

DAFFODILS NARCISSUS AND HOW TO GROW THEM

*As Hardy Plants and for Cut Flowers
With a Guide to the Best
Varieties*

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ILLUSTRATED



CHAPTER
ON POETS

NEW YORK
Doubleday, Page & Company
1909

CHAPTER XIII

THE PHEASANT'S EYE AND POET'S HYBRID NARCISSUS

THE poet's narcissus with its white petals and red-rimmed shallow cup is familiar to all of us. It has been very freely used by hybridisers, and its influence is apparent in many of the medium-crowned sections discussed in the preceding chapter. It has lately also become one parent of the interesting and very promising new poetaz hybrids, referred to in the following chapter.

On account of their close resemblance in form of cup (which is but very little deeper), the varieties forming the Burbidgei and Englehearti sections are grouped together with poeticus.

NARCISSUS POETICUS

The poet's or pheasant's eye narcissus is a native of Southern Europe, and especially the Mediterranean region. It is distinguished by

white petals surrounding a small flattened saucer-shaped cup not more than one-quarter the length of the petal, and edged more or less conspicuously with carmine. All varieties and hybrids of *N. poeticus* are especially suitable for naturalising and for growing in garden borders; but for pot culture and winter forcing the earlier flowering varieties only are suitable and even they must be grown cool. Heat causes the flowers to "go blind," i. e. the sheath does not burst open.

ALMIRA. Syn: King Edward VII. (C. 15 in. § § * \$1.50 doz.) A new and beautiful large flowered poeticus with broad rounded snowy white petals of good substance. The cup of canary-yellow is broadly rimmed with deep red. Of taller growth, equally as early as, and even better for forcing than *ornatus*.

ANGUSTIFOLIUS. Syn: radiflorus. (C. † \$1 hu.) An early flowering form selected from among the wild Pyrenean types, with narrow white perianth petals and orange-margined cup. Can be forced into bloom ten days before *ornatus*. It does finely naturalised.

CASSANDRA. (D. 17 in. \$1 ea.) A new, very large flowering variety; tall, vigorous grower; flowers of good substance. Petals broad, wide-spreading, of clear white; cup yellow deeply rimmed with dark red. Award of Merit, R. H. S.

CHAUCER. (D. * \$1 ea.) New, early. Well rounded large flat white petals, cup edged with bright scarlet.

DANTE. (19 in. \$1.50 ea.) A new and beautiful large flowered poeticus with broad-petalled perianth of pure

white; cup citron-yellow edged with purplish red. First-class certificate, R. H. S.

EPIC. (E. \$2 ea.) New, large, and solid flower, broad petals of white; cup flat, deeply edged with blood-crimson; fragrant.

GLORY. (D. 16 in. § § \$2 ea.) A new variety, having enormous flowers; the largest in the poeticus section, superior even to poeticus grandiflorus in size, shape, form, and colour. Petals pure white; cup yellow-edged with red. First-class certificate, Manchester.

GRANDIFLORUS. (E. 19 in. § § \$2 doz.) The giant poet's narcissus. Large flowering vigorous variety twice as large as ornatus. Petals pure white; cup very broad, yellow suffused with crimson.

HOMER. (D. § § * \$2 ea.) New, large with broad petalled flower similar to Poetarum. First-class certificate.

MARVEL. (F. 15 in. † \$1.25 doz.) Late flowering. Has a small, distended bladder-like spath. Petals, pure white; cup yellowish, margined with saffron.

ORNATUS. (D. 13 in. § § * \$2 hu.) Early free-flowering, robust-growing variety with large handsome round white petalled flowers and yellow cups brimmed with red. Blooms three to four weeks earlier than the common poeticus, is good for massing in borders, naturalising in grass and for cutting. It forces easily if grown cool.

POETARUM. (E. 14 in. § § * \$2.50 hu.) Distinct large-flowering old favourite sort with broad "paper white" petals; cup large orange-scarlet.

