

SWODS
SOUTH-WESTERN OHIO DAFFODIL SOCIETY

DIVISION 5-9
PANEL DISCUSSION
JULY, 1994

SUMMARY

PANELISTS
LEONE LOW
CHRISTINE HANENKRAT
PEGGY MACNEALE
MARY LOU GRIPSHOVER

INTRODUCTION

At the summer SWODS meeting, four brave members undertook the effort to cover all of Divisions 5 through 9 in an hour-and-a-half panel discussion. The original intention was to record the discussion and then transcribe it. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, the tape recorder did not record any of the discussion. All the presenters graciously gave me their notes from which I have recreated the discussions as accurately as possible. These recreations are on the following pages.

In some cases I was able to adapt from a script that was already pretty much written out as an article. In other cases I fleshed out notes to create the following articles. Spellings of cultivar names and details about color code, year of introduction, and breeding have been verified from *Daffodils to Show and Grow*, with the Data Bank as a backup. Therefore, any errors in these matters should be attributed to my research or discrepancies in the sources. Likewise, any errors in grammar, spelling, or interpretation should also be attributed to me rather than to the presenters of the original material.

None of these articles have yet been verified or approved by the original presenters. When they are, they will be submitted to the ADS Journal for consideration for publication.

Please refer any comments, questions, or critiques to me. As SWODS chairman this year, I organized the summer meeting at which the panelists presented the work that is summarized in this document. I heartily thank them for their generosity in preparing the comments and sharing them with all of us.

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DIVISION 5 TRIANDRUS BY LEONE LOW

The hills of Spain are covered with triandrus blooms in the spring. This is in sharp contrast to the fate of species cyclamineus which is said to be extinct in the wild. Some hills are creamy white with triandrus albus, the storied Angel's Tears, now called the prosaic *triandrus* var. *triandrus*. Some pockets are entirely yellow, and some are both colors, and some are show all intermediate shades. The delicate four-inch high plants may grow high on hills, shaded by rocks, or near the shade of bushes.

Their cups face nearly downward, and perianth segments are reflexed to varying degrees, usually sharply. The cups are goblet shaped, while the perianth segments may range from just a little longer than the cup, to several times the length. The segment tips may be rounded, blunt, or pointed. A few areas may have only single blooms, some fields have four or more blooms on each tiny stem, and others have varying numbers of the tiny streamered bells.

Scientists have used dried specimens to apportion them into varieties, while those who have gained their expertise through growing them and studying them in the field tend to feel that there are more similarities than differences.

Triandrus are said to grow in pockets of acid humus on limestone rocks, and to bloom particularly well after fire has scorched the area. With these habits in mind, I plant mine in humus-enriched soil with a limestone rock or flagstone nearby. I fertilize with wood ashes and add extra drainage when needed. The whites are

apparently more susceptible to basal rot than the yellow ones.

The species life cycle is: live, bloom, seed, and die. Since one parent of the Division Five cultivars gives them this short-lived genetic heritage, it is no wonder that they are said to lack the will to persist in the Midwest.

Some of my favorites of these difficult darlings are listed by color:

5 Y-O Jovial usually has one bloom to a stem. It is striking in collections, but mine has vanished.

5YW-W Lavalier has a stronger will to live than many triandrus. It produces some stems suitable for exhibiting so show the good ones and leave the others in the garden. A Fairy Chimes sibling, Mitsch's Woodstar (5Y-YWW), is also a good reverse.

5W-P The first Akepa's I saw had flawless goblet shaped pink cups and uniformly swept back perianth segments with no distracting undulations, like an upside down hoop skirt. It was small, usually single, and said to be difficult to increase. Helen Link now has some pink-cupped seedlings that should prove interesting.

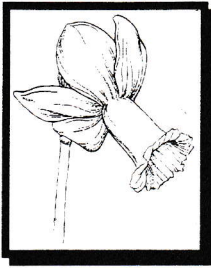
5W-Y Jingle Bells is Best-in-Show quality, but is extremely late, too late for most shows in this area. It is said to be difficult, but is happy in my garden in Yellow Springs.

Lapwing is a good size for a Quinn collection. So is Tuesday's Child. While it may often have a torn cup, it is a reliable and timely bloomer, year after year. Merry Bells is not as good for show but has the advantage of earliness. WhisperADS code 5Y-Y; RHS, 5W-Y) does not have predominantly triandrus characteristics.

