

2. SPECIOLOGY

[EVOLUTION, DESCRIPTION, CLASSIFICATION AND PHYLOGENY]

DAFFODILS: THE PINKS, MINIATURES, NATURALIZING, DECORATIVES, AND A COMPREHENSIVE BEGINNERS' LIST

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[The following extracts are quoted from a general review of daffodils (1952) written for members of the Washington Daffodil Society of which Mr. Quinn is the current President. The first part concerning a review of *Narcissus* stars is omitted here on account of space limitations.]

The Pinks. There is so much accent on Pinks at present that I feel I must devote a special paragraph to them. The greater percent of the pinks offered each year, with a few exceptions, are of small value from any critical standard. I believe that in a few more years there will be many fine and acceptable flowers with pink crowns. In the meantime the best I have seen or heard about are: PINK MONARCH, ROSARIO, ROSE of TRALEE, ROSY DIAMOND, SALMON TROUT, and maybe ROSY SUNRISE and KARANJA. I have not actually seen what are probably the two best of the lot—namely PINK MONARCH (Australian), and SALMON TROUT (Irish). But the items named are all fine flowers—their pink only one of their charms—and they would be rated as stars whether pink or not.

I decline to rate a daffodil on its pink suffusion or shade alone.

The Little Daffodils. You can't really compare the ever-increasing mass of small little flowers with the big ones that comprise most of those we have seen appraising hereinbefore. These small fellows I am therefore grouping largely around their use (not according to bloom period) in crannies, rock gardens, borders, living rooms—where anything imposing or over 16 inches tall would be out of place. There are beauties among the little fellows and I believe the future will have many more of them. Grace and charm are the underscored objectives we seek in the petite tribe—in short, the exquisite. I am including poets and some poetaz that seem to fit here better than elsewhere although not miniatures.

I doubt that I have or have ever seen a comprehensive collection of the small fellows. There is no Alec Grey in my acquaintance either altho my friend George Heath of Virginia is probably a good substitute. He raises many of the wee fellows. But here is a list of the best I have or have seen—featuring of course the usual elements of a good daffodil, and accenting charm as I know it.

ANGELINE (3b); FAIRY CIRCLE (3b); RIPPLING WATER (5); TRES-AMBLE (5); ACOLITES (5); SILVER CHIMES (5); DAWN (5); RAINDROP (5); APRIL TEARS (5); JENNY (5); ESTRELLITA (6a); JONQUILLA HELENA (10); MARCO (3b); BLACK PRINCE (9); KENTUCKY (9); MINUET (9); SMYRNA (9); QUEEN OF DIAMONDS (9); SHANACH (9); CANTABILE (9); ACATEA (9); ANGIE (2c); HAWERA (4); WEE BEE (1a); CUSHLAKE (3c); PICATOR (3b); N. WATIERI (10); XIT (3c); SWEETNESS (7); CHERIE (7); JUNE (3b); SUN DISC (1a); KEHELLAND (1a); TANAGRA (1a); FEBRUARY SILVER (6); and BERYL (6).

I know that I have left out some of the charming old standbys that my lady friends will frown over. I've done it because there are better flowers available and I'm hoping the lovers of the little fellows will get more critical. I've left out also some little fellows because despite their small size they are queer, unbalanced and devoid of charm.

Naturalizing. Most of the bulbs sold for naturalizing are not especially adapted or fitted by nature for the role. Of course some varieties will do better than others. So-called "Naturalizing Mixtures" in most instances are just a way to dispose of bulk quantities of cheap nameless bulbs. Few Daffodils planted in turf or meadows will stay there—they either starve or rot in a few years, altho *some* of the old varieties not too far removed from the wild will persist remarkably well.

Of course if by "naturalizing" you mean planting in well drained, reasonably good soil in open woods or borders where there is no great turf competition or other matted vegetation,—then any daffodil will serve—just consult your purse.

But for real "naturalizing" the only daffodils fitted by nature for the job are some of the little fellows we have just been discussing. The famous meadow park approaches to the equally famous Wisley Gardens in England demonstrates naturalizing with "Bulbocodium" and "Cyclamineus" and these little 4 and 5 inch fellows actually thrive in the turf, seeding themselves and multiplying so that they make a tremendous picture. I certainly hope our breeders will look into these possibilities.

