

John Harrington Hall - 1954

Garden Maintenance Service

I would like to call the attention of readers to my Garden Maintenance Service. This is designed to cater for those members of the Professional Classes who, whilst being keen flower lovers, have not always the time to keep their gardens and flower beds at the level of beauty they would desire, and who do not wish to employ a full-time gardener. This service does not include vegetable growing, feeding fowls or washing cars, etc., services which some optimists seem to expect from a gardener. Every aspect of the flower garden is covered, however.

Advice on Planning and Planting

I am at all times available for these services. Advice is free. Planting of my own merchandise is done at a nominal charge and the results are guaranteed. I can tell you what to plant and what to avoid, according to the location of your garden and the purpose for which you are planting.

Garden Lovers and Those With Enquiring Minds

I should appreciate meeting garden and flower lovers for a chat about their favourites, and am always anxious to pass on anything I know and have learnt, quite apart from any business interests. I should be particularly pleased to meet those who are interested in the wild species of bulbs or any other plants of this nature.

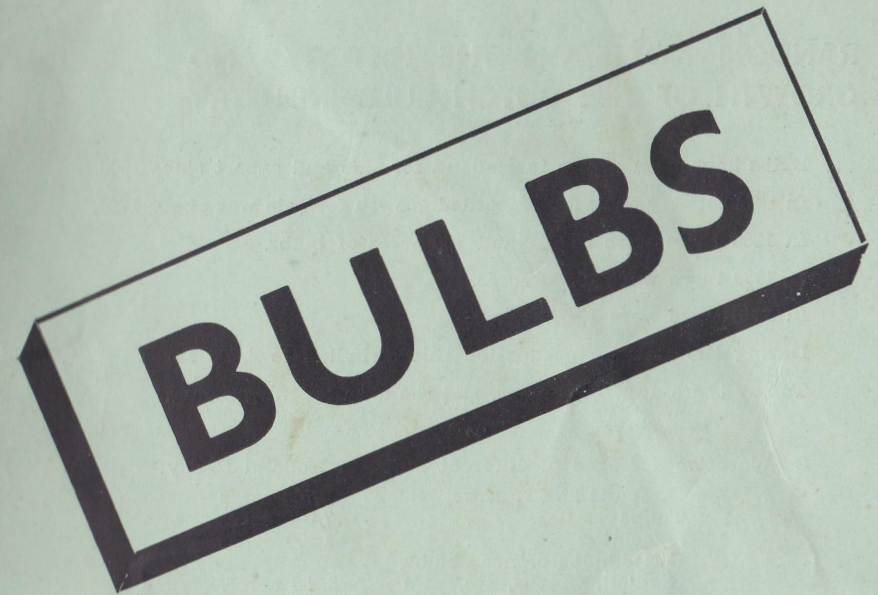
Exhibiting and Competitive Showing

I should be pleased to give those interested in such matters, my advice with regard to varieties suitable for this purpose, in which sphere I have had much experience. Some of my bowls and pots of new Daffodils have been described by such experts as Mr. Guy L. Wilson, V.M.H., the noted Irish Daffodil grower, as being quite "spectacular." Knowing the varieties to choose is half the battle here. I have, over a period of years, evolved a compost and feeding system for Daffodils, Tulips and Hyacinths for Show by which I can put an inch or so on the diameter of most Daffodils and increase to a considerable extent the size of Tulips and Hyacinths.

Alpine Plants

These have for years been a specialised study of mine, and those who saw my professional display at the Albert Hall will not readily forget it. Owing to ill-health I have had to dispose of my Nursery and stock, but have access, through the kindness of the present owner, to the plants, and can supply many unusual plants. A list of those varieties will be published in the Spring in conjunction with my Spring catalogue of Gladioli, Begonias, etc. Please ask for a copy.

If this list has interested you I am pleased; if it is of no interest would you please hand it on to a fellow gardener.



FOR
FLOWER
LOVERS

Only the daffodil
pages are included
here.

Offered for sale by
a Flower Lover ..

RANDOM NOTES ON THE HISTORY AND GROWTH OF THE DUTCH BULB INDUSTRY

Bulbs have been grown in Holland for sale and export since 1600.

In this country their first recorded growth for sale was about 1785.

In 1800 there were in Holland 750 acres of bulbs.

In 1930 there were 25,000 acres.

In 1940 there were 18,000 acres.

During the German occupation this dwindled to 4,800 acres.

To-day there are 20,000 acres, and the area is still growing.

Comparative acreages of different bulbs in Holland to-day:—

Daffodils and Narcissi	2,700 acres
Tulips	7,200 acres
Hyacinths	1,300 acres
Other bulbs or near bulbs.		
Gladioli, Crocus, etc.	8,100 acres.

There are 8,000 growers, 600 of whom handle the export side of the trade. The industry employs directly in all branches about 25,000 workers, who receive an average of £5 per week. A fine social security service has been provided by the industry itself, which gives special sick pay, paid holidays and payment during the off season as a recompense for the long hours worked during the growing and harvesting season.

Annual value and weight of bulbs exported:—

1949—38,000 tons	£8 million pounds
1950—43,650 tons	£11½ million pounds
1951—50,000 tons	£13 million pounds
1952—51,000 tons	£14 million pounds.

The total number of bulbs exported from Holland to-day is about three thousand millions, enough to stretch, if placed side by side, twice round the earth and enough over to go to New York and back to Holland twice! Quite a lot of bulbs!

At Treslong near Sassenheim, the growers plant every year 50,000 of the latest and newest varieties of bulbs for all to see. This, the growers' shop window guide, serves to acquaint those who cannot visit shows in other parts of Holland or England, with the latest trends in bulbs.