5Y-Y There are lots of Indians, but few chiefs in this group. Some yellow lovelies are Chipper, Ice Chimes, Honey Guide, Ruth Haller, Harmony Bells, Liberty Bells, Sidhe, Stint,

and Piculet.

5W-W Sunday Chimes and Saberwing (5W-GWW) have my "Bests." Arish Mell, Mission Bells, and Ice Wings are long-lived and good in collections. Niveth, Petrel, Ringing Bells, and Ivory Gull draw attention both in the garden and on the show bench. White Owl is large, healthy, and blooms well. Waxwing is lovely but has fewer triandrus characteristics and is therefore not as appropriate for show.



DIVISION 6 CYCLAMINEUS

BY

CHRISTINE HANENKRAT

I have long enjoyed the Division 6 cyclamineus flowers and have grown a number of them over the years. I will limit my remarks to those I am familiar with; however, I will mention some improved cultivars that I have not yet evaluated but have observed at shows and in the gardens I have visited.

Division 6 characteristics are (1) characteristics of *Narcissus cyclamineus* clearly evident; one flower to a stem; perianth segments significantly reflexed at an acute angle to the stem with a short pedicel (neck). Cultivars that bear multiple flowers, which were formerly classified as Division 6, have recently been reclassified as Division 12 (Miscellaneous Daffodils) because only single-flower stems meet the characteristics of Division 6. Quince and Jumble are examples of reclassified cultivars. Although *Daffodils to Show and Grow* lists a few other multiple flowers, such as Flyaway, Cupid, Demitasse, and Junior Miss, as Division 6, it is expected that they will soon be reclassified.

To understand the characteristics of Division 6, it is necessary to examine the species. The species, *N. cyclamineus*, has one flower to a stem, and is always pendant (short pedicel) with a downward-pointing stigma. It is typically 4-6" high, and its corona is a long narrow tube up to 3/4" long. The perianth segments are about the same length as the corona, and strongly reflexed, so that the line of petals and corona are almost the same, i.e., reflexed 180 degrees. The rim of the corona is usually slightly expanded and can be strongly serrated. The leaves are quite distinct, a bright fresh green, and completely lacking the glaucous tinge found in other species. There is only one species in Division 6.

N. cyclamineus was known and illustrated as early as 1633 in *Theatrum Florae*. It was then lost for 200 years. In 1836 Dean Herbert deemed it an "absurdity which will never be found to exist." In 1855 Messrs. Tait and Schmitz discovered bulbs and the species was awarded a preliminary commendation in 1887 and a First Class Certificate later the same year. It is almost the earliest flower to bloom, blooming with *asturiensis*. The species is a charming miniature, but I have found it difficult to grow. It prefers a shaded and consistently damp situation, and I cannot provide the damp area. Several of the miniature cultivars are less demanding than the species and I do much better with those.

Most cyclamineus cultivars bloom early to mid-season, and would be treasured for that quality alone; but the fact that they present such different blooms makes them doubly cherished. About the earliest to bloom is the Mitsch introduction Willet and the growth habit of this plant is to send out secondary blooms extending its blooming season until past mid-season, occasionally blooming among the Poeticus. Rapture and Shimmer are early, Jetfire blooms in mid-season, and Rival is among the last to bloom (all Mitsch cultivars).

When we think of the many cyclamineus cultivars we have to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of the hybridizers who have worked to improve these flowers. Coleman is well known for his trio of Charity May (6Y-Y, 1949), Dove Wings (6W-Y, 1948), and Jenny (6W-W, 1943), each a different color code. They are the longest enduring bulbs in this division and still win blue ribbons against newer and more expensive varieties in our shows. Joybell (6W-Y, Richardson), has had longevity in my plantings. Grant Mitsch and now the Havens have added so many beautiful flowers to

this division and Brian Duncan has done extensive work on beautiful examples of this division. Alec Grey, Roberta Watrous, Bill Pannill, and many others have made significant contributions. Many cyclamineus are fragrant, but I cannot recall any that have this quality to a marked degree.

I presently grow 55 named cultivars and a few seedlings from Division 6. Some brief evaluations of those I grow follow.

Andalusia (6Y-YRR, Coleman): I have it naturalized.

Backchat (6Y-Y, Phillips): Phil Phillips of New Zealand breeds nice flowers. Among the better examples of its color code; good form and substance. Very good this season.

Beryl (6W-YYO, P.D. Williams): Certainly not the typical long cup, but who would be without it, even with the tendency toward a burned rim?

Bilbo (6W-GPP, Duncan): One of Brian's enhanced pink cup cultivars.

Catbird (6Y-Y, Mitsch): Attractive flower, but seems to be declining where it is planted. No bloom this year.

Cazique (6W-W, Mitsch): One of the best white cyclamineus. Not a strong grower or bloomer but well worth the extra effort. Good typical form and substance, and it's white.

Chaffinch (6Y-Y, Mitsch): Does well for me.

Charity May (6Y-Y, Coleman): A well grown specimen can win its class. Good in the garden.

Cock Robin (6Y-R, Coleman): Not in the same league as Charity May.

Cotinga (6W-P, Mitsch): Has a good long corona, well-reflexed. Did well for me for ten years; however, it did not come up this spring.

Delia (6W-YWP, Duncan): Very pleasing color on the order of Foundling; grows and increases well.

Delta Wings (6W-P, Duncan): Good grower and profuse bloomer

Dove Wings (6W-Y, Coleman): One of the best.

Durango (6W-W, Pannill): I divided the bulb and never saw it again. It is reputed to be touchy about lifting. The second bulb has not been moved, but it is not doing well either.

Elizabeth Ann (6W-GWP, Duncan): Consistent plant, pleasing delicate flower. Increases slowly but adds another bloom each year.

Flirt (6Y-Y, Mrs. Richardson): Not as eye-catching as others in this code. Lost in 1994.

Foundling (6W-P, Carncairn): A breakthrough in pink-cupped cyclamineus. A well grown example wins against much competition. Well-reflexed; this year's cool spring produced exciting color. Long-lasting in the garden.

Itzim (6Y-R, Mitsch): Lovely flower with pleasing clear color and substance. Pose not as pendant as desirable.

Jenny (6W-W, Coleman): Although not a formal flower, this cultivar wins frequently in shows. Outstanding increase, blooms well. One clump produced 15 blooms. It takes a long time to develop a white cup, but judges do not seem to object to this characteristic.

Jetfire (6Y-R, Mitsch): A new bulb gave me a superb bloom with intense, even color in the cup even though it was in full sun. Splotchy red color often a fault. This is a "must grow" cultivar.

Jingle (6Y-Y, Phillips): Not doing well for me.

Joybell (6W-Y, Richardson): Consistent grower, good show quality. Form is typically reflexed, but it is somewhat large and perhaps not as well contracted as newer cultivars, such as Trena.

Kitty (6Y-Y, Coleman): Charity May eclipses Kitty

Lavender Lass (6W-GPP, Duncan): Even its hybridizer is not going to offer it after this year, but I like it. A clump will produce blooms of show quality that are equally good. Perhaps I am prejudiced in my judgment because a vase of three blooms won a blue at Convention in Columbus in 1987, and was considered for best vase of three. Color may not be as striking as newer introductions. Brian may know something I do not.

Lilac Charm (6W-GPP, Duncan): This variety has not been as strong for me. Flower is attractive, color deeper, but not as freely produced as Lavender Lass.

Little Princess (6W-P, Mrs. Richardson): Strong constitution, but bloom is inferior and does not please me.

Ocean Breeze (6W-W, Mitsch): This may be another cultivar that we will judge differently under the new characteristic changes. Cup shorter than may be judged under form. Lovely flower, good substance; adds a special dimension to the scarce white varieties.

Perky (6W-Y, Mitsch): I considered this cultivar to be a distinct improvement in the 6W-Y's when first introduced by Mitsch in 1970. Later I learned this one is hard to keep. It is well-reflexed, with smooth texture and a turgid substance. It may be somewhat tender for our winters.

Phalarope (6W-Y, Mitsch): Well-contrasted color; strong grower, blooms well. Typical cyclamineus form, but may be a little large for the division.

Queen Mab (6W-P, Duncan): Grows well, but does not bloom generously. Duncan offers better pink-cupped flowers than this one.

