

Daffodil Section

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Miniature Daffodils

There is no doubt that the smaller daffodils have increased greatly in popularity in recent years. Some critics imply that admirers of the so-called miniatures like them simply because they are small, and do not apply other criteria in judging them. Although this may have been true in the past, because of the limited amount of material available, a more critical attitude is in order now that more and more hybridizers are turning their attention to this type of flower. Some of us believe that miniature daffodils can be judged just as dispassionately as the larger ones, but that all the points of excellence need not and should not be the same as those used in judging larger show varieties.

With the hope that readers of this Section will cooperate by reporting their opinions of the varieties with which they are familiar, a list of miniature daffodils has been compiled. In commenting on these varieties, let us see if we can agree on how the various standards used in judging daffodils should be applied for miniatures. First, color: In small daffodils as in larger ones we value clean whites and clear, bright yellows and reds. Delicate cream, straw, and primrose tints are also admired, and a hint of pink is welcome. But dinginess or streaks should not be tolerated in small flowers any more than in large ones. Second, Substance: here, too, we can follow the standards established for larger flowers. Especially to be avoided are flimsy perianths. Next, Form: It is in this characteristic that the widest departure from large-flower standards will be al-

lowed. The impression of smartness we get from a large flower of perfect form and balance may be enjoyed on a smaller scale, but some features not always admired in larger flowers may seem acceptable, even attractive, in very small ones—for instance reflexed perianths or narrow and twisted perianth segments. Delicacy and jauntiness are qualities that seem more appropriate to small flowers than to large ones. Stems should be strong enough to support the flower without bending. Length of stem and the relation between length of stem and size of flower depend on where the flower is to be used. For plants grown in rock gardens or in pots for use indoors very short stems with comparatively large flowers may be desirable. For use in garden borders, for naturalizing in semi-wild conditions, or for cutting a longer stem (possibly at least three times the larger dimension of the flower or cluster) seems essential. Although a height of twelve inches is usually considered the limit for miniatures this seems over-generous; perhaps a separate category of "intermediates" is needed. As for the flower, shape as well as measurements must be considered: a flower with narrow reflexed or drooping perianth does not seem as large as one whose perianth segments are wide and flat.

In the list that follows the height, name of breeder, date of registration, and parentage are given, so far as available. As the heights are taken from various printed sources some inconsistency is to be expected. Notes on parentage are given in the hope that they will inspire amateur hybridizers



Water H. Gammarway Photograph

Narcissus Flomay

to go and do likewise. Surely work with the small species is the most rewarding field for small-scale hybridizers.

Additions to the list, as well as comments of all kinds, will be gratefully received.

Ia: Charles Warren, 5" (Unknown origin, introduced 1948; form of *Narcissus pumilus*); Sneezy, 4" (Alec Gray; *N. asturiensis* × *obvallaris*); Tanagra, 5-6" (Gray, 1946; *N. asturiensis* × *obvallaris*); Wee Bee, 5" (G. Zandbergen-Terwegen; sport from *N. nanus*).

Ib. Apricot, 12" (de Graaff, 1898); Bambi, 6" (Dutch origin, 1948); J. B. M. Camm, 5" (W. Backhouse, 1884); Rockery Beauty, 4-6" (W. J. Eldering, 1928).

Ic: Alice Knights, 8" (Barr & Sons, 1905); Rockery Gem, 9" (R. A. Van der Schoot, 1930); Rockery White, 6" (G. Zandbergen-Terwegen, 1936; from *N. nanus*); W. P. Milner, 9" (W. Backhouse, 1890).

Ila: Goldsithney, 8" (Gray, 1949); Marionette, 4" (Gray, 1946); Mustardseed, 3-4" (Gray, 1937); Nor-Nor, 9" (G. L. Wilson, 1941); Pepper, 12" (J. C. Williams, 1933).

IIf: Seville, 10-14" (P. D. Williams, 1908); Strongbow, 7" (G. H. Englehart, 1899).

IIf: Angie, 8" (Gray, 1948; *N. dubius* × a IIIa).

II or III (?): Picarillo, 4" (Mrs. G. Anley; *N. watieri* × *pumilus*); Tweeney, 6" (Gray; a large Ila × *N. watieri*).

IIIa: Belle Chinoise (A. M. Wilson, 1930).

IIIb: Elizabeth Ryan, 7"; Fairy Circle, 12" (The Brodie of Brodie, 1913); Lady Bee, 10" (Barr, 1929); Picador (P. D. Williams, 1910); Ruby, 10" (Sir Charles H. Cave, Bt., 1907);

Xit, 5-6" (Gray, 1948; *N. watieri* × a large IIc).

IV: Kehelland, 6-8" (Gray, 1946); Pencrebar, 6" (Unknown origin, 1929.)

Va or Vb (?): Auburn, 9-12" (D. Blanchard; Goldbeater × *N. triandrus aurantiacus*); Johanna, 9" (W. Backhouse).

Va: April Tears, 6" (Gray, 1939; *N. jonquilla* × *triandrus concolor*); Dancing Fairy (S. S. Berry, 1937; *N. triandrus albus* × Bernardino); Hawera, 8" (W. M. Thomson, 1938; *N. jonquilla* × *triandrus albus*); Kenellis, 8" (Gray, 1948; *N. triandrus* and *bulbocodium*); Phyllida Garth, 9-12" (Gray, 1948); Raindrop, 4" (Gray, 1942; *N. dubius* × *triandrus calathinus*); Sennocke, 4" (F. R. Waley, 1948; *N. triandrus* × *bulbocodium*); Trimon (A. W. Tait, 1899; *N. triandrus albus* × *bulbocodium monophyllus*).