At Limmen near Haarlem a private grower has established a Bulb Museum of living bulbs called the "Hortus Bulborum," where many of the old Tulips and Hyacinths may be seen growing. In addition to being of supreme interest to students and botanists, historians and writers, this material may well prove of interest and value in future breeding, as many breeders believe that a time will come when many of our present complex hybrids will benefit from a transfusion of blood from these old and more pure bred varieties.

JOHN HARRINGTON HALL, F.R.H.S.

94, GEORGE STREET

HUCKNALL : Notts.

Telephone ———— Hucknall 240

SPECIALITIES :
Bulbs and Tubers of all kinds.
New Daffodils and Narcissi.
Tulip and Narcissi species.
Bulbs for cold or heated
Greenhouse.

Planting and Development of
Woodland Gardens.
Garden maintenance of all types.
Sources of supply for rare or new
Plants and Bulbs.
Alpine and Miniature Plants.

INTRODUCTION

1st September, 1954.

THIS is my first Bulb Catalogue. I issue it in confidence, backed by 35 years of practical experience and a monumental knowledge of the subject.

If I have made some forthright and contentious statements, I ask you to consider that all I say is backed by a long record of flower growing; practical work in Nurseries, including my own, a long period of trial and experiment with new varieties of Bulbs and Tubers, visits to famous Nurseries and Flower Shows, and by correspondence with many of our leading Bulb Experts, both at home and abroad. In the course of my long experience there are few Bulbs or Tubers in commerce which I have not successfully grown at some time or another.

My introduction to Horticulture began at Newstead Abbey, where I trained for four years under the late Mr. J. H. Batten, so well known in his day as a Judge and authority on flowers of all types. At Newstead Abbey I was in charge of the Japanese Gardens and the American Lawn Gardens, although I received a thorough training in all other aspects of Horticulture.

When you are dazzled by a cheap offer much lower than you see elsewhere ask the vendor for a written guarantee of his produce as the law entitles you to do now: you will then hear a glib series of excuses or a flow of abuse, but I doubt if you will get your written guarantee. Under the law all traders are compelled to sell articles true to name and description and suitable for the purpose for which they are sold; also, it is the obligation of the merchant to ensure that all his horticultural stock is free from disease before he offers it for sale, whether he has grown it himself or not.

In this list I offer Dutch and British Bulbs—mostly Dutch—and I show clearly which are which, in addition I guarantee without reservation and ABSOLUTELY that all my bulbs are true to name—free from disease and of the proper size as advertised here. Money back if not. I also invite comparison with the products of other traders of good repute, size for size and price for price.

I have endeavoured to show in this list something of the complex history and origins of the bulbs offered therein. It is not by any means complete—a large book would be necessary to deal with this subject, but I hope it will have proved of interest to some readers. I have often wondered, when I have seen gardeners carrying home their bags of bulbs, whether they had any idea of the years of patient work, the bitter disappointments, the immense amount of travel and exploration, all the diligent study and patient research which enables us to buy, even in the Multiple Stores, flowering bulbs whose ancestors grew wild in the remote parts of the earth, and to the production of history often goes back for 2,000 or more years, and to the production of which Botanists and Horticultural specialists have devoted their whole lives, often without any adequate reward, often even without the general public being aware of their existence.

T. PRAECOX Early flowering species of much charm, scarlet. The ancestor of many of the first garden Tulips. 6/- doz. 45/- 100

T. PRAESTANS VAR "FUSILIER" One of the most striking wild Tulips. Produces four or five scarlet, of great beauty and ease of culture. Mid season. Height 10 inches. Three or four bulbs in a group produce the effect of a large bunch. 1/- each 10/- doz.

It is not possible to give exact bulb sizes with these Tulip species as all of them differ, but the bulbs I offer are top size in every case.

I have had a considerable experience with these wild Tulips and shall be pleased to assist anyone in their culture or to enter into correspondence regarding them. I have sources of supply open to me for bulbs of many rare Tulip species not shown above for which I shall be pleased to quote.

The nine species listed above are excellent subjects for pot culture in the cold greenhouse, and produce pots of exquisite beauty and interest.

BRITISH-GROWN TULIPS

I can supply Spalding Tulips in most of the Darwin, Breeder, Mendel and Triumph Tulips listed above at the following prices:—

Named Varieties—Top size 11/12 cms. and over: 2/6 doz. 17/6 100 170/- 1,000

Mixed Varieties—Top size 11/12 cms. and over: 2/3 doz. 16/- 100 155/- 1,000

Mixed Varieties—Second size flowering bulbs 1/9 doz. Useful for cut flower trade 12/6 100 120/- 1,000

These are all guaranteed free from disease and true to name.

Daffodils and Narcissi

*"I wandered, lonely as a cloud which floats o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a host, a crowd of Golden Daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Floating and dancing in the breeze;
And oft, when on my couch I lie, in vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye which is the bliss of solitude,
And then my heart with pleasure fills
And dances with the Daffodils."*

THIS glorious, demure and entrancing herald of spring, which is so essentially an English flower and of which our poets have written so movingly, is now known throughout the world, and in the production of new and exciting varieties, both for commercial and show purposes, British hybridisers have always stood supreme, and in every Daffodil catalogue throughout the world British-raised varieties occupy the greatest space.

The history of the Daffodil and Narcissus is fairly well known, certainly much better known than the Tulip or Hyacinth, and it is, with the White Madonna Lily, our oldest bulb-flower.

It is unique in having had recorded for it an Anglo-Saxon name which has persisted almost unchanged to the present day—Affadyl or Affadilly, which to-day is called Daffodil. My researches into this name have lead me to think that it is entirely of British origin, as I can find no foreign translation for Daffodil which corresponds in any way. The Germans of present-day Saxony call it "Seitlosen" or "Bergengelie" (Hill Lily).

