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Historical Daffodils

A decade or so ago I began to cultivate historical varieties of narcissi on our family farm. A few very old varieties were already growing in the garden, and I felt that it was important to save them for posterity.

Daffodils like these are rarely sold today as they are thought by many to be too small, too old-fashioned, neither bright enough nor bold enough for the marketplace. However, discerning gardeners admire their soft colours, and their delicate shapes and elegant habit make them ideally suited to naturalistic gardens where modern cultivars look brash and out of place.

Narcissus "Golden Spur", dating back to 1885, is a particular favourite of mine that I remember from childhood, flowering at the end of March in the very cold winds of our polder. *N.* "White Lady", with white petals and a pale yellow cup, is another variety that brings back many memories; it associates beautifully with purple *Lunaria* both in the garden and as a cut flower for the home. The other historic daffodils now growing in the fields I sought out at farms and smallholdings all around our neighbourhood. Neglected and ignored, some had survived untended for the better part of a century – proof beyond doubt that these varieties are tough and very good for naturalizing.

By offering a selection of these bulbs for sale I hope not only to share a little of the pleasure that they have given me, but also to ensure their long-term garden survival.

Trumpet daffodils

Cultivar	Description	Number
Golden Spur	1885. Completely yellow. Loose petals with relatively long trumpet. Seedling, found in Wassenaar(Holland) Early-blooming.	
Pseudonarcissus princeps	1830. Bicolour. Cream. Loose petals with light yellow rather long trumpet. Selection of a dutch wild narcissus. Also blooms early.	
Beersheba	1923. White flower. Short stem with a relatively large trumpet.	
W. P. Milner	1869. Bicolour. With cream petals and light yellow trumpet. Rather small. 10 bulbs € 7,50 25 bulbs € 17,50	
Moschatus	Wild. One of the parents of 'W.P. Milner', all white.	
Mrs. R.O. Backhouse	1921. The oldest pink narcissus. Pink trumpet with cream-coloured petals	
Broughshane	1938. Named after the hometown of its creator Guy Wilson. Creamy white petals and a deeply ruffled trumpet of lightly amber-tinted white.	

Small-Cupped daffodils

Mrs. Langtry	1889. Cream, loose long narrow petals with light yellow, rather long medium sized cup. Blooms early, but after 'Golden Spur'.	
Barrii conspicuus	1869. Named after Peter Barr. Light yellow petals, deeper yellow cup with a red orange rim.	
Stella	1869. Light yellow petals with somewhat more yellow little cup. Stella(Latin) means star, blooms after 'Barrii conspicuus'.	
Seagull	1893. White outer segments with a small light yellow cup with a red orange rim that fades in the sun.	
White Lady	1897. White petals and light yellow cup, closely resembles 'Seagull', but lacks the red orange rim. Blooms earlier than 'Seagull'.	
Single Campernelle	1601. Several yellow flowers to a stem with loose petals and a bell-shaped cup. Wild daffodil, fragrant, blooms end of April. 10 bulbs € 5,95 25 bulbs € 13,50	

Double daffodils

Butter and Eggs	1777. Light-yellow with some red in the middle, blooms middle of April.	
Albus plenus odoratus	1861. White petals with some yellow and red in the middle. Fragrant, late-blooming	
Sophie's Choice	Found in Lisse(Holland) by a colleague. The petals are loose and the cup hints at being double. The colour is a soft creamy yellow.	
Irene Copeland	1915. Creamy white petals with bits of pale primrose. Winner Mr. Copeland named this daffodil after his daughter Irene.	

Double daffodils

Cultivar	Description	Number
Mary Copeland	1913. Creamy white with some red in the middle. Named after his other daughter Mary.	
Rip van Winkle	1885. Found in Ireland. Light yellow with pointy petals, early-blooming, small. 10 bulbs € 5,95 25 bulbs € 13,50	
Van Sion	1620. Large yellow flower with some green, early-blooming.	
Inglescombe	1912. Light yellow, blooms rather early.	
Double campernelle	1601. A small golden yellow double flower on a slender long stem, flowers early and for a long time, fragrant. 10 bulbs € 5,95 25 bulbs € 13,50	

Triandus daffodil

Queen of Spain	1888. Two or more flowers to a stem. White petals with light yellow trumpet, blooms in April.	
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Cyclamineus daffodil

Little Witch	1921. Yellow. The petals are swept back. Rather small, early-blooming. 10 bulbs € 5,95 25 bulbs € 13,50	
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Tazetta daffodils

Laurens Koster	1906. Many flowers to a stem. Creamy white petals with a yellow orange cup. Long stemmed and early-blooming.	
Canarybird	1913. Many flowers to a stem. Yellow petals with orangered cup, delicious scent.	

Poeticus daffodils

The flowers of the poeticus division are fragrant, late-blooming and have very white petals

Recurvus	Commonly named 'Pheasant's Eye'. Growing wild in the alpine meadows. One of the parents of 'White Lady' and 'Seagull'. White petals with a red circle rimming the cup. Late-blooming and fragrant. 10 bulbs € 7,95 25 bulbs € 18,25	
Polar Ice	1936. All white including the cup which has a little bit of green in it too.	
Firetail	1910. Very white petals and intense red cup.	
Ornatus	1870. White petals with a red-rimmed little cup, blooming middle of April.	

Mixtures

Mixture white	Mixture of 25 bulbs of white daffodils from several divisions for	€ 29,50	
Mixture poeticus	Mixture of 20 bulbs of daffodils from the poeticus-division for	€ 23,95	
Mixture double yellow	Mixture of 30 bulbs of double yellow daffodils for	€ 34,95	

Prices:

Prices for all of the bulbs above if no other price is mentioned (shipping costs excluded):

5 bulbs € 7,60 10 bulbs € 13,80 25 bulbs € 29,50

Plant the bulbs as soon as possible. Covering them with straw or leaves can protect them against frost and/or heat.

Contact details:

Title, first and last name:

Address:

Postal code: Town:

County:

Country:

Telephone:-..... E-mail: