



# MINIATURE DAFFODILS

February 20, 1963

To the Members of the  
American Daffodil Society -

Several years ago the members of one of four round robins devoted to miniature daffodils undertook to find a satisfactory definition by which anyone could readily determine whether or not a small daffodil was, in fact, a miniature. The need for such a definition was evident from the variety of ways show committees attempted to specify the flowers which would be admitted to their miniature classes. The decisive factor was usually length of stem, although there was no agreement as to the precise length and problems of enforcement were ignored. Occasionally it was ruled that the size of the flowers should be in proportion to the length of stem, but this relationship was never reduced to a mathematical ratio. The result of such confusion was that a variety which would be qualified as a miniature at one show would be disqualified at another.

There gradually crept into the discussion complaints that, however miniatures might eventually be defined, as a class they were neglected, unattractively displayed, forced to compete with larger forms whenever no special classes were scheduled for them, and usually ignored when major awards were bestowed.

It was also suggested that there were a number of daffodils which were neither miniature nor standard in size and which ought to be grouped separately as "intermediates."

Thus the area under study gradually widened and a desire to see that justice was done to the smaller daffodils became increasingly evident. In time it was agreed that the objectives of this study were to see that all daffodils which are smaller than those considered normal for their type or class are identified, appreciated, widely grown, exhibited in fair competition, and suitably rewarded; in short, that size in a daffodil would be eliminated as a merit except, of course, size for the variety.

It was also hoped to correct the widespread impression that all daffodils in Divisions 5 to 11 are "miniatures", a notion probably arising from the fact that as a group these fine varieties are somewhat smaller than those in Divisions 1 to 3.

On page 23 of the 1959 Yearbook a list of miniatures was offered by one of our members, George W. Heath. Early in 1959 the members of Miniature Round Robin #1 began balloting to divide this list into three categories: miniature, intermediate, and standard. Voting sheets were circulated and a great many names added to the original list as it made the rounds. The decision as to what constituted a miniature for voting purposes was left to the individual who might employ any criteria he wished, including measurements. However, it was suggested that voters consider the following tests: first, would a variety look at home in a rock garden and, second, would it appear out of place on the show table among varieties of standard size for its division.

It was finally realized that there was no possibility of writing a satisfactory definition of a miniature daffodil. Measurements of individual varieties reported by a number of growers were found to differ more widely than opinion as to whether or not the varieties were miniatures. A daffodil is a living thing which changes from day to day and varies from year to year, as well as with regional and cultural conditions. Therefore, it was concluded to compile an arbitrary list of species and garden varieties which, after careful field study, should be classed as miniatures in the opinion of a number of observers. Surprisingly, this voting of personal opinions produced nearly general agreement.

It was realized early in the work that most flowers in Divisions 5, 6, 7, and 8, while small by comparison with normal flowers in Divisions 1, 2, and 3 were, nevertheless, standard size for their particular divisions and that no effort should be made to classify them otherwise. There were growing doubts that a group of varieties which might properly be termed "intermediate" could be established or that it was desirable to attempt it. Subsequently this phase of the study was dropped as part of this initial effort.

At the Roanoke Convention, April, 1961, seventeen interested members met, agreed that the work should be continued, and appointed five subcommittees to study and report upon certain problems, these reports to be considered by all members of the miniature round robins and the conclusions embodied in a report.

It was stressed many times that while the activities of these members were consistent with the best interests of the Society, nevertheless they were wholly unofficial and could have no standing until formally approved by the Society. In view of the importance and far-reaching effects of the proposals which follow, it was decided to lay them before the membership. Without any intent to attribute authority to this self-constituted group of workers, they will be referred to hereafter as the committee on miniatures.

### The List of Miniatures

In the course of our study about 200 species and garden varieties were considered. The ballots were tabulated by John Larus and tentative lists of those which qualified, as well as those which failed to qualify, were drawn up in 1961 and revised at the close of the 1962 growing season. These lists are attached to this report as Exhibits A and B.

Those who have participated in this work would be the first to concede imperfection in the results. In some cases the number of votes was small and about equally divided; in other cases there was a large minority which felt the flower should be classed as a miniature. Such dilemmas were usually resolved by listing the variety as a miniature on the theory that it would thus be brought under close and continuing inspection and the original decision confirmed or rejected in the shortest possible time.

The chance of wrong names has been a constant hazard. Individuals are occasionally amazed that anyone would consider a certain variety to be a miniature or vice versa. Misnamed bulbs is the likely answer to such strongly held opposing views, and where a number of individuals are involved, it might be found that a dealer is handling incorrectly named stock.