Vb: Arctic Morn, 6-8" (Gray, 1949); Cobweb, 10" (Gray, 1938); Dawn, 11" (Engleheart, 1907; *N. triandrus* and a Poeticus?); Frosty Morn, 6" (Gray, 1941); Ivory Gate, 9-12" (Gray, 1949).

VIa or VIb (?): Golden Chimes (Berry, 1937; *N. jonquilla* × *cyclamineus*); Jack-be-Nimble (Mrs. K. L. Reynolds, 1939); Jack-be-Quick (Reynolds, 1939; Lady Hillingdon × *N. cyclamineus*).

VIa: Chicopee, 5" (E. C. Powell, 1946; *N. obvallaris* × *cyclamineus*); Estrellita, 12" (G. E. Mitsch; Mite × Malvern Gold); Golden Cycle, 6" (H. G. Hawker, 1916); Minicycla, 3" (A. M. Chapman, 1913; *N. minimus* × *cyclamineus*); Mite, 4" (Booth); Tête-à-Tête, 4-6" (Gray, 1949); Cyclataz × self).

VIb: Beryl, 8" (P. D. Williams, 1907; *N. cyclamineus* and a Poeticus);



Water H. Gannaway Photograph.

Narcissus April Tears

Fairy Wings (G. S. Crouch, 1938; *N. cyclamineus* × *poeticus*); Little Witch, 9" (Mrs. R. O. Backhouse, 1929); Perconger, 10" (Gray, 1941).

VIIa or VIIb (?): Kidling, 6" (Gray; *N. jonquilla* × *juncifolius*); Larkelly, 10" (P. D. Williams, 1930); Yamolf, 4" (Gray).

VIIb: Beebop, 5-6" (Gray, 1949; *N. rupicola* one parent); Bobbysoxer, 7-8" (Gray, *N. rupicola* one parent); Cora Ann, 10-12" (W. F. Mitchell, 1939); Flomay, 4" (Gray, 1946); La Belle, 6" (Barr, 1937; *N. juncifolius* and a *Poeticus*?); Lintie, 7-8" (Barr, 1937; *N. juncifolius* and a *Poeticus*?); Orange Queen, 7-9" (Cartwright & Goodwin, Ltd., 1908; form of *N. odorus*?); Peaseblossom, 4" (Gray, 1938; *N. juncifolius* × *triandrus albus*); Pipers Barn, 8" (Gray, 1947); Sea Gift, 6" (Unknown origin, 1935); Sun Disc, 6" (Gray, 1946; *N. rupicola* one parent).

VIII: Halingy, 6" (Gray, 1948; Scilly White one parent); Shrew, 2-3" (Gray; *N. canaliculatus* × *minor*).

X: Cyclataz, 6" (Tait, 1932; *N. cyclamineus* and *Soleil d'Or*).

XI: Elfhorn, 4" (Gray, 1941; *N. bulbocodium* hybrid); Nylon, 4" (D. Blanchard, 1949; *N. bulbocodium romieuxii* × *bulbocodium monophyllum*); Pango, 8" (Gray, 1949; *N. dubius* × a IIIa).

Winning Varieties in Specimen Classes, Fourth National Capital Narcissus Show, Chevy Chase, Md., April 18-19, 1953.

Best flower in show and best vase of

three stems: Chinese White. Second-best flower in show: Blarney.

Award winners by classes:

Ia: Gold-digger, Burgomeister Gouverneur, Counsellor, Lord Nelson, Irish Luck, Royalist; Ib: Sincerity, Anjou, Straight, President Lebrun; Ic: Beersheba, Robert Berkeley, Gaza, Chastity, Milo, Mt. Hood.

IIa: Tinker, Velveteen, Aranjuez, Crocus, Rustom Pasha, Rosslare, Copper Bowl; IIb: Fedora, Green Island Grayling, Menton, Carnalea, Flamenco, Monique, Coverack Perfection, Rose of Tralee; IIc: Dunlevy, Hera, White Duchess, Silver Bugle; IID: Binkie.

IIIa: Chungking, Spring Beauty, Mangosteen, Granville; IIIb: Blarney, Hardy, Misty Moon, Franz Liszt, The Governor, Picador, Crenver, Lough Areema, Grey Lady; IIIc: Chinese White, Portrush, Silver Salver, Silvermine.

IV: Cheerfulness, Inglescomb, Daphne, Camellia, Mary Copeland.

Va: Rippling Waters, April Tears, Pearly Queen, Niveth, Moonshine; Vb: Silver Chimes, Dawn.

VIa: Le Beau, March Sunshine; VIIb: Beryl.

VIIa: Aurelia, General Pershing, Golden Sceptre, Tunis × *Jonquilla* seedling, VIIb, Golden Perfection, Trim, Chérie.

VIII: Martha Washington, Sparkling Eye, St. Agnes, Hermanii, Geranium, La Fiancée.

IX: Cantabile, Sidelight, Actaea, Eifina.

X: *N. jonquilla simplex*, *N. juncifolius*, *N. gracilis*, *N. triandrus albus*.