ADS Poll: 25 “Must-Have” Daffodils

When members of the American Daffodil Society were asked to list their 25 favorite daffodils, they ended up naming a whopping 766 different varieties – and “most of the varieties were older, not the newest available,” writes our friend Janet Hickman in the March 2020 Daffodil Journal. As one member explained, “If I can only have a few daffodils, I want them to be reliable growers.”

Many of the top-25 lists “came with charming annotations,” Janet adds, such as “‘my first blue ribbon,’ ‘named for my friend,’ ‘given to me by my grandmother,’” and so on, “demonstrating the way daffodils embody our memories and stories.”


All those we offer (except ‘Sweetness’, alas) are available now for fall delivery, and the rest are widely available elsewhere. Why not order a few now and see if they make it into your Top 25!

Passion for Peonies: Wide-Ranging and Fascinating

I’m a huge fan of this brand-new book – and not just because I wrote a chapter for it.

Although peonies are relatively simple flowers, easy to like and grow, Passion for Peonies offers readers a complex portrait of them that includes past and present, art and science, Asia, the Midwest, hybridizers, fragrance, conservation efforts, and more. A rich array of historic and modern illustrations adds to its considerable appeal.

At the heart of the book is the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden of the University of Michigan which is both the country’s largest collection of historic peonies and a beloved local institution. A glorious two-page shot of the Garden in full bloom, overflowing with visitors, opens the book, and a short history of its nearly 100 years follows.