PRÆCOX. *Syns: præcox grandiflorus, grandis-præcox.* (C. 18 in. § § * 50c doz.) Earliest flowering of the poeticus group; ten days earlier than ornatus and can be forced into bloom by Christmas if desired; blooms out-of-doors in April. Flowers large; petals pure white; cup yellow edged with crimson. It is a free seed bearer.

PYRENEAN POETICUS. (D. & E. 18 in. § § * \$2.50 hu.) Collected forms or their progeny varying much in shape,

size and time of flowering. Especially adapted for naturalising; some very beautiful sorts may be selected from among them.

RECURVUS. (F. 15 in. * § § \$1.50 hu.) The common, or "Pheasant's Eye" poeticus, popular in gardens and naturalised. Flowers late in May and will not force. Petals pure white; cup saffron yellow margined with deep orange-red, very sweet-scented.

THE BRIDE. (E. \$10 ea.) New. Flower of much substance. Petals, broad, snowy white; cup, brilliant red.

TWIN FLOWER. (D. 16 in. § § * \$1.50 doz.) Seedling, invariably bearing two pretty typical poeticus flowers on one stem.

VERBANENSIS. (F. 8 in. § § \$1 doz.) Dwarf-growing type from the Lago Maggiore; flowers late.

NARCISSUS BIFLORUS

Properly known as the "Twin-flowered poeticus" and in olden times as "Parkinson's Primrose Peerless daffodil." The type is usually considered to be a natural hybrid between *N. Tazetta* and *N. poeticus*, as it is often found wild where the two species grow in close proximity in France, Italy, and through the Tyrol to Switzerland. It has been aptly called "the extreme northern form of Tazetta as it approaches poeticus." The flowers, while of poeticus formation and colouring, minus the red brimmed cup, are borne Tazetta-like in clusters of two or three

—though seldom more than two on one stem. The exceptionally sweet perfume of *N. biflorus* suggests Tazetta influence, though as Parkinson says, the fragrance is less “stuffing.” The forms vary and though selections have been made under cultivation none have, we believe, been accepted as sufficiently distinct to be called true botanical varieties. There is some difference horticulturally, however, between the following:

BIFLORUS. (E. 15 in. ¶ *\$1 hu.) The type. Petals, cream-white or sometimes light primrose coloured; cup, yellow. Good for naturalising and as a cut flower.

BIFLORUS HYBRIDUS. (E. 18 in. ¶ *\$2 doz.) A selection from collected bulbs, truss many flowered; the flowers larger than the type.

NARCISSUS BURBIDGEI

Small-cupped hybrids between incomparabilis and poeticus, selected from other sections and having a close resemblance to *N. poeticus*. The cup in these Burbidgei forms is about one fourth the length of the petals, a trifle longer than but not quite so flat as in *N. poeticus*. Other distinguishing features of Burbidgei are the greater range of

colouring in the petals, which run into yellow, and an earlier flowering season.

The varieties of this section are healthy, vigorous growing and produce beautiful flowers. They are well suited for either pot culture, beds, borders or naturalising. The flowers are particularly attractive when cut but should be cut when the buds are but half expanded, for like all red or ruddy rimmed narcissus, the vivid colouring fades with age or when long exposed to strong sun. The best flowers are produced on good, fairly strong, moist loam.

AGNES BARR. (C. 16 in. ¶ *\$2.50 hu.) An exquisite flower; petals, creamy white; cup, yellow.

BURBIDGEI. (C. 13 in. ¶ *\$1.50 hu.) The type. Early flowering. Petals, clear white; cup, light yellow, rimmed with reddish-orange.

BARONESS HEATH. (C. 18 in. ¶ *\$2.50 hu.) Very distinct. Flowers drooping; petals, yellow; cup, yellow tinged with orange deepening to red at the brim. Foliage, deep blue-green.

BEACON. (C. \$5 ea.) Beautiful new variety. Petals, circular shaped, cream-white; cup, fiery-red. First-class certificate, R. H. S.