It is the feeling of the committee that the work of naming miniatures has been advanced about as far as present personnel and material for study allow and that the time has come for the results to be subjected to the judgment of other members and to the critical eyes of our accredited judges at daffodil



shows. While recognizing that changes in the proposed list are inevitable, both as to existing varieties and, of course, as to new varieties, the committee hopes that no changes will be attempted until after the close of the 1964 growing season and that in the meantime machinery will be set up to consider decisions already made which do not stand the test of time and to act upon new introductions which have proved to be of miniature proportions.

Therefore, the committee on miniatures recommends

1. That a category of miniature daffodils be created in furtherance of the objectives of the Society.

2. That this category consist of, and be limited to, the species and garden varieties listed on Exhibit A of this report and that no variety not included in this list, whether garden hybrid, species, or seedling be permitted to be shown as a miniature daffodil in shows approved by the American Daffodil Society.

3. That in shows approved by the American Daffodil Society which schedule more than five RHS divisions, miniatures should compete only with each other in specimen classes.

4. That awards of the Society for miniatures may be offered only when miniatures are exhibited in separate classes.

5. That the directors authorize the appointment of a special committee whose duty it shall be to make additions to, and deletions from, the approved list of miniatures.

6. That no amendments to the list become effective prior to the close of the 1964 growing season.

7. That the approved list of miniatures be published in either the Bulletin or the Yearbook of the Society; a printed copy, 8" x 3" in size, be placed in every copy of the Classified List of Daffodil Names distributed by the Society; a copy sent to each accredited judge; and that additional copies be made available for a small charge upon application to the Supplies Committee.

8. That all amendments to the list originally approved be published in the Bulletin.



### Miniature Daffodils in Shows

In show schedules examined, the most common error was to include all miniatures, regardless of RHS classification, in either Division 10 or Division 11. Height limits varied from 6 to 12 inches, some schedules providing separate classes for varieties under and over 6 inches in height, and some decreeing that the catalog of Alec Gray be accepted as authority for the height of individual varieties.

It is the recommendation of the committee on miniatures

1. That classes for miniature daffodils should in future be based on the list of miniatures approved by the American Daffodil Society, rather than on absolute size or height.
2. That miniature daffodils, as named in the approved list of miniatures, should be excluded from competition with varieties of standard size in classes for single stems, three of a kind, and collections based on the RHS classification in state or regional shows and in all other shows, approved by the American Daffodil Society, scheduling more than five RHS divisions.
3. That the foregoing exclusion should not apply to a Quinn Medal Class or special classes for collections based on date of introduction, color, breeder, and so on.
4. That in no case should miniatures from other divisions be scheduled in Divisions 10 or 11; a separate class or classes should be provided.
5. That if there is but one class of miniatures it should include both species and garden hybrids of whatever RHS classification.
6. That if there is more than one class for miniatures, division should be made first by separating species (including wild forms and wild or presumed wild hybrids, Division 10) and garden hybrids (Divisions 1-9 and 11).
7. That if further division is desired, varieties having only one bloom to a stem should be shown separately from those having a cluster of florets.



8. That miniatures should be staged in containers of appropriate size.

9. That all miniature classes be staged in one location, preferably apart from varieties of standard size, and at a height to bring the blooms approximately to eye level or slightly below.

#### Judging Miniature Daffodils

It is desirable that our accredited judges be qualified to judge classes of miniatures at all shows approved by the American Daffodil Society. However, it must be recognized that many judges are not particularly familiar with the smaller daffodils, do not grow them, and have little interest in them.

If our accredited judges could be sharply divided between those qualified by experience in growing miniatures and those having little or no knowledge of their characteristics, the list of the former would be rather short, smaller shows would encounter difficulty in securing their services, and the scheduling of classes for miniatures would be discouraged, thus hindering the very purpose of our work.

It seems wise, at least for the present, to improve the capability of all our accredited judges to pass upon the merits of miniature daffodils. Steps to accomplish this are set forth in the recommendations below. Since exposure to the facts of judging miniatures carries no compulsion to master them and it is not proposed to subject our accredited judges to any examination on their knowledge of miniatures, it follows that the qualifications of our accredited judges in this field will vary widely. It is hoped that our judges will not assume any ability or interest which they do not possess and will decline invitations to judge classes of miniatures if they are not familiar with them.

However, the foregoing approach to judging miniature daffodils is incomplete and rather negative. We do have many accredited judges who are enthusiastic about miniatures and have had long experience in growing them. As far as possible, and certainly in the case of our larger shows and all shows



offering ADS awards, other than ribbons, contemplated by this report, the services of these experienced judges should be utilized.