Rapture (6Y-Y, Mitsch): Grows and blooms well. The flower continues to increase in size on the plant and can become larger than desired, so pick this one when it reaches the right stage of perfection. Typical of cyclamineus form, rich yellow color. Many blue ribbon winners can be found in a single clump.

Reggae (6W-GPP, Duncan): In my garden this is the strongest-growing, best-reflexed of all Duncan 6W-P's. A bulb planted in Fall, 1987, had 15 blooms in 1991.

Rival (6Y-Y, Mitsch): Best of the late season bloomers. An export grower told me that in his opinion this was the best introduction from Mitsch. Mitsch/Havens have introduced many since this time, but this is till an outstanding flower.

Roger (6Y-O, Gray): Attractive pixie-like flower, sturdy, hardy, reliable. Good naturalized.

Satellite (6Y-O, Mitsch): Good grower, early. I do not recall exhibiting this often, but it is nice to enjoy in the garden.

Sextant (6W-GWW, Duncan): This bulb, along with others introduced at about the same time, has pleasing flowers, large, sturdy, attractive. They do not reflex to any marked extent, however, and appear too large for Division 6.

Shimmer (6Y-O, Mitsch): I can forgive the floppy foliage for the very early spot of bright color in the garden. Jetfire has more to offer as an all around plant, however.

Stray (6W-WPP, Carncairn): The color is very delicate in this cultivar as it is a sister to Waif. Neither approaches the charm of Foundling from the same breeder, however.

Surfside (6W-Y, Mitsch): A well-grown specimen really appeals to the viewer. My planting has some problems; perhaps too many severe freezes too often.

Swallowcliffe (6Y-O, Blanchard): Small flower, strong color, typical cyclamineus form. It was dug out by mistake. I have just a very small quantity. I would grow it as it's great for garden color.

Swift Arrow (6Y-Y, Mitsch): Recently introduced in 1991. A robust plant, strong foliage,. I planted 1 bulb in 1992 and had 5 blooms in 1994, its second season. A nice addition to show varieties along with Rapture, Willet, and Warbler.

Swing Wing (6W-GPP, Duncan): Very attractive, but never has lived up to its fame for me; it is barely hanging on.

Titania (6W-W, Richardson): Nicely formed, well-reflexed white. Petal of the perianth somewhat narrow, color not clear white.

Toby (6W-Y, Rosewarne): Grows well, nice color contrast. Outstanding substance. A little one with short stems.

Trena (6W-Y, Miss M. Verry, New Zealand): My choice for the best bicolor and perhaps the best cyclamineous cultivar. I would not want to be without it in my garden. Grows well, sturdy foliage, increases well. Typical reflex, good contrast, wonderful substance and texture.

Turncoat (6W-O, Duncan): Interesting color changes; worth growing.

Urchin (6W-P, Duncan): Nice color, blooms well; good growth habit. I like it.

Warbler (6Y-Y, Mitsch): I lost the first bulb after a deep freeze. My new one is doing well. Blue ribbon quality, bright color, cyclamineous form, smooth, turgid. Large size this year is probably due to Oregon culture. Will probably be more balanced here. Still a high price.

White Caps (6W-Y, Mitsch): Older, faithful standby. Has had its share of blue ribbons; has all the usual assets.

Willet (6Y-Y, Mitsch): A favorite with me. Grows with only minimal attention. Produces many show quality blooms. Starts blooming early and sends up secondary blooms which extends the season of bloom. Frequently has flower in good condition along with the poeticus varieties. Strongly recommended.

MINIATURES

These cultivars have proven themselves in the garden with normal protection, mulched in a somewhat sheltered location with high overhead shade. They are less demanding than the species.

Atom (6Y-Y, Mitsch): I do not have this now but had it long enough to recognize its good qualities. It was lost by careless digging. It is small, graceful, with thick substance and smooth texture. Attractive reflex.

Hummingbird (6Y-Y, Mitsch): Hardy, sturdy little plant. Typical cyclamineous reflex. I thought it was lost but it just skipped a year. I found it growing next to Tete-a-Tete. The clump had 4 blooms, 6 this year.

Mite (6Y-Y, Gore-Booth): I have had my stock for over 30 years. It has a reputation for producing much foliage and few blooms. Mine does not. It is large for a miniature, but mine do not produce such large flowers. I do not fertilize them.

