Dabbling in Daffodils at Descanso

By ELIZABETH CHRISTIAN

Cross-pollination: pollen covering stamens, in cross section shown left, are transferred to style of another variety, right.

Anywho has traveled to the Pacific Northwest in spring has seen one of the region's most prolific sights—huge yellow daffodils, thousands of them, glowing like fire as if lighted from within.

Many Southern Californians who come home from such trips eager to grow those splendid flowers in their gardens. Come fall, they select and buy two dozen of the King Alfred boxes. You might also want to see varieties that never are available in any catalogue.

"If you're happy and you know it, grow those splendid flowers!" Polly Anderson of Southern California Daffodil Society says. "We even know one fine grower who lets the daffodils right in his lawn. They'll naturalize, then they just leave them there," Anderson says. "It's our mission to find varieties that never are available in any catalogue.

The Southern California Daffodil Society Competition, today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Descanso Gardens in La Canada Flintridge, will feature 200-300 different kinds of daffodils, from old favorites such as Tete-a-Tete, a miniature yellow trumpet, to strains so new that you won't find them in any catalogue. Although there is no additional fee for viewing the competition, general admission to the gardens is $3 for adults, seniors 62 and over are $2, and children 5-12, 75 cents; and you are enterfree.

A number of classes on growing the daffodils, including sessions on cross-pollination, will be featured throughout the two-day competition.

Polly Anderson of Southern California Daffodil Society urges: "If you're happy and you know it, grow those splendid flowers!"