While outside the scope of this report, it might not be amiss to observe that varieties of standard size in Divisions 5 through 11, because of their own distinctive characteristics, also deserve to be appraised by judges well-versed in those traits.

The committee on miniatures urges that the judging of miniatures be kept at the highest possible level and submits the following recommendations:

1. That a demonstration of judging miniature daffodils be included in the programs of the 1963 and 1964 conventions for the particular benefit of accredited judges and students who have completed Course II of the Judging School.
2. That a paper on the subject of judging miniatures be prepared and copies sent to all accredited judges and students who have completed Course II of the Judging School.
3. That instruction in the judging of miniatures be given for a period of not less than 30 minutes as part of the curriculum of our judging schools.
4. That while all accredited judges should be permitted to judge classes of miniatures in shows approved by the American Daffodil Society, as far as practicable judges who are familiar with miniatures should be assigned to these classes, especially in the larger shows or where trophies or medals are offered as awards in miniature classes.
5. That to facilitate the selection of judges who are especially well qualified to judge miniatures by reason of experience in growing miniatures, the chairman of the Judges Committee should prepare and maintain a list of those among our accredited judges who are interested in, and familiar with, miniature species and garden varieties.
6. That special effort be made to see that a student judge is appointed to each team of accredited judges assigned to judging classes for miniatures.



### Scale of Points

There are differences other than size which distinguish miniature daffodils from the larger forms. Most miniature garden varieties are of recent origin and not far removed from their species ancestry. Often coming out of England where little consideration is given to them at shows, they have been bred more for their charm than for exhibition qualities; more for the rock garden, alpine meadow, and pot culture than for measured planting in rectangular beds. Varieties with clusters of florets are more numerous than single-flowered varieties.

Individual species, of course, often range widely in size and color and it is not always easy to determine what is typical or even true to name. Crossing of the bulbocodium species is so common in nature that it is difficult to draw lines between the numerous accepted species. Before the chromosome studies of Dr. Fernandes, the relationships of the jonquillas were only slightly less obscure. Species collected from the wild or grown from seed will show wide variation, whereas bulbs reproduced vegetatively will consistently duplicate all characteristics of the mother bulb.

Nevertheless, it is the opinion of the committee that any change in our standard scale of points should be avoided to prevent confusion. It is felt that the distinctive qualities of miniatures can be judged by dividing equally the 20 points now assigned to form, between form and grace, and beyond that by modifying to some extent the interpretation given to each heading in the point scale.

Therefore, it is recommended that miniatures be judged hereafter on the following basis:

#### CONDITION - 20 points

Flowers should be in their prime, clean and free from blemishes or damage.

#### FORM AND GRACE - 20 points

Flowers should be correctly shaped for the type or variety. Clusters should be symmetrical. The number of florets



is to be considered. Grace is an important quality of miniatures. While it results from harmony of all parts of the flower, lack of it should be penalized only once and here.

SUBSTANCE AND TEXTURE - 15 points

The material of which the flower is made should be firm in the case of garden varieties and typical in the case of species.

COLOR - 15 points

In garden varieties uniform and fresh; the contrast distinct in the bicolors. In species color should be typical without fading.

STEM - 10 points

The stem should be straight and sturdy, but not too heavy or stiff, lending grace to the flower. The length, as exhibited, should be in good proportion to the bloom.

POSE - 10 points

The pose demanded of larger daffodils is unimportant in miniatures and will rarely be found. The pose of species should be typical; to garden varieties pose should contribute a share of the grace which distinguishes miniatures. The nodding or pendant bearing of miniatures, other than doubles and small cups, is usually an attractive characteristic.

SIZE - 10 points

Normal size is perfection; noticeable oversize or undersize is a fault.

Awards

It has not been the policy of the Society to use its own funds to create awards having intrinsic value to be placed in competition at daffodil shows sponsored by the Society. Such awards, the Quinn medal for example, result from the generosity of individuals and represent a meeting of the minds of the donor, the Awards Committee, and the Board of Directors as to the form and purpose of the award.

The committee agrees that outstanding exhibits of miniature



daffodils merit the same honors as daffodils of standard size. While the committee does not propose specific trophies, it ventures to mention certain exhibits which, in its opinion, deserve recognition over and above the usual blue ribbons.

Accordingly, the committee suggests that prospective donors and the Society consider the creation of awards to be offered at shows approved by the Society, as follows:

1. An award for a collection of 12 different miniature blooms from at least 3 divisions.
2. An award for the best miniature shown at the daffodil show held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Society.
3. An ADS Gold Ribbon (smaller than the regular ADS Gold Ribbon for the best flower in the show) for the best miniature bloom in horticultural classes.