In this list the name Daffodil is used to mean types in which the Trumpet is as long as or longer than the length of the petals; other types I refer to as Narcissi for simplicity's sake. In actual fact, all Daffodils, Narcissi, Jonquils, Pheasant's Eyes, etc., are strictly speaking members of the Narcissi family and are technically called so by Botanists, but to be strictly correct is at times likely to lead to difficulty.

The high cost of printing does not permit me to deal with the history and development of the Daffodil as fully as I would like, and for those who wish to know more may I recommend the R.H.S. Daffodil Year Books, which have been published annually since 1913 and contain a wealth of information on all aspects of these flowers and articles written by the leading experts of the world. Many fine books have been written about Daffodils, a list of which I will gladly supply.

Narcissi have figured in literature and sculpture from remote periods. We have the Greek legend of the youth who turned into a Narcissus through looking at himself for so long in a pool's reflection; Aristotle mentions several species known to him; and the Egyptians are known to have used these flowers for decoration as far back as the reign of King Seti II. We have many other references from classical times such as the Roman historian, Columnella, who records what must be the first attempt at bulb forcing, the practice of heating the soil in which Narcissus were growing in order to induce them to flower in winter. The Roman Cincinnatus records the use of Narcissi flowers in religious festivals in the year 30 B.C., whilst at the time of Confucius, followers of Tao religion in China and Japan regarded the Narcissus as a sacred flower which at certain times of

the year took upon itself the symbolism of the principal virtues. (This would, no doubt, be *Narcissus orientalis*, the Sacred Joss Lily, a type of Paper White *Narcissus* which has been an object of veneration in the Far East for many centuries.)

Daffodils and *Narcissi* have been cultivated in Holland from about the same period as the Hyacinth and Tulip, but little is known of the sorts then grown, except that they were without doubt Paper White types such as Bazelman major, or else wild hybrids similar to Golden Spur (*spurius*), but the *Narcissus* has not stamped itself so indelibly on Holland's horticultural history as have the Hyacinth and Tulip. It is on record that prior to 1860 the greatest variety of *Narcissus* grown in Holland were flowers of the type of Paper White, Grand Primo, all of which have heads of small, scented flowers, at one time more popular than they are now, and there were many more sorts in existence then than now.

The first reliable mention of the Daffodil and *Narcissus* in this country dates from the time of Turner and Gerarde (1595), who wrote of and described about 100 kinds; some of these were pictured in Gerarde's Herbal about 1590 or later. It is not always easy to decipher these old drawings; some were exaggerated, some were drawn from unreliable verbal descriptions, and without doubt some were drawn from the fertile imagination of the artist with a view to furthering his own prestige (it is not entirely unknown for present-day Horticulturists to possess this valuable quality).

The Daffodil has never been the subject of such mad speculations as the Tulip Mania which infected Holland and Turkey, and it has been, until the last 100 years, a plain and more or less neglected flower, just a yellow flower which blooms in the spring.

Tradescant records that in 1606 he had a Double White *Narcissus* and a Double Yellow he named "*plenissimus*," which a lot of people came to view. These are the first references to Double *Narcissi*.

I have been unable to discover much of the early history of these flowers in Holland, but in this country they were being cultivated by a small band of enthusiasts who grew them for their beauty and not for profit, and although it is known that gardeners were aware of the fact that the Daffodil could be cross pollinated and grown from seeds, no one seems to have recorded that it was ever done prior to 1820.

The period of about 1820 seems to mark the start of Daffodil raising in this country, when a small band of enthusiasts were at work raising new varieties from seeds. Later, Mr. Leeds, Burbidge and others took up the work, following by a member of the famous Backhouse family. The seedlings raised by Leeds and the first Backhouse formed the basis or foundation upon which the later raisers, such as Haydon, Jacobs, Herbert, Engleheart, Barr, Pearson, Ware and many others, built during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

I do not suppose that any knowledgeable person would dispute with me when I say that the Backhouse family, in its four generations, has fathered the modern Daffodil, and one member of this remarkable family is still raising remarkable Daffodils. I refer to Mr. W. O. Backhouse, of Hereford Court, who last year exhibited at the R.H.S. Daffodil Show two flowers which have been the dream of raisers for years—two fine full sized trumpet Daffodils with yellow petals and solid red trumpets. To those who can remember the wonderful flowers shown by his mother, the late Mrs. R. O. Backhouse—of pink Daffodil fame—it will be no surprise that her son should have been the first to produce a red Daffodil

Another Backhouse—grandfather of the last-named—raised in 1856 two trumpet Daffodils which revolutionised the Daffodil in Holland. I refer to Emperor and Empress, which are still grown, and which created a sensation at the time and from which most of our present-day Daffodils can trace their ancestry.

Mr. P. R. Barr, the founder of the firm which to-day bears his honoured name, was also largely connected with Daffodils, and spent much of his time collecting wild species in Spain and lecturing all over the world. He founded a firm which to-day is supreme for quality in bulbs, and was, by his constant efforts, able to persuade the Royal Horticultural Society to hold its first Daffodil Conference and eventually to publish its Daffodil Year Books. Mr. Barr may be considered to have been the founder of the British retail bulb industry. Certainly he set a standard which had not been known before in this country and which many might well emulate to-day.

In Holland great strides have taken place in recent years in the raising of new sorts, and prominent among the specialists may be named van Tubergen, van Waveran, Vanderschoot, Krelage, Vis, van Leuwen, Papendrecht and many others.

Whilst the Dutch are the world's experts at farming fine bulbs in large quantities, the production of the finest new varieties has always been in the hands of British raisers—many of them amateurs, many of them clergyman—and if you consider a list of the twelve best and most widely grown Daffodils in the world to-day, you will see that nine or ten out of them were raised by British growers: King Alfred, for so long the criterion by which all Daffodils were judged, raised by the Rev. M. Kendall in Devon as long ago as 1897, and still going strong; Beersheba, that peerless Queen of white trumpets, raised in 1915 by the Rev. G. Engleheart, a noted archaeological student and cousin to Lord Carnarvon of Tutankhamen fame; Carlton, the finest large cupped yellow commercial Daffodil ever seen, raised in 1916 by a member of the famous Williams family of Cornwall; Fortune, the most widely grown Daffodil there has ever been, raised by Walter Ware at Spalding in 1915; Mrs. R. O. Backhouse, the first good pink Daffodil ever seen and selling in U.S.A. to-day in 1,000s, and first exhibited in London in 1916 when it created a furore, the first bulbs being sold for £50 each. One might continue this list forever: Croesus, Horace, Sarchedon, Tenedos, Sir Watkin, Helios, Cragford, St. Agnes, Scarlet Leader, Cantatrice, Scapa, Red Guard, Scarlet Elegance, Beryl, Armada, Broughshane, Brunswick, Tunis, Ruston Pasha, Magnificence, Salmon Trout, Clamor, Damson, Hades, Firetail, Inglescombe, Indian Chief, and hundreds more.

In this country to-day, as well as in Holland, there are many raisers of new Daffodils, both amateur and professional, and of these two names stand high above all other—Mr. Guy L. Wilson, V.M.H., and Mr. Lionel Richardson, both Irishmen, the former in Antrim, the latter in Wicklow. Both these gentlemen began their Daffodil careers as keen amateurs, and have, in the course of their lives, become the greatest professional raisers of new Daffodils ever known. Wherever the flower is grown these names are familiar. Mr. Wilson is supreme for his perfect white Trumpets, Mr. Richardson for his brilliant red and yellow bi-colours. They have also raised superb new Daffodils of other types.

I have often been asked what are the smallest and largest trumpet Daffodils there are. Without doubt *Narcissus* (Daffodil) minimus from Spain is the smallest, a tiny King Alfred three inches high, with flowers less than an inch across and flowering outside in this country in February and March. The largest of which I am

aware is Mr. Wilson's magnificent and imposing pale yellow Moonstruck, a giant of perfect form and proportion, often six inches across and with stems like rhubarb, standing 30 inches high.

Minimus the Mite costs 6s. for a dozen bulbs; Moonstruck the Magnificent £5 for one bulb. An entire plant of minimus, bulb, leaf, flower and all could easily be placed inside the trumpet of Moonstruck, and I am not aware of any Daffodil which could be a finer tribute to the skill of its raiser than Moonstruck. Mr. Wilson has never made size his object; rather has he preferred to work towards the ideal of a perfect Daffodil with form, durability and perfect proportion. These have been amply achieved by him in many of his flowers; here it has come almost to a point where one can see no possibility of improvement.

The apparent high prices charged to-day for new varieties of Daffodils astound those who learn of them for the first time. Bear with me while I point out the reasons for this. To raise new Daffodils to-day it is first necessary to be possessed of large reserves of money or a lucrative sinecure upon which to live for the first 15 years of one's career, as no income of any kind is to be expected before then. If, indeed, one is lucky enough to have achieved it by that time, suitable land for Daffodils must be found and bought, labour engaged and paid, books bought and consulted, sterilising equipment, boxes, greenhouses, tools, store sheds and all other impedimenta bought. Lastly, remember that the modern Daffodil raiser faces fierce and expert competition, and if he is to get anywhere he will have to have some up-to-date breeding stock, otherwise he faces a lifetime of wasted effort whilst he repeats the old crosses. Gone are the happy days when he could raise an Emperor and sell it to the Dutch for a high price. Every year the standard becomes higher and he must be prepared to unload his pocket for some good Daffodils with which to start on the high road to Daffodilian fame and fortune.

When our optimist has completed these trifling purchases, which will not have cost him more than a few thousands of pounds, he will be able to sit back for six months until his breeding stock starts to flower. What are his thoughts as he looks with childlike fervour into his rosy future? Perhaps he imagines himself in London, where the Dutch commercial Daffodil growers, their pockets bulging with money, queue up round his display of new Daffodils, awaiting their turn to be allowed to buy some of the wonderful new varieties he has produced. Perhaps he dreams of the all-red Daffodil so long desired. Perhaps he may produce the first Daffodil showing blue—after all, it is possible to discern a hint of purple in the coronal rim of *Recurvus*. Well, whatever the dream, the reality is not likely to resemble it.

Having got all his tackle together and all the bulbs growing, he will have decided upon some course of breeding to follow—having studied all that has been written on the subject. The serious work will commence in April when his first flowers open; then he spends hours with the brush transferring pollen and taking notes on his crosses. Some months elapse and he has now hundreds of pods swollen and nearly ripe, and the seed collecting is about to start. His seed boxes are ready filled, all his labels written out with cross records on them to correspond with his field notes, the seed is sown. In the autumn more breeding stock may have to be purchased as other raisers put their new varieties on the market.

In the early year—his second season—his first seeds are showing, not unlike onions, one little blade, and these will remain on the boxes for quite a while yet. Later in that second season he makes his second lot of crosses and generally he will repeat each season the work

already done in the first and second years until, by the sixth year, when his first seedling bulbs are starting to flower, he will have a stock of many thousands of bulbs in all stages of growth, all of which have to be maintained, cultivated by paid labour. All this time he has to live—although there are bound to be times when he wonders why—pay rent, rates, etc. During this time he has absolutely nothing to sell of all this expensive matter he has bought, but he may be building up his reputation as a grower by exhibiting some of the flowers of his breeding stock at the principal shows, and, in the course of so doing, getting to know other raisers and finding out the trends of the Daffodil world—Daffodil raisers are the kindest people in the world and will pass on anything they can to help a newcomer.

The testing time for man and his forethought is now to hand. His first seedlings are coming into flower, some of the leaves are very broad and stout and some bulbs are showing very large spathes. Surely he has got a world beater here. Were ever such enormous leaves seen on a Daffodil? Perhaps it is the soil, although he fondly thinks it must be his skill as a hybridiser. However, the cloudburst is about to descend upon him. He notices that as the flowers open they do not look so much different to good ordinary flowers, and he finds a few freaks with only five petals and some which are deformed. But of his blue Daffodil there is as yet no sign. What is wrong? However, chastened though he be, he has still many hundreds of buds to open, and perhaps those that are out will develop in the garden, as indeed they will do. Every day, so long as he has one unopened bud to watch, he will be up betimes to observe it.

Although vastly deflated that the Engleheartian mantle has not so far descended upon his shoulders, willing though he be to receive the pleasant burden, he has noticed that here and there he appears to have some promising flowers which, while not startling in themselves, are possibly slightly better than their parents, and these he marks, at the same time discarding those which are obvious rubbish and those which do not appear to be as good, at least, as their parents. Should he be fortunate he will be able to dispose of these costly bulbs at a price slightly in excess of that paid for good quality mixed Daffodils.

Shortly, he saves anything out of each batch which appears to have any possibility, and he is now starting on the assembly of a gigantic but fragmentary collection of Daffodils in all stages of growth, all under number and whose future value is entirely problematical. If he is raising Daffodils on a large scale, say, five or ten thousand every year, he will have to save, I suppose, some hundreds every year for further trial, allowing them to prove their merits over a possible period of ten years. The ugly ducklings will have been sold or given away, but fresh battalions of them will appear every spring as long as he continues the arithmetical progression of systematic breeding.

After he has had several years in which to study his results, it will become apparent to him that he has, here and there, got a good breeding line, and will notice that certain crosses give him certain predictable results—within limits—and he carries on doggedly with the work.

After about 15 years of this career—and if he is not by that time hopelessly bankrupt or in a mental home—he will have several varieties fit to name and introduce into commerce, and will take these flowers to a large show with a view to selling the entire stock to a large commercial bulb-grower or as single bulbs to the wealthy amateurs who nowadays form the backbone of Daffodil lovers.

Unless some other hybridiser has worked on the same lines and pipped him on the post he will now have "arrived," and his exhibits of flowers will command increasing interest every year. Many growers, of course, have other means of living during this period, growing other crops such as fruit and commercial flowers whilst their Daffodils are developing, or they may have started Daffodil growing purely as a side-line. There are, however, several growers who have started from scratch, as I have somewhat jocularly described above, and they have done well with Daffodils and established considerable reputations, but I cannot say how much money—if any—they have made out of growing and selling new Daffodil bulbs.

What I do know is that nearly all our successful raisers of new Daffodils have been persons of wealth or independent means who have not had to depend in the early years of their careers for a living upon the new Daffodils they raised, and most of them have had other professions upon which to exist whilst their Daffodils were being developed. Many of them have been clergymen, bankers and high Government officials. Leeds and Backhouse were bankers, Engleheart and Kendall were clergymen; some have been judges, others doctors.

In nature the Daffodil or *Narcissus* grows wild throughout the temperate region, except in America and Canada—from Britain across Europe to Asia and Japan. None are found wild south of the Equator, although some curious forms are found in the Canary Isles, North Africa and Morocco, but owing to the long cultivation of certain types such as the Paper White family, there is a considerable doubt as to their original source, and where two or more species grow close together natural hybrids are always found, many of which were introduced into gardens and given names which are not now recognised. This has caused much doubt and difficulty in the classification of the wild species, and the Botanist or Taxonomist to-day only recognises about 35 distinct and clearly marked species, although there are many other sub-species and wild hybrids derived from them. The *Narcissus* family, as a whole, are cool country plants; hence they thrive in our gardens.

Amongst this assembly of wild types there is a great a divergence of type and form as may be found among Tulips. Some are dwarfs of a few inches, some giant of two feet, some have one flower to a stem, other twelve or more, the majority have yellow or white flowers, but one or two such as *Poetarum*, *Recurvus* and *Bertolonii* have red cups or cups edged with reddish. There are several species of *Narcissus* or Daffodil which grow wild in this country, although some Botanists do not recognise them as a true English wild flower. Whatever their origin, they do grow in the wild state here in large quantities, and have every appearance of being native. They are able to maintain themselves against other plants, which is not an easy matter for an introduced plant, especially as the *Narcissus* can only drop its seeds near to the parent plant: as they exist in our woods in widely scattered areas, it is more than likely that they are truly wild British species.

The greatest number of wild *Narcissi* are found in Spain and Portugal, but almost every European country has some species. The tiniest is *Narcissus minimus* from Spain and the largest *Hispanicus* (*Maximus superbus*), also from Spain. This last has been grown in Holland for many years and was one of the parents of King Alfred, from which the latter derives its long stem and deep golden colour.

Of late years a large number of beautiful and elegant dwarf or miniature Daffodils and *Narcissi* have been produced. Many of them are now cheap and many more will soon become so. Most of these

are of easy culture and will be found most welcome in the Rock Garden or the Alpine House, where the larger kinds are out of place.

Finally, I would say that Daffodils and *Narcissi* are about the easiest of all bulbs to grow. They are completely hardy and are only liable to one disease which is easily avoidable by buying good bulbs. They can be forced or grown in pots or bowls for the home and will produce a display of lovely flowers outside from mid-March to the end of May, and they are never daunted and seldom damaged by the weather. In addition, by virtue of their grace and perfume, they make ideal flowers for decoration.

Anyone who cannot afford a dozen Daffodil bulbs is a poorer man than he realises.

CULTURE AND USES IN THE GARDEN

There is no garden with soil so poor that it will not grow some Daffodils or *Narcissi*. No plant is so accommodating, so permanent and so rewarding. Any good garden soil which will grow potatoes will produce fine Daffodils without trouble. Dig deeply and do not use new manure; peat may be used to lighten heavy soils and bonemeal will be found beneficial in the production of large, well coloured flowers. The ideal is a light, rich loam with good drainage, even sandy soil, and most Daffodils will succeed either in full sun or in slight shade; they are a woodland plant in nature. One of the secrets of success is early planting. This cannot be too strongly urged—the first week in September is not too early. The earliest planted bulbs will have the finest flowers and will also build up the largest bulbs for another year. If planted late they will still flower, but the bulb suffers much harm and will flower indifferently until it has recovered.

Daffodils may be used for bedding, for groups in the borders, or, better still, for naturalising in large masses in open woodland or shrubberies: they are also ideal subjects to grow in pots, bowls or boxes to decorate the home during the winter and spring months, when flowers are dear.

Daffodils should be planted at a depth of four to six inches according to the size of the bulb, and at a distance of six to eight inches, smaller sorts being planted closer together. They require no protection in the open ground, all Daffodils and *Narcissi*—except Paper Whites and similar—being completely hardy in the severest of winters.

In using bulbs for naturalising I advise planting large groups of the same kind and not mixing them up. The best for this purpose are the yellow trumpets and the old Pheasant Eye *Narcissi*, or against a background of dark evergreens, such a variety as *Beersheba*, where its snowy trumpet and petals can be seen to the greatest advantage. When planting thus, do not attempt any formal design; scatter the bulbs loosely and plant with a trowel exactly where they have fallen. The result will amaze you and they will continue to increase in number and beauty from year to year. Never allow the grass where Daffodils are naturalised to be cut before the end of June. By so doing you will harm the bulbs.

Where Daffodils have been used to embellish the flower borders and their space is required earlier than 15th July, they may be lifted and planted in a reserve plot until the growth is completed in mid-July. They should then be lifted and dried in trays in a cool shed, taking care to see that they are not exposed to the sun.

Their culture in pots or bowls is the same as for Tulips, except that care must be taken to use only varieties which are known forcers

and which have a stem sturdy enough to support the flowers when grown in this way. They may be grown in shallow boxes in the cold or heated greenhouse, and the finest flowers will always be those which have been grown under the coolest conditions. Again, plant early.

Whilst Daffodils can be grown in bowls without drainage in fibre, I still maintain that they are more satisfactory in drained pots of good, rich, light soil. Bulbs so grown can be planted outside in the shrubbery, where they will grow on and increase year by year. Those grown in fibre are worthless.

To those who may be interested in newer Daffodils and Narcissi I suggest a chat with me on the subject. I have grown most of the cheaper of the new varieties and nearly all the commoner commercial sorts, both in the open and under glass, and my knowledge and experience of these flowers is very great and is open to you freely. Any problem which I cannot solve myself I will refer to an expert friend of mine, who will be pleased to assist.

Wonderful displays of flowers may be produced in the cold or cool greenhouse at a small cost, and by a suitable choice of varieties may be had in flower over a long period—Christmas to April—after which the bulbs may be planted in the garden, where they will increase year after year.

Some of the new and more moderately priced White Trumpets, Red Cups, Doubles and pink coloured Daffodils are a revelation of beauty and wonder to those who have not seen them before, and I do urge upon all flower lovers to try a few. I can promise you will not be disappointed.

Where large quantities of cut flowers are required for the house or decoration, rows of Daffodils should be planted in the kitchen garden where they can be cut without robbing the flower garden. When cutting these do not cut more leaves than necessary, as by so doing the bulbs will be harmed for another year. These bulbs should be left in the ground for three or four years, when they should be lifted and divided.

The Daffodil and Narcissus is subject to one serious disease, which may be avoided easily by buying bulbs of the highest grade only from a reputable source. This is a microscopical worm known as "Eelworm" or "Tylenchus," one-hundredth of an inch long and capable of multiplying at a fantastic rate and destroying whole fields of bulbs in a short time. Commercially it was a scourge twenty or thirty years ago and at one time threatened the complete collapse of the industry in Holland and England. However, due to the efforts of Dr. van Slogteren in Holland and Mr. Ramsbottom in England, a sterilisation treatment with hot water was evolved which has wiped the pest out almost completely, and it is rare nowadays to get bulbs which are infected. If it should appear, the bulbs must be lifted and burnt.

The R.H.S. has devised, in conjunction with the Dutch Bulb Growers' Association, a system of classification of Daffodils based upon colour and size, which will serve as a guide to the different types now available and into which the varieties I offer are roughly divided.

Daffodils are available in many sizes, dependent upon the purpose for which they are required, such as **Mother bulbs**, which will produce three or four fine flowers; **Double-nosed bulbs**, two or three flowers; **Rounds**, which will give one or two good flowers; and **Planting size**, which are usually offsets or broken pieces of odd shapes and are not generally offered to the public.

Except where stated, I offer only Mother bulbs and large Double-nosed, which are the most satisfactory. For naturalising I do offer smaller bulbs which generally establish themselves in grass or woodland better than the larger ones.

LIST OF DAFFODILS AND NARCISSI

Dutch, Irish and English grown.

All Mother Bulbs or largest Doubled-nosed except where stated.

The following ten varieties are all new or newish varieties, and are the most distinct and novel in their class. Do try one or two of these. You will be amazed.

BEERSHEBA	The most widely grown and popular of the newer White Trumpet Daffodils, quite pure white flower, of great size and perfect form. Vigorous and free. Excellent in pots. 18in. 1/3 each 13/- dozen
MRS. R. O. BACKHOUSE	The first Pink Daffodil, which, in 1918, was being sold at £50 per bulb. White petals and deep shell pink trumpet shaped crown, which always comes a good deep pink colour. 18in. 1/- each 10/- dozen
SCAPA	A smooth and immense pure White Trumpet of great vigour, the flower appears to have been modelled from white marble. Good for every purpose. 18in. 2/6 each 25/- dozen
LORD WELLINGTON	A huge yellow Trumpet Daffodil much larger than King Alfred and of the same type and deep golden colour. Magnificent in pots or border. Cannot be too highly praised. This is the largest Yellow Trumpet. 1/- each 10/- dozen
CARBINEER	A brilliant yellow flower with short spreading crown of glowing orange red. First class and of perfect form and large size. 18in. 9d. each 7/6 dozen
ORANGE BRIDE	Large white perianth with flat double frilled cup of orange. Always attracts attention because of the unique frilling of the large cup. 1/- each 10/- dozen
SCARLET LEADER	One of the most sensational colour contrasts that can be imagined. White petals and intense flat crown of the brightest solid red. If potted should be grown slowly to develop strongest colour. Exceptional. 16in. 9d. each 7/6 dozen
CARNLOUGH	A White Trumpet of perfect proportions. All-white flower of absolutely perfect show proportions, having a coral pink flush on the trumpet edge. This Daffodil has won more awards at Shows in Single Flower classes than any other. Pots or outside. 15in. 2/- each 22/- dozen
RUSTOM PASHA	A flower of large and perfect size, brilliant yellow petals and crown of good length, which opens yellow and turns to a most fiery scarlet, deepening when exposed to the sun. Very long lasting, weatherproof. 1/6 each 15/- dozen
MRS. W. COPELAND	An immense double pure white Daffodil of perfect form and largest size. Good stem and a flower so perfect that it resembles some giant show Carnation. 1/6 each 15/- dozen

Any of the above Daffodils will, if given reasonable cultivation, win a prize at any Show in this area. I shall be pleased to assist anyone interested in Daffodil showing.

SEEDLING DAFFODILS

I am occasionally able to offer surplus seedling bulbs from the garden of a noted Irish raiser of new Daffodils. These are all five or six-year-old bulbs of the largest size and finest condition, and many fine sorts, far superior to any now obtainable in ordinary commerce, will be found among them. Out of 100 bulbs which I planted for my own pleasure two years ago, 37 were pure White Trumpets and large cups, all quite distinct, 17 were pink cupped flowers, while the rest were of different types including one or two simply perfect Show Daffodils. I strongly advise a trial with these. I cannot obtain many.

1/- each 10/- dozen

COMMERCIAL DAFFODILS AND NARCISSI

Dutch except where stated. Mothers and Double Nose.

Trumpet varieties, Yellow, White and Bi-colours.

GOLDEN HARVEST First class yellow Trumpet for forcing or bedding. Very large fine flower. 16in.
9d. each 8/- dozen

KING ALFRED The fabulous golden trumpet Daffodil whose name is known to all. Still the leading sort and one for which there is an enormous demand. 24in.

Extra Mothers 9d. each 8/- dozen
Double Nose 6d. each 5/- dozen
Rounds 4d. each 3/6 dozen

SPRING GLORY Fine bi-colour with strongly contrasted white petals and brilliant golden trumpet. The best and most distinct of this type. 18in.
8d. each 7/- dozen

MRS. E. H. KRELAGE Very large, finely formed White Trumpet. This is the seed parent of Beersheba and many other modern white Trumpets. The trumpet is tinged with cream on first opening. 20in.
8d. each 7/- dozen

FEBRUARY GOLD The earliest Daffodil in pots. Small flowers of deep reddy gold colour, the petals reflex slightly and the bulb is most free flowering, lasting in good condition for six weeks. This requires no staking or tying when grown in pots and is ideal for table decoration. 10in.
10d. each 9/- dozen

LARGE CUPPED DAFFODILS AND NARCISSI

Dutch produce. Top size. Mothers.

The brightest colours of all are found in this section. The cup is not so long as a Trumpet and in some it spreads out quite flat to an enormous size.

CARLTON Deep golden yellow, large flower of fine form. Excellent forcer and bedder. The best of this type. 18in.
6d. each 5/6 dozen

FORTUNE Brilliant yellow wide petals and long Trumpet crown of blood red. Forced in millions for cutting every year. Most dependable. 18in.
8d. each 7/- dozen

JOHN EVELYN Pure white petals with large spreading frilled crown of yellow with apricot flush. A real beauty. 18in.
6d. each 5/6 dozen

SCARLET ELEGANCE

Most brilliant yellow petals and short Trumpet crown of solid red scarlet. Excellent forcer and fine garden flower. 18in.

6d. each 5/6 dozen

SHORT CUPPED DAFFODILS AND NARCISSI

Dutch produce.

All Mothers.

Brilliant and varied flowers in which the cup is quite short or flat.

LADY DIANA MANNERS Primrose petals and intense crimson red flat cup. Most distinct. Very large flower. 16in.
7d. each 6/- dozen

LA RIANTE Fine forcer and one of the freest flowering. Pure white petals and scarlet red flat eye. The most brilliant colour contrast. 18in.
5d. each 4/- dozen

ACTAEA The largest Poeticus type. Large white petals, yellow flat eye with scarlet edge. 18in.
5d. each 4/- dozen

DOUBLE DAFFODILS

Dutch produce.

Mothers or Largest Double Nosed.

INGLESCOMBE Full double yellow petals arranged like a Show Carnation. Quite unique. Large fine flower. 18in.
8d. each 7/6 dozen

TEXAS Very large double with yellow petals interspersed with scarlet. The largest Double. 18in.
9d. each 8/- dozen

TWINK White and orange. Good in pots. Distinct form. 16in.
7d. each 6/- dozen

MANY OTHER VARIETIES IN STOCK—PLEASE ENQUIRE.

Most of the above can be supplied in smaller bulbs at lesser prices and are also available in Spalding grown bulbs at somewhat lower prices and in smaller size than these Dutch.

VARIOUS DAFFODILS AND NARCISSI

Dutch produce.

Mothers and Double Nosed.

CRAGFORD The very finest forcing Narcissus of all. Can be flowered in a room by Christmas. Five or more flowers on a stem, white petals, red centres. New. 14in.
10d. each 9/- dozen

CHEERFULNESS Double creamy white, several flowers to a stem. Sweet scented and nice either in pots or outside. 15in.
6d. each 5/- dozen

GERANIUM Several flowers to a stem. White petals, orange cup. Sweet scented and useful for pots or borders. 15in.
6d. each 5/- dozen

THALIA The Orchid flowered Daffodil. A Triandrus Hybrid of quite unique form. Several large white flowers on a stem, the petals recurved and twisted to resemble an Oncidium. Broad foliage and sturdy habit. Superb in pots. 16in.
10d. each 9/- dozen

GOLDEN PERFECTION

A gigantic hybrid Jonquil Daffodil. Three flowers of deep golden colour on each stout stem. The flowers are as large as an ordinary Daffodil and strongly scented. Late and beautiful. Can be grown in pots. 18in.

6d. each 5/6 dozen

DAFFODIL AND NARCISSUS SPECIES

Dutch produce.

Top size Bulbs.

TRIANDRUS ALBUS

The Angel's Tear. Collected by Mr. Barr in his Spanish travels in the last century, and now widely grown by those who appreciate dainty beauty. Several white flowers with recurving petal on each stem. Easy to grow and seeds itself freely when established. 6in. Fine in rockery.

4d. each 4/6 dozen

MINIMUS

Minimus the Mite. The smallest of all Daffodils. Wee trumpets of gold like some Lilliputian King Alfred. Perfect in form and hardy. Flowers in February. Increase freely when established and never fails to charm. Glorious for the Alpine House.

5d. each 4/6 dozen

NANUS

Somewhat larger than Minimus. Stout and chubby little chap. Easy to grow outside or in pots. 7in. or slightly more. Yellow trumpet.

5d. each 4/6 dozen

BULBOCODIUM

The Hoop Petticoat. Another discovery of the late Mr. Barr in Spain and Portugal. This gem has flowers in which the cup is bowl shaped and the petals very narrow, resembling a crinoline gown. 6in., yellow, and a gem for the rockery.

4d. each 3/6 dozen

HISPANICUS

The "Maximus superbus" of the Dutch. Aptly named. The largest of the wild Spanish Daffodils and one which has been cultivated for centuries. Prior to the introduction of Emperor and Empress in 1865 this was the only large Trumpet Daffodil grown. Used by Rev. Kendall to produce his King Alfred. A large golden trumpet with elegantly twisted petals and wide flanged trumpet. Hales' "Vase of Beaten Gold" should be planted 10in. deep and left undisturbed. This flower, although a true wild plant, is larger than many garden Daffodils. I cannot often obtain stock. When I do they cost:

8d. each 7/- dozen

JONQUILLA

Jonquils — of a rich deep golden hue, several flowers to a stem and possessing the sweetest and most powerful scent of any Narcissus. Rush-like blue-green leaves, very easy growing and permanent. Do not disturb when planted. 10in. A gem to cut for the house.

3d. each 2/6 dozen

DAFFODILS MIXED

Owing to the many grades available I do not price them in this list. They range from as little as 10/- per 100 for the cheapest reliable grade up to 40/- per 100 for the finest Trumpet mixture. Please enquire for the grade required. They are available in either Dutch, Scottish or English grown bulbs.

The Crocus

The "Golden Earth Star" of some writers and our earliest common Spring flower, lighting up the garden and rockery in March and April with every flash of sunlight, and opening its brilliant glowing cups for every bee to drink its nectar.

The origin of the garden Crocus is obscure. The so-called Mammoth Dutch Yellow has been in cultivation for three hundred years and is thought to have originated in gardens as an accidental seedling from *Crocus flavus*, which was introduced in this country in the early 16th century from mid-Europe, the Balkans, etc.

Gerarde, writing in 1597, says that it was commonly grown in London gardens at that date.

The large Dutch Garden Croci are descendants of *Crocus vernus* — the Spring Crocus — a native of Europe from the south of France to the Balkans, and have no doubt originated as chance seedlings. The Crocus seeds easily and freely, even to-day giving rise quite freely to different colour forms.

One class of Crocus which deserves to be much more widely grown is known as *Crocus Chrysanthus* hybrids. These flower earlier than the common varieties and have a much greater colour range and are exceptionally hardy and free flowering. Most of these were produced jointly by Mr. E. A. Bowles, the famous English amateur bulb grower, and the firm of C. G. van Tubergen, of Haarlem. Although at one time dear to buy, many of them are now down to the price of ordinary sorts, and I strongly urge a small trial with them. You will want more another year.

All Crocus are ideal for pot culture but must not be subjected to artificial heat. A sunny window in a cool room suits them perfectly. All are lovely in the rock garden, border or at the front of the shrubbery, or naturalised in grass. Once planted they may be left for years to increase.

In the wild state Crocus species grow from Europe (Gt. Britain) as far east as Caucasian Russia, the main concentration of species occurring in Greece, Crete and the Ionian and Aegian Islands of the East Mediterranean. None is found wild in the Americas or South of the Equator. They are essentially a cold country bulb.

To many it will come as a surprise to learn that Crocus flowers can be obtained in any garden by a suitable choice of species from August until April without a gap. Many Crocus are Autumn and Winter flowering, the earliest being *Crocus Scharojani* from the Black Sea coast, which produces its orange flowers in August, the last being *Crocus etruscus* from Italy, which often has its beautiful lavender flowers fresh into mid-April. In between these two are many lovely and varied types, Autumn, Winter and Spring flowering, and the number of known species in cultivation exceeds 100, in addition to which there are many hybrids of differing types.

With this flower, as with Tulip species, I have had a very wide experience, and I should be very happy to meet anyone who is really interested in collecting and growing the beautiful wild types which are now available.