So I want to urge the naturalizers to turn to the various "Bulbocodium" forms, to the "Cyclamineus", some *N. triandrus* and the "species jonquils". The "Cyclamineus" forms even enjoy sour, damp soil that will turn up the toes of most daffodils. And finally, these aforementioned fellows in bloom last a very long time—a most desirable feature in the open meadow drifts.

The Decoratives. There are a certain number of Daffodils that are striking, different, showy,—the ones that 8 out of every 10 ordinary persons will rush to and exclaim over. Most of these wenches can never be stars (there are a few exceptions) because they usually have some bad defects and yet we love them and grow them. Let's call them "decorative" and accept them in a place of their own. Who am I to look down my nose at them even of a lot of them are "hussies". A "hussie" is alright in her place as long as she is pretty. They are the ones a lot of people want—in fact all they want. They make a colorful mass picture in perennial borders or in nooks between shrubbery planted in three or five contrasting colors. And as material for arrangements,—

No I'm not turning up my nose—instead I am listing about 50 of the best and most strikingly unusual that you will find easy to grow and to keep. They are good flowers and a lot of my listeners here will think they should be over in the "Star" groups. ADA FINCH (1c); BALMORAL (2a); BROOKVILLE (2b); CELLINI (2a); CHERIE (7); CHEERIO (2a); CHAMPAGNE (2b), (pink); DICK WELLBAND (2b); DURESTAN (3b); DUKE OF WINDSOR (2b); FANCHEON (2a); FALAISE (4); FRAU ANGELICO (2a); FRILLED BEAUTY (2b); FLORA'S FAVORITE (2b); GAPILLON (2b); GRATIA (2b); HARDY (2b); JOHANNESBURG (2b); JULES VERNE (2c); KANDAHAR (1a); KANCHENJUNGA (1c); LADY KESTEVEN (3b); LA RIANTE (3b); LAUSANNE (1a); MABEL TAYLOR (2b), (pink); MERAPI (2a); MUSIC HALL (1b); NELLIS FAVORITE (3a); ORANGE BUTTON (3b); PAPILLON BLANCHE (3b); PRINCE OF ORANGE (2a); PIN WHEEL (2b); PRINCE FUSHIMA (2b); QUEENIE (2c); RADIUM (3a); REDMARLEY (2a); REVE D'OR (2a); ROBBIN HOOD (1a); ROXANE (1c); SCARLET LEADER (2a); SELAM LAGERLOFF (2b); SHANGHAI (2a); SMARGAD (2b); TEXAS (4); TUNIS (2b); TWINK (4); UNSURPASSABLE (1a); WALTER J. SMITH (2b); WODAN (2a); OKLAHOMA (1b).

Suggested Daffodils For Beginners. While this review is not intended primarily for either casuals or beginners, yet perhaps I should here include the list of recommended varieties prepared by the Washington Daffodil Society for these Classes of gardeners. Some of the items are not the ones I would have preferred, yet it is a good list of dependable inexpensive varieties for the beginner—in fact the best and most intelligent one I have seen.

	<i>Trumpets</i>		<i>Double</i>
Dawson City, 1a (yellow)		Cheerfulness, 4 (white)	
Lord Wellington, 1a (yellow)			<i>Triandus</i>
Music Hall, 1b (bi-color)		Thalia, 5a (white)	
Beersheeba, 1c (white)		Agnes Harvey, 5b (white-lemon)	
Roxane, 1c (white)			<i>Cyclamineous</i>
	<i>Large Cups</i>	Orange Glory, 6a (yellow)	
Fortune, 2a (yellow)			<i>Jonquil</i>
Scarlet Elegance, 2a (Yellow-red)		General Perishing, 7a (yellow)	
Hades, 2b, (white-red)		Trevithian, 7b (bi-color)	
John Evelyn, 2b (white-orange)			<i>Tazetta</i>
Niphetos, 2c (white)		Geranium, 8 (white-orange)	
	<i>Small Cups</i>		<i>Poet</i>
Alight, 3a (yellow-red)		Actaea, 9 (white-red)	
Mangosteen, 3a (gold-red)			<i>Species</i>
Carolina, 3b (white-red)		Jonquilla simplex, 10 (gold)	
Firetail, 3b (white-red)			
Samaria, 3c (white)			

[EDITORIAL NOTE.—The editor suggests that similar lists of "Daffodils for Beginners" for each of the climatic regions of the U. S. and Canada be assembled by the NARCISSUS COMMITTEE for publication in 1954 HERBERTIA. This will do much to widen the interest in *Narcissus*.]