BEATRICE HASELTINE. (E. 15 in. \$2 doz.) Beautiful late bloomer. Petals, creamy-white; cup, flat, canary coloured, edged with orange-scarlet.

BERNICE. (C. 8 in. \$2 ea.) Petals, pointed, creamy-white; cup, funnel-shaped, deep blood-red to the base.

Narrow, grass-like foliage. Thrives best in a sheltered situation which faces north.

BLOOD ORANGE. (§ $\frac{1}{2}$ \$2 ea.) New and very showy. Petals, broad, cream colored; cup, brilliant orange-red.

CHERRY RIPE. (D. 13 in. \$2 ea.) A new and attractive variety. Petals, snowy white; cup, vivid orange-scarlet, broadly edged with bright red.

CROWN PRINCESS. (C. 15 in. $\frac{1}{2}$ * \$5 doz.) Very beautiful form. Petals, sulphury-yellow shading to pure white; cup, canary, edged rich orange.

ELLEN BARR. (C. 18 in. $\frac{1}{2}$ * \$50c doz.) Petals, broad, snow-white; cup, citron, stained orange-scarlet. Very effective when grown in masses.

FALSTAFF. (C. 16 in. $\frac{1}{2}$ * \$2.50 hu.) Petals, pure white; cup, lemon coloured with orange rim. Flowers of splendid form, excellent for cutting, and when massed the snowy-white effect is very beautiful.

FIREBRAND. (C. 17 in. $\frac{1}{2}$ * \$2 ea.) New variety, remarkable for the brilliant colouring of the prettily fluted cup, which is an intense fiery-red. Petals, cream-white shading to lemon at the base.

FRAILTY. (C. 14 in. $\frac{1}{2}$ * \$2.50 ea.) Charmingly quaint, pendent flower with gracefully twisted, snow-white petals; cup, large, open, yellow, edged with bright-red.

HAROLD HODGE. (C. 18 in. $\frac{1}{2}$ * \$1 ea.) New. Petals, white; cup, small, yellow edged, red.

HYACINTH. (\$1.50 ea.) Petals, snowy-white; cup, spreading, lemon-yellow.

JOHN BAIN. (B. 15 in. $\frac{1}{2}$ * \$50c doz.) An old, reliable, favourite. The flower is large and of good substance. Petals white; cup, small, citron-yellow. It blooms early and freely; forces easily; is a good cut flower, whether grown under glass or out of doors; very effective for massing in beds, borders and naturalising.

LADY ISABEL. (\$2 ea.) Stiff, erect habit, with highly colored flower. Petals, reflexed, creamy-white; cup, saucer

shaped, light yellow, deeply edged and shaded with intense scarlet.

LITTLE DIRK. (D. 17 in., 50c. doz.) A small-flowered variety. Petals, neat, cowslip yellow; cup, bright orange-red.

LITTLE DORRIT. (C. 21 in. $\frac{1}{2}$ * \$2 ea.) New A small flower. Petals, white; cup, small, flat orange-red.

MERCEDES. (D. $\frac{1}{2}$ * \$1.50 ea.) A drooping flower with twisted snow-white petals; cup, spreading, yellow edged, bright red.

MRS. KRELAGE. (E. 75c. doz.) A very late blooming variety (May). Petals, reflexed, white; cup, broad, flat, serrated, citron-yellow flushed with orange.

ORIFLAMME. (§ $\frac{1}{2}$ \$4 ea.) Showy, new variety. Petals, creamy-white; cup, fiery-scarlet. Award of Merit, R. H. S. and at Birmingham.

OID. (C. \$1.50 doz.) Petals, opening, yellow fading to white; cup, saucer shaped, three-fourths of an inch across, beautifully crimped, rich yellow, heavily stained with orange.

PRINCESS LOUISE. A beautiful flower with large white perianth and widely expanded cup of rich orange, passing off apricot.