Snipe (6W-Y, A.M. Wilson): Charming, adequately reflexed. Perianth segments somewhat narrow. Takes a little more attention as to location than others mentioned.

RECOMMENDED VARIETIES

6Y-Y: Backchat (Phillips), Charity May (Coleman), Willet (Mitsch; reasonably priced), Whip-poor-will (Link), Rival (Mitsch), Rapture (Mitsch), Inca (6Y-WWY, Mitsch), Swift Arrow (Mitsch), Warbler (Mitsch), Golden Years (Mitsch)

6Y-R: Jetfire (Mitsch), Itzim (Mitsch)

6W-Y: Dove Wings (Coleman), White Caps (Mitsch), Perky (Mitsch), Trena (Ms. M. Verry), Joybell (Richardson), Phalarope (Mitsch)

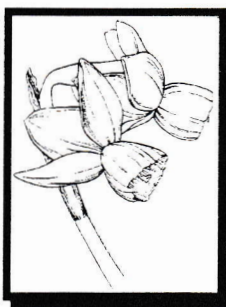
6W-P: Delia (Duncan), Elizabeth Ann (Duncan), Foundling (Carncairn), Reggae (Duncan), Bilbo (Duncan), Lavender Lass (Duncan)

6W-W: Jenny (Coleman), Cazique (Mitsch), Ocean Breeze (Mitsch)

Garden or naturalized: Beryl (6W-YYO, P.D. Williams), Golden Lacquer (6Y-Y, DeGraaff), White Caps (6W-Y, Mitsch), Dove Wings (6W-Y, Coleman), Swallowcliffe (6Y-O, Blanchard), Willet (6Y-Y, Mitsch), Larkwhistle (6Y-Y, Palmer).

Cultivars on My Wish List: Golden Years (6Y-Y, Mitsch), Elfin Gold (6Y-Y, Duncan), Tracey (6W-W, Ms. M. Verry), Georgie Girl (6W-GWP, Duncan)

I had David Karnstedt's round robin letter on Division 6 to use in preparing my comments. In general, I agree with his analysis of most flowers in this division. Some, however, that he has problems sustaining that does not match my experience may be due to his colder Minnesota winters.



DIVISION 7 JONQUILS

BY
PEGGY MACNEALE

The species in Division 7 are almost all miniatures. Most set seed readily. These species mostly have multiple blooms per stem and most are clear yellow. Most of them come from the mountains where thin soil predominate. The species have recently been revised and renamed to include two species for this division:

Jonquillae includes: *jonquilla*, *assoamus juncifolius*, *fernandesii*, *willkommii*, *fernandesii*, and others *Apodanthae* includes: *rupicola* (single bloom), *rupicola watieri* (single bloom), *calcicola*, *scaberulus*, and others.

Division 7 daffodils are generally sweet-scented with narrow rush-like leaves. They usually bloom in late mid-season, although foliage sometimes emerges in the fall; in fact, the species *n. viridiflorus* blooms in the fall. In general, they do very well in this area, partly because of our lime soil, and also because they need summer baking.

Most of the earlier cultivars are sterile or nearly so. But Grant Mitsch one day discovered seed on his Quick Step. Quick Step was subsequently found to be extremely fertile and this opened up breeding of the new jonquil hybrids.

Some older standard varieties that represent this division well include: Trevithian (7Y-Y, 1927, P.D. Williams), Penpol (7Y-Y, 1935, P. D. Williams), Sweet Pepper (7Y-O, 1939, Favell), Waterperry (7W-YPP, 1953, Favell), and Suzy (7Y-O, 1954, bred by Favell, but the stock was bought by Zandervan and named for his daughter).

Some good reverse bicolors come from crosses made by Mitsch: From crossing Binkie x jonquilla: Pipit (7YYw-W, 1963), Dickcissel (7Y-W, 1963), and Chat (7Y-W, 1968). From Aircastle x jonquilla comes Oryx (7Y-W, 1969). From Quick Step x Daydream comes Step Forward (7Y-W, 1970), New Day (7Y-W, 1972), and High Note (7Y-W, 1974).

Other good Mitsch cultivars include: Eland (7W-W, 1968), Curlew (7W-W, 1972), and Hillstar (7YW-YWW, 1979). Good pink-cups from Mitsch include: Divertimento (7W-P, 1967), Bell Song (7W-P, 1971), Pink Angel (7W-GWP, 1980), and Cool Pink (7W-P, 1993). Mitsch's Dainty Miss (7W-GWW, 1966) may be considered an Intermediate.

Although Grant Mitsch has made extremely important contributions to this division, other breeders have also contributed notable cultivars: From Pannill come Wendover (7W-Y, 1978), Indian Maid (7O-R, 1972), and Intrigue (7Y-W, 1970). Watrous has given us Happy Hour (7Y-O, 1974) and Wooton bred Pin Money (7Y-O, 1975). Oregon Gold (7Y-Y, 1973), Fruit Cup (7W-Y, 1977), and Pretty Miss (7W-Y, 1973) are all from Morrill. Hyde has given us Starfire (7Y-O, 1959). M. Jefferson-Brown developed Pet Finch (7Y-O, 1975), the earliest to bloom for me.

A few newer Mitsch cultivars include: Life (7YW-Y, 1979), Triller (7Y-O, 1979), Avocet (7W-YYW, 1983), and the bicolor Desert Bells (7W-Y, 1984). The Dutch seem to be promoting

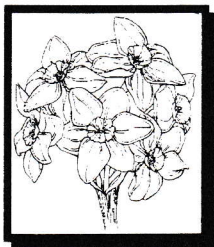
Mitsch's Quail (7Y-Y, 1974) and Pipit (7YYW-W, 1963), as well as some older varieites such as Suzy (7Y-O, 1954, Favell).

For miniatures in this division, the easiest to grow here (and the easiest to find) are Gray's Sundial (7Y-Y, 1955) and Sun Disc (7Y-Y, 1946). Also good when you can find them are Demure (7W-Y, 1953, Gray), Pixie's Sister (7Y-Y, 1966, Mitsch), Bobbysoxer (7Y-YY, 1949, Gray), Clare (7Y-Y, 1968, Gray), Chit Chat (7Y-Y, 1975, Fowlds--a latish bloomer), Bebop (7Y-Y, 1949, Gray), and Stafford (7Y-O, 1956, Gray). Especially good miniatures for show are Gray's Flomay (7W-WWP, 1946) and Blanchard's Pequenita (7Y-Y, 1985).

Breeders are, I hope, working to maintain scent, get better pinks, and get more whites, like Curlew, which I have not seen lately.

In shows, judges look for multiple flowers on those that should have multiple flowers, with all flowers open. They look for good color on red and pink cups. And form, of course, is important--petal width, flatness and smoothness.

Divisions 5-9 are sometimes thought of as lesser or minor divisions. It is significant, however, that the Wister Award has been awarded 5 times and two of those times to Division 7 flowers, Sweetness and Stratosphere.



DIVISION 8 TAZETTAS

BY
MARY LOU GRIPSHOVER

The word *tazetta* comes from the Italian meaning "little cup." Most species tazettas come from warm-weather climates. There are 20 species listed in the Data Bank of which Paper White is the most common example. Generally, the species have many small blooms to a stem and all are fragrant. The "poetaz" crosses between poeticus and tazetta have given us more cold-hardy plants, but with fewer large florets per stem. Hybridists have neglected this division. Of the 164 listed in the Data Bank, R. van der Schoot of Holland has the most registrations with 14, and these were between 1904 and 1931. In the early part of this century, it was the Dutch breeders, along with P.D. and J.C. Williams, who provided most of the hybrids.

Matador, registered in 1958 by Oregon Bulb Farm, was found to set seed; and from it Grant Mitsch, Bill Pannill, Harry Tuggle, Sid DuBose, and Mrs. O.L. Fellers--Americans all--have given us 14 cultivars since 1977. Mr. Mitsch used *N. jonquilla* as the pollen parent, while others used Golden Dawn, *triandrus albus*, Grand Soleil d'Or, and Matador op. Three more Mitsch hybrids from Matador x *cyclamineus* have been registered in Division 12.

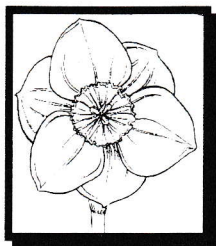
Few catalogs list many from Division 8, but a diligent search will find a few here and there. Ron Scamp (Scamp has recently moved to 14 Roscarrack Close, Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 4PJ, England) lists more than any other, listing two dozen hybrids and a couple of species. The Daffodil Mart lists a dozen.

