen’s eye (N. poeticus recurva)
3 ‘Thalia’
1/$30 2/$57.50 3/$82 4/$106 5/$129

APRIL QUEEN, 1938
Medieval troubadours sang of a frolicking April Queen who led young and old in a merry dance of spring. This brilliant beauty with its ruffled, flame-kissed cup dances for what seems like forever in the garden, lasting longer in bloom than any other daffodil we’ve ever grown. To the dance! 2 W-YYO, 16-18”, zones 5a-8b(10bWC), from Holland. 5/$12.50 10/$23.50 25/$54 50/$100 #DA-02

BUTTER AND EGGS, 1777
This charming name gets mistakenly applied to all sorts of double yellow daffodils, so let the buyer beware. Ours is the authentic Southern heirloom – hardy north to zone 5 – that’s been a folk favorite and passalong plant for centuries. Its soft yellow petals are interspersed with shorter ones of gold to almost orange, and even snooty William Robinson in The English Flower Garden praised it as "handsome and abundant." 4 Y-Y, 16-18”, zones 6a-8b(10bWC), from Holland. 3/$10 5/$16 10/$29.50 25/$67.50 50/$125 #DA-980

AVALANCHE, 1906
If daffodils were athletes, ‘Avalanche’ would be wearing Olympic gold. Extra vigorous, with 15-20 fragrant blossoms per stem, it’s so tough it was discovered in 1906 clinging to a sea-cliff in the Scilly Isles where tazettas had been grown by the millions in the 19th century. Superb in zones 6a-9b(11bWC), it’s also easy to force on pebbles for a winter treat. 8 W-Y, 16-18”, from Holland. 5/$12.50 10/$23.50 25/$54 50/$100 #DA-02

CARLTON, 1927
"There is nothing better," wrote the immortal Henry Mitchell, "still unsurpassed for planting in quantity." Lightly scented of vanilla, ‘Carlton’ increases vigorously from North Dakota to Florida and beyond – and it’s frugally priced! 2 Y-Y, 18-20”, zones 6a-9a(11bWC). 10/$16.50 25/$38 50/$71 100/$132 #DA-55

DAPHNE, 1914
This refined pheasant’s-eye was first found amid thousands of ‘Ornatus’ forced under glass and cut for the London market. Since there was no way to tell which bulb it came from, all were replanted outdoors – and two years later this jewel reappeared. 4 W-W, 21-23”, zones 5a-7a(9bWC), from Holland. 3/$14.50 5/$23 10/$43 25/$98 50/$181 #DA-982

CAMPERNELLE, 1601
Beware of imitations! Our Texas-grown bulbs are the true heirloom that has made itself at home since colonial days in old gardens throughout the South – and north through zone 6 at least. 13 Y-Y, 10-14”, zones 6a-8b(10bWC), from Texas. 5/$12 10/$19 25/$38 50/$71 100/$132 #DA-07

SAMPLER
RAREST
Northern Lights  April Queen  Avalanche  Butter and Eggs  Campernelle
N. x odorus ‘Plenus’

**DOUBLE CAMPERSNELL, 1601**

With dozens of petals neatly nested together as if in a perfect miniature rose — and just as fragrant — this tough little double daffodil has been grown and loved for over 400 years. 4 Y-Y, 10-12”, zones 6a-8b(10bWC), from Holland.

* #DA-53

15-20 richly fragrant florets of creamy, old-lace white flecked with gold. 4 W-Y, 14-16”, zones 6a-9b(11WC), from California.

3/$10.50 5/$16.50 10/$31 25/$71 50/$131

**FIREFLAME, 1897**

With a fiery heart and long, creamy-white petals, ‘Firebrand’ lights up the spring garden like a shooting star. “Remarkable for the brilliant coloring of the prettily fluted cup,” wrote A.M. Kirby in 1907, and though the benchmarks for brilliance have changed since then, it’s still a graceful and remarkably beautiful flower. 3 WWY-R, 18-20”, early-mid, zones 4a-7b(9bWC), from Holland.

* #DA-25

3/$12.50 5/$21.50 10/$42.50 25/$94 50/188

**GRAND PRIMO, 1780**

This legendary, 18th-century tazetta is one of our most sought-after treasures. “Certainly no finer flowering bulbs are available for Southerners,” Scott Ogden writes in *Garden Bulbs for the South*. “They are by far the most vigorous, persistent, and floriferous” narcissus in zones 8a-9b(11bWC). If you garden there, you want this jewel! Aka ‘Grand Primo Citroniere’, 8 W-Y, 14-16”, from California.

* #DA-59

3/$16 5/$25.50 10/$47.50 25/$95 50/$186

**JENNY, 1943**

The Royal Horticultural Society and our crew here at OHG agree — this is a wonderful little daffodil. Winner of the RHS AGM, it’s a strong grower with flowers that open white and yellow, mature to almost pure white, and look like miniature shooting stars. Try it, as our friend John Shipton recommends, paired with blue *Scilla siberica* or grape hyacinths. 6 W-W, early-mid, 12-14”, zones 5a-8a(10aWC), from Holland.

* #DA-945

3/$10.50 5/$16.50 10/$31 25/$71 50/$131

**ERLICHEER, 1934**

Great outside where winters aren’t too cold (zone 6 and warmer), double “Early Cheer” is also our favorite daffodil for winter forcing indoors on pebbles and water. It blooms in frothy clusters of

3/$16 5/$25.50 10/$47.50 25/$95 50/$186
Firetail Grand Primo Irene Copeland Jenny Jonquil, Early Louisiana

**N. jonquilla, 1612**

**JONQUIL, EARLY LOUISIANA**

"The sweetest smelling flower your grandmother grew," says our friend Celia Jones of Sisters' Bulb Farm near Shreveport, and for many Southerners *N. jonquilla*’s fragrance is the essence of spring. With clusters of nickel-sized flowers that seem made for fairies, our true, American-heirloom “French” strain blooms much earlier than the widely-offered Dutch strains. Aka Sweeteties, Simplex, Cologne Bottle, and more; 15 Y-Y, 8-10", zones 6b-8a(10bWC), from Texas. #DA-21 3/$12 5/$19 10/$35.50 25/$81 50/$150

**LOUISE DE COLIGNY, 1940**

So many of you asked for this sweet-scented, apricot beauty that we kept knocking on doors until we found the one last Dutch farmer growing it. Its form can be unruly, but its apricot shading and light, enchanting perfume have won it many fans. Its name honors the remarkable wife of William the Silent. 2W-YYP, 18-20", zones 5a-8a(10bWC), from Holland. #DA-88 3/$15 5/$24 10/$44.50 25/$101

**MAXIMUS, TRUMPET MAJOR, 1576**

Celebrated for over 400 years, 'Maximus’ or ‘Trumpet Major’ is an especially fine form of *Narcissus hispanicus* with a wild, primeval look. Its trumpet is boldly scalloped and flared, its petals make a dramatic star, and it lifts up its face as if worshiping the sun. It's been treasured by Elizabethan, Victorian, and Arts-and-Crafts gardeners alike – and now it's your turn to enjoy its timeless simplicity! 1 Y-Y, 14-16", zones 5a-8a(10bWC), from Holland. #DA-994 3/$15 5/$24 10/$44.50 25/$101 50/$188

**N. Moschatus, 1604**

**Swans-Neck, Goose-Neck, Silver Bells** – if you’re looking for that elusive Southern heirloom, this form of the wild *N. moschatus* may not be 100% identical but probably even your granny couldn’t tell them apart. It’s short and sweet, with creamy white blooms that nod demurely, the epilome of spring. Aka *N. cernuus*, 13 W-W, 10-12", zones 5a-8a(10bWC), from Holland. #DA-979 5/$9 10/$17 25/$39 50/$72 100/$133

**MRS. BACKHOUSE, 1921**

Known for decades as THE pink daffodil, ‘Mrs. R.O. Backhouse’ is one of the landmark bulbs of the 20th century. She’s more truly ivory and apricot, but so beautiful – a veritable sunrise for those who watch closely – that most modern pinks just can’t compare. 2 W-P, 16-18", zones 4a-8a(10bWC), from Holland. #DA-26 10/$17 25/$39 50/$72 100/$133

**NIVETH, 1931**

This refined, up-town cousin of everybody’s favorite ‘Thalia’ sets the hearts of daffodil connoisseurs aflutter. It’s sublimely graceful, with smoother, thicker, more shapely petals of a white that expert Michael Jefferson-Brown calls “dazzling in its purity.” 5 W-W, 14-16", zones 5a-8a(10bWC), from Holland. #DA-994 3/$15 5/$24 10/$44.50 25/$101 50/$188