PROMETHEUS. (\$6 ea.) The flowers, sometimes borne in pairs. Petals, rich, satiny-yellow, paling with age; cup, saucer-shaped, crimped, rich scarlet almost one inch across; foliage, broad and massive.

ROSALIND. (E. 13 in. $\frac{1}{2}$ * \$2 ea.) A new and handsome, late variety with pendent flowers. Petals, pure white, broad and inclined to reflex; cup, bright yellow, deeply rimmed with fiery-scarlet. A strong grower.

SCARLET EYE. (\$5 ea.) A fine new Burbidgei. Petals pure white and of good substance; cup of vivid orange-scarlet.

SCARLETTA. (\$10 ea.) A showy, new seedling with cream-colored perianth, and a fluted cup of glowing scarlet.

SCEPTRE. (D. 14 in. § § \$10 ea.) New and beautiful variety. Petals, cream-yellow; cup, prettily fluted and of bright reddish orange.

St. JOHN'S BEAUTY. (C. 20 in. § * \$1.50 doz.) A large, loose but showy, flower; petals, channelled, sulphur-white; cup, beautifully frilled, yellow, edged with orange-red.

THE PET. (E. 14 in. \$1.50 doz.) A dwarf, erect grower with a prim little flower of perfect form. Petals, firm and almost pure white; cup, citron-yellow with a protruding pistil.

VANESSA. (C. 16 in. § * \$2.50 hu.) Small, compact, symmetrical and attractive flowers. Petals, pale-yellow; cup, small, flatly expanded, orange tinged reddish. Very fragrant. Sometimes called "yellow poeticus."

VIVID. (D. 15 in. \$6 ea.) New and very showy flower. Petals ivory-white; cup, large, saucer-shaped, fiery orange-red, the colour holding well. A strong, free grower.

NARCISSUS ENGLEHEARTII

Hybrids, in which the poeticus influence predominates; practically Burbidgei forms with more fluted flat cups that may be likened to ruffled discs. Some of the varieties indeed have been plucked from among the Burbidgeis; others are direct crosses by Rev. G. Engleheart.

ASTRADENTE. (\$25 ea.) A new, large and beautiful flower, with a white perianth and a very large flat crown of reddish-orange edged with bright red. Award of Merit, R. H. S.

CRESSET. (C. 15 in. \$12 ea.) New flower of perfect form with large, broad, round, white petals, and a flat golden cup heavily edged with vivid scarlet.

CONCORD. (15 in. \$25 ea.) A grand new variety of perfect form, with broad, rounded perianth petals of deep canary-yellow; crown, large, widely expanded at the mouth, and of a deep golden-yellow, heavily edged with fiery orange-red.

EGRET. (D. § § \$25 ea.) Finely formed, broad petals of pure white, and a very large, flattened, fluted cup over one inch in diameter of lemon-yellow, shaded and margined with gold. Award of Merit, Birmingham.

GOLD EYE. (§ § \$3 ea.) New and very excellent variety. Petals, pure white, and large disk-like crown prettily fluted and margined with orange-red. Award of Merit, Birmingham.

INCOGNITO. (C. § § 16 in. \$30 ea.) A new, large and very durable flower, with flat, white petals and flattened, frilled crown of bright yellow, margined with apricot-orange.

ROYAL STAR. (\$10 ea.) A magnificent new Engleheartii, with large, showy, lasting flowers, four and a half inches across. Perianth, creamy-yellow maturing white; crown, large, flat and fluted orange-yellow changing to fiery orange-red. A tall, robust grower.

POLESTAR. (D. § § \$3 ea.) New and large, late-flowering variety. Petals white, four inches across; cup, large, flat and prettily fluted; canary-yellow.

SEQUIN. (D. 12 in. § § * \$3 doz.) A very distinct and beautiful new seedling, with snowy-white petals and a very large golden cup, flattened against the petals.

THISBE. (18 in. § § * \$1.50 ea.) A very beautiful flower with slightly reflexed, white petals; cup large, spreading, flattened against the petals; canary-yellow margined with orange-red.