It would be quite appropriate if all special awards for miniature daffodils were scaled down to the engaging proportions of the miniatures themselves.

It should be remembered that the ADS does offer its Lavender Ribbon specifically for a collection of 5 varieties of miniature daffodils under 6 inches in height. The words underscored should be struck out by appropriate action.

Daffodils receiving honors as miniatures must be listed on the approved list of miniatures and should score at least 90 points.

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If this report is adopted, it will require amendment to a few past actions of the Society. These will be drafted and presented to the directors for action at their next fall meeting.

Many hands have taken part in the work preceding this report. It is impossible to identify them all. While in manuscript form only a limited number of the known participants, as well as those who have expressed interest in the work, could be reached and asked to signify their approval of the report. As far as practicable and time permitted, prior approval has been sought and the members named below have signified their acceptance of the report. Without necessarily agreeing with every detail,



they recommend that it be placed before the membership for consideration and adoption. Any reservations they or others may have on certain details, and there doubtless will be some, may be tested by amendments proposed to the members at the meeting which first considers this report, or at any subsequent meeting of the membership or its board of directors.

While the recommendations contained in this report are concerned in large part with the display of miniature daffodils at shows, it should be evident that adoption of the report will be helpful in other ways. For one thing, "miniature" as applied to daffodils will no longer be an ambiguous term. It should be used hereafter only in connection with species and named garden hybrids included in the approved ADS list. Oral discussion and correspondence may be carried on with mutual understanding. It is also hoped that horticultural literature and bulb catalogs will accept the proposed terminology.

If the objectives stated on an earlier page are achieved, we shall feel well rewarded. If we have served the cause of a greater understanding and appreciation of the entire genus narcissus, we shall have fulfilled one of the obligations of membership in the American Daffodil Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly Anderson	Wells Knierim	George T. Pettus
Jane Birchfield	John R. Larus	Eve Robertson
Polly T. Brooks	Geo. S. Lee, Jr.	Laura Sue Roennfeldt
Elizabeth T. Capen	Helen K. Link	Robertta C. Watrous
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Glenn Dooley	Mary C. Nelson	John C. Wister
Eleanor Hill	Bill Pannill	Margaret Yerger
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Miniature Varieties of Garden Origin

5b	Agnes Harvey	6a	Mitzy
8	Angie	11	Muslin
5b	April Tears	2a	Mustard Seed
5b	Arctic Morn	11	Nylon
1b	Bambi	8	Pango
7b	Bebop	7b	Pease-blossom
7b	Bobbysoxer	4	Pencrebar
1a	Bowles' Bounty	2a	Picarillo
1a	Charles Warren	7b	Pixie
5b	Cobweb	11	Poplin
1c	Colleen Bawn	6b	Quince
8	cyclataz	5b	Raindrop
7b	Demure	1b	Rockery Beauty
11	Elfhorn	1c	Rockery White
7b	Flomay	2a	Rosaline Murphy
5b	Frosty Morn	5b	Samba
2a	Goldsithney	7b	Sea Gift
6a	Greenshank	5a	Sennocke
8	Halingy	8	Shrew
5b	Hawera	5a	Shrimp
8	Hiawassee	7a	Skiffle
7b	Hifi	1a	Sneezy
8	Hors d'oeuvre	6a	Snipe
11	Jessamy	1b	Snug
6a	Jetage	7b	Stafford
6a	Jumblie	7b	Sundial
4	Kehelland	7b	Sun Disc
5a	Kenellis	11	Taffeta
7b	Kidling	1a	Tanagra
7b	La Belle	11	Tarlatan
7b	Lintie	6a	Tête-à-Tête
1b	Little Beauty	6a	The Little Gentleman
7a	Little Prince	5a	Tristesse
2a	Marionette	2b	Tweeny
11	Marychild	1a	Wee Bee
5a	Mary Plumstead	1c	W. P. Milner
6a	minicycla (Hort.)	3c	Xit
6a	Mite		



Miniature Varieties of Garden Origin by Divisions

<u>Division 1a</u>	<u>Division 1b</u>	<u>Division 1c</u>	<u>Division 2a</u>
Bowles' Bounty	Bambi	Colleen Bawn	Goldsithney
Charles Warren	Little Beauty	Rockery White	Marionette
Sneezy	Rockery Beauty	W. P. Milner	Mustard Seed
Tanagra	Snug		Picarillo
Wee Bee			Rosaline Murphy
<u>Division 2b</u>	<u>Division 2c</u>	<u>Division 3a</u>	<u>Division 3b</u>
Tweeny			
<u>Division 3c</u>	<u>Division 4</u>	<u>Division 5a</u>	<u>Division 5b</u>
Kit	Kehelland	Kenellis	Agnes Harvey
	Pencrebar	Mary Plumstead	April Tears
		Sennocke	Arctic Morn
		Shrimp	Cobweb
		Tristesse	Frosty Morn
			Hawera
			Raindrop
			Samba
<u>Division 6a</u>	<u>Division 6b</u>	<u>Division 7b</u>	<u>Division 7b</u>
Greenshank	Quince	Little Prince	
Jetage		Skiffle	Bebop
Jumblie			Bobbysoxer
minicycla (Hort.)			Demure
Mite			Flomay
Mitzy			Hifi
Snipe			Kidling
Tête-à-Tête			La Belle
The Little Gentleman			Lintie
<u>Division 8</u>	<u>Division 11</u>		Pease-blossom
Angie	Elfhorn	Nylon	Pixie
cyclataz	Jessamy	Poplin	Sea Gift
Halingy	Marychild	Taffeta	Stafford
Hiawassee	Muslin	Tarlatan	Sundial
Hors d'Oeuvre			Sun Disc
Pango			
Shrew			

Division 10  
See Exhibit A  
Sheet 3



Miniature Species, Wild Forms, Wild Hybrids (Div. X)

alpestris = pseudo-narcissus alpestris	marvieri = rupicola marvieri
Angel's Tears = triandrus albus	minimus = asturiensis
asturiensis	minor
atlanticus	" conspicuus (Hort.)
	" pumilus
aurantiacus = triandrus aurantiacus	moschatus = pseudo-narcissus
	moschatus
bertolonii = tazetta bertolonii	moschatus plenus = pseudo-narcissus
	moschatus plenus
bicolor = pseudo-narcissus bicolor	nanus = minor
bulbocodium (various)	obvallaris = pseudo-narcissus
	obvallaris
calathinus = triandrus loiseleurii	pseudo-narcissus
calcicola	" " alpestris
	" " bicolor
canaliculatus = tazetta laticolor	" " moschatus
canaliculatus (Hort.)	" " moschatus plenus
cantabricus (various)	" " obvallaris
capax plenus = eyestettensis	pumilus = minor pumilus
concolor = triandrus concolor	rupicola
	" marvieri
cyclamineus	scaberulus
dubius	tazetta bertolonii
eyestettensis	" laticolor canaliculatus
	(Hort.)
fernandesii	tenuior
hedraeanthus	triandrus
	" albus
jonquilla minor	" aurantiacus
	" concolor
juncifolius	" loiseleurii
lobularis = minor conspicuus (Hort.)	watieri



## Exhibit B

Varieties and Species Not Qualifying as Miniatures

1c Alice Knights	7a Fairy Nymph	2a Pepper
1b Apricot	6a February Gold	5a Phyllida Garth
2c April Snow	6a February Silver	3b Picador
2c Arctic Moon	10 gayi = pseudo-narcissus gayi	7b Pipers Barn
5a Auburn	6a Golden Cycle	10 pseudo-narcissus gayi
7a Aurelia	8 Grand Primo Citronière	10 " pallidiflorus
6a Baby Doll	5a Honey Bells	1c Rockery Gem
7b Baby Moon	10 intermedius	6a Roger
6a Bartley	5b Ivory Gate	5b Rosedown
6b Beryl	6a Jana	1b Rosy Trumpet
9 Black Prince	6a Jenny	3b Ruby
6a Caerhays	5a Johanna	5a Shot Silk
6a Charity May	10 jonquilla	5b Sidhe
7b Cheyenne	10 " -Helena (Hort.)	10 simplex = jonquilla
7b Cora Ann	10 " -Nell (Hort.)	7b Skylon
6a Cornet	2b Lady Bee	7b Sugarbush
1b Cowley	6a Larkelly	7a Sweetness
6a Cyclades	6a Le Beau	4 telemonius plenus (Hort.)
4 Daphne	6a Little Witch	6a The Knave
5b Dawn	6a March Breeze	5b Thoughtful
3a Dinkie	6a March Sunshine	7b Tittle-Tattle
1a Dorothy Bucknall	10 moschatus=pseudo-narcissus moschatus	6a Trewergie
6a Dove Wings	7b Nirvana	4 van Sion=telemonius plenus
5a Elizabeth F. Prentis	2a Nor-Nor	1b William Goldring
6a Estrellita	7b Orange Queen	5a Yellow Warbler
3b Fairy Circle	2c Panda	