**GOLDEN SPUR, 1885**

"If I could have but one," wrote A.M. Kirby in 1907 in America’s first book about daffodils, “I would choose this.” It’s a favorite of ours, too, a glorious Victorian trumpet full of wildflower vigor and grace. It’s extra early, blooming as the crocus fade, and multiplies with gusto. 1 Y-Y, 14-15", zones 4a-7b(9bWC), from Holland. #DA-17 5/$11.50 10/$21.50 25/$49.50 50/$92
ROMANCE, 1959
It's back! This is not your usual pheasant's-eye! It's the earliest blooming of that season-ending clan, two weeks ahead of the traditional pheasant's-eye, N. p. recurvus (below). And though it's hardy to -15° F, it also thrives in Southern heat that's often death to its kin. With snowy white petals, a small yellow eye ringed with red-orangish, and spicy fragrance, 9 W-YR, 16-18", z. 5a-6b(8bWC), Holland. #DA-944 5/$14.50 10/$29 25/$62.50 50/$131

N. poeticus recurvus
PHASEANT'S EYE, 1600, 1831
The poet's narcissus grows wild in alpine meadows from Spain into the Balkans and is pictured in English herbals of the early 1600s. This form is the oldest available and, though it dates officially to 1831, it is indistinguishable from those in colonial gardens. It's famously fragrant and late-blooming, with sparkling white petals that arch back from a "green eye and crimson-fringed crown" (William Robinson). Wister Award winner, 13 W-YR, 12-14", z. 4a-6b(8bWC), from Holland. #DA-31 5/$10 10/$20 25/$45 50/$84 100/$156

ORNATUSS, 1870
This RHS Award of Garden Merit winner caused a sensation when it was first introduced, and although increasingly hard to find, it's still a remarkably beautiful daffodil. More richly colored than our older "pinks," it has sparkling white petals and a short, lobed cup that opens peach-to-coral and gets rosier every day. 2 W-P, late-mid. 16-20", zones 4a-6b(8bWC), from Holland. #DA-33 5/$11.50 10/$23 25/$45 50/$92

POLAR ICE, 1936
Although it's disappearing from the marketplace, this sparkling white daffodil is just too good to let go. Its broad white petals surround a tiny, ruffled cup that opens citron yellow and matures to pure white with a cool glimmer of spring green deep in the center. 3 W-W, mid-late blooming, 14-18", zones 4a-7b(9bWC), from Holland. #DA-936 5/$10.50 10/$21 25/$45 50/$90 100/$180

QUEEN OF THE NORTH, 1908
With her elegant, snow-white petals and fluted lemon cup, this 'Queen' is as cool as a frosty glass of lemonade. "Certainly one of the most beautiful of all daffodils," the great Pennsylvania plantsman John Wister wrote in 1930, and she's still winning blue ribbons in daffodil shows all across the country today! 3 W-Y, 16-18", z. 4a-7b(9bWC). #DA-938 3/$13 5/$22 10/$41.50 25/$94 50/$181

RIP VAN WINKLE, 1884
'Rip' is a definite cutie. Early and dwarf, its spiky little blooms look like tiny yellow suns, cactus dahlias, sea anemones, or even mop-headed elves - depending on your imagination. It's also cheap and wonderfully easy to force. 4 Y-Y, 6-8", z. 4a-7b(9bWC). #DA-944 5/$9 10/$17 25/$33 50/$65 100/$130

ROSE OF MAY, 1950
True stock! As fragrant as any rose, this elegant, double pheasant's-eye was bred by Guy Wilson, the shy Irish fellow who gave the world 'Broughshane' and dozens of other impeccable daffodils. With blowsy whorls of ivory white petals it looks like an old-fashioned rose, too. Best in cool, moist spots with well-drained soil. 4 W-W, 16-18", zones 5a-7b(9bWC). #DA-997 5/$12.50 10/$25 25/$50 50/$100

STAINLESS, 1960
For a daffodil this new to win a place in our catalog, it has to be something special, and 'Stainless' is. One of the last introductions of the great Guy Wilson, the master of white daffodils, it's so bright and pure and cool - from the tips of its velvety-smooth petals to the edge of its neatly fluted cup - that it's long been praised as "whiter than white." 2 W-W, late-mid season, 18-20", z. 4a-8a(10aWC). #DA-938 5/$12 10/$22.50 25/$51.50 50/$96

STELLA, 1869
A familiar relic in old gardens from Williamsburg to Yakima, 'Stella' is a graceful, enduring flower with a crinkled cup and wavy petals of primrose to white. Until recently it was widely mis-identified in the US as 'Sir Watkin', but there's no doubt about this: 'Stella' is terrific. 2 W-Y, 16-18", z. 4a-7b(9bWC), from Louisiana. #DA-70 3/$10.50 5/$16.50 10/$31 25/$71 50/$131