There are seven tazettas listed on the ADS Approved Miniature List: Cyclataz, Angie, Halingy, Pango, Shrew, Hor d'Oeuvre, and

Minnow, all bred by Alec Gray. Minnow is readily available, but the rest are scarce, and perhaps not worth the search. Cyclataz is a less tidy, less hardy, smaller Tete-a-Tete; Pango has one or two florets on a rather tall stem (for a miniature). I've not seen the others, but Jim Wells, in his book *Modern Miniature Daffodils*, is not enthusiastic. Crevette, from John Blanchard, will no doubt be added to the Miniature List when supplies allow. Of the miniature species, *canaliculatus* is difficult to coax into bloom. If you think that one is difficult, x *dubius* is reportedly even more difficult, requiring a summer spent in a hot attic!

I grow about 24 standard hybrids, but rarely show any, especially in the important large classes. Some judges dislike the typical wavy petals, and perhaps unopened buds, and are inclined to be very critical. If you're going to use one in a collection, use Highfield Beauty or perhaps one of the newer cultivars from Mitsch or Pannill.

Most of the Dutch hybrids available locally in the fall are easy to grow. If you want a planting of sweet-smelling blooms in spring, you can't go wrong with Geranium and Cheerfulness (a double, and there ^{are} in Division 4). Avalanche, with its many florets, can be good if our weather cooperates. When you read the catalogs, choose those with ~~x~~ fewer florets, as that will indicate poeticus influence and better hardiness. But if I may be allowed a personal prejudice--avoid Martha Washington! (some audience members disagreed).



DIVISION 9 POETICUS BY MARY LOU GRIPSHOVER

Who cares about poeticus daffodils anyway? They all look alike, don't they? Well, yes and no. For many years, Division 9 was the only one which required that hybrids show the "Characteristics of the *N. poeticus* group without admixture of any other." The other divisions required only that the characteristics be predominant. So of course, the poets have many similarities. ADS petitioned the RHS to change the definition to "characteristics predominant," which the RHS did sometime in the late 70s. The *RHS Checklist* of 1989 goes back to the original definition, but a handout from the 1993 RHS daffodil show again says "characteristics predominant." ADS has stayed with "predominant" since the change was first made.

But there are subtle differences. Some poets have very green eyes; a few have an almost entirely orange cup. All are fragrant, blooming at season's end. There is even an all white one—Green Pearl. Frank's Fancy regularly comes with two blooms to a stem.

The ADS had (maybe still has) a poet robin. It was a good robin. Not only did members carefully examine their poet blooms and record their characteristics, but we also shared bulbs. Some, like Stilton and Tweedsmouth, have cup-shaped coronas. Others like Ace of Diamonds and Dactyl, have disk-like coronas. Some have a very thin, white line just inside the red rim of the cup. These are believed to be descended from the species *N. poeticus* var. *majalis*. There are size differences as well. The jewel-like *N. poeticus hellenicus* has

perhaps the smallest bloom of all the poets, while Mega has perhaps the largest.

Though poets as a group are said to bloom late in the season, there is variation in bloom time. In 1976 when I kept records, *N. poeticus* Praecox was the first to bloom on March 31 (in Columbus), while *N. poeticus recurvus* ended the poet season on April 26. Of the hybrids, Actaea, Otterburn, and Sarchedon opened on or about April 7, while Dactyl, Felindre and Sonnet bloomed about April 24.

There are at present 293 poets listed in the Data Bank, with 103 of those registered since 1985. Meg Yerger, 211 S. Somerset Ave., Princess Anne, MD 21853, has far and away the most registrations: 86. (She breeds only poets, and lists them for sale. I believe she digs to order, so if you're interested, you should write soon.) The Rev. George Engleheart has 43 registrations from the early part of this century.

John Lea's Killearnan is one of the best for showing. Many say the reason it wins is because it really isn't a poet at all, but a Division 3 flower. No one seems inclined to have the classification changed.

Most poets are easy to grow. They don't like to be out of the ground too long, so plant as soon as you get the bulbs, or replant as soon as you dig.

Perhaps the best thing about the poets is that they bloom after most shows are over and you can just plain enjoy them.