SUN DISC, 1946
Praised as "one of the most perfect of all daffodils" by expert Michael Jefferson-Brown, and famed for
its incredible vigor, this little jonquil has won two of
the garden world’s highest honors, the ADS Wister
Award and the RHS Award of Garden Merit. Its
unusual, circular shape makes it a real eye-catcher in
the garden, and like all jonquils it’s fragrant! By Alec
Gray, 7 Y-Y, 8-12”, late, z. 6a-8b(10bWC). #DA-954
10/$13 25/$30 50/$56 100/$104 250/$234

THALIA, 1916
Orchids or doves? With 2-3 nodding flowers per
stem and ivory petals that swoop dramatically back
from the cup, ‘Thalia’ may well remind you of both.
It’s a strong, dependable grower North and South,
the oldest garden form of the wild N. triandrus,
and the 2013 winner of the ADS’s Wister Award! 5 W-W,
14-16”, zones 4a-8b(10bWC), Holland. #DA-42
10/$16 25/$37 50/$69 100/$128 250/$288

N. obvallaris
THE TENBY DAFFODIL, 1796
This sweet little teddy bear of a daffodil has grown
wild for centuries on the coast of Wales, and its
eye-catcher in
early blooms were once rushed to London to be
sold at Covent Garden. Its trumpet is shorter than
most wild daffodils, adding to its pudgy charm.
2015 Wister Award winner, 13 Y-Y, 8-10”, z.
5a-8b(10bWC), from Holland. #DA-40
10/$14.50 25/$33.50 50/$62.50 100/$116

VAN SION, 1620
Aka ‘Telamonius Plenus’, this ancient flower is
‘the most important of all doubles’ (A.M. Kirby,
1907). It’s also the double most often found at old
homesites, multiplying without care. And it’s the
most confusing. In its first year or a perfect spot, its
doubling is neatly contained within the trumpet.
Most years, though, it all explodes into a wild froth of
green and gold. See what we mean and learn more
at OldHouseGardens.com/VanSion . 4 Y-Y, 14-16”
zones 4a-8b(10bWC), from Holland. #DA-39
5/$14 10/$26.50 25/$60.50 50/$112

WHITE LADY, 1987
This “regal beauty” and “good doer” is “the daffodil I
now prefer to all others” – so wrote Mrs. Francis King
in 1921, and since she was a founder of the Garden
Club of America and author of nine popular garden
books, that’s high praise indeed. With sparkling
petals and a ruffled yellow cup, ‘White Lady’ is
old-fashioned but full of life. 3W-Y, 16-18”, zones
5a-8b(10bWC), from Holland. #DA-47
3/$10 5/$16 10/$29.50 25/$67.50 50/$125

W.P. MILNER, 1869
Short and sweet, this quaint little elf dates back
to the dawn of the Victorian daffodil renaissance.
Its nodding trumpet and twisted petals are a soft,
silvery yellow that seems to be the embodiment of
spring sunshine. As an added treat for inquiring
noses, it has a light cowslip fragrance. 1 W-W, 6-8”
zones 5a-8a(10bWC), from Holland. #DA-39
10/$9 25/$22.50 50/$45.50 100/$88

XIT, 1948
“So small, so pure,” says bulb maven Anna Pavord,
you might think it’s “at heart a snowdrop but was
given the wrong clothes.” Just six inches tall and
frosty white, it was bred from a wild species that
grows high in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco and
named for the dwarf knight in a series of novels set
amid the intrigue of Tudor England. (Game of Thrones,
anyone?) Best in acid to neutral soils, 3 W-W, late-
mid, 5-7”, z. 6a-8b(10bWC), Holland. #DA-937
5/$10 25/$22.50 50/$45.50 100/$88

VIREO, 1962
“Nature’s first green is gold,” Robert Frost
wrote, and it’s the vivid green deep in the
cup of this great little jonquil that sets it
apart, giving its lemony flowers a distinct,
fresh, spring-time feeling. Named for a
small olive-green songbird, it was bred
by America’s greatest daffodil breeder,
Grant Mitsch, who was also an avid birder.
7Y-GYY, 9-12” very late blooming, zones
6a-8b(10bWC), from Holland. #DA-998
5/$9 10/$17 25/$39 50/$72 100/$133