

PLATE 468

ADDISONIA



NARCISSUS "WHITE QUEEN"

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"White Queen" Narcissus

Of Horticultural Origin

Family AMARYLLIDACEAE

AMARYLLIS Family

When the Narcissus classification was made after the Conference of 1884 the group with white flowers or with white flowers with lemon or sulphur cups was named by Mr. Barr, after Mr. Leeds, a stock broker of Manchester, England, who had raised many daffodil seedlings and who was one of the greatest enthusiasts about that flower during the Nineteenth Century. This section has two divisions, one with "incomparabilis" measurements, namely the cup measuring more than one third the length of a perianth segment and one with short or flat cups following the "Barrii" measurements.

Narcissus "White Queen" is a giant "Leedsii" and belongs to division A.

The Reverend G. H. Engleheart is perhaps the person responsible for the greatest number of good daffodils that are known to horticulturalists at the present time. He has raised many good poeticus varieties, many dazzling Barriis and several of the most startling of modern *Narcissi*, among the most famous being the white trumpet "Beersheba" and the Giant "Leedsii", "Tenedos". "White Queen" is not new for it received the coveted First Class Certificate of the Royal Horticultural Society in 1898, being first introduced in 1901. It is a good grower and comes into bloom just after the early varieties. Many of these finer varieties are good "forcers" and may be grown in pots. The forced-bulb show held in London each year is of great value to florists and amateurs, allowing them to see the newer varieties and also to know what may be forced successfully and the period of bloom. It is not difficult to force *Narcissi* if attention is paid to certain details. The bulbs should be potted up in August, suitable varieties being chosen. Broken pieces of charcoal should be placed in the bottom of pots or boxes (these boxes should have drainage holes in the bottom) then comes a layer of old, partly decayed sod upon which is put the mixture of good top soil, sharp sand and a small portion of wood ashes. A little soot will do no harm. The bulbs are put in quite closely together, varying the number according to their size and the size of the pot or box. They are watered well and the pots, etc., placed in a trench which has a

three-inch layer of coal ashes in the bottom. Fill in between the pots, etc., with ashes and if possible cover the pots with granulated peat moss or, if this is not to be had, cover two inches deep with ashes. After heavy frosts come, throw on some coarse hay or leaves and put a mat over the top to keep them down and part of the frost out. The pots will become filled with roots, the more the better. If there is a bad, dry spell in the autumn some water will have to be given as after the roots come they must not dry out. The bulbs should remain where they are for three months when some of the pots may be brought into a cool greenhouse or a cool room or porch in the house. Keep them partially shaded until the pale sprouts turn green and water thoroughly about three times a week. The pots may gradually be brought into more warmth but, remember, they cannot be forced rapidly as stems will be poor and weak. No real warmth should be allowed to come near the pots until flower buds show. There should be plenty of ventilation, and for tall varieties slender green stakes may be set around the outsides of the pots or boxes with a turn of fine green string to prevent too straggly an appearance. After the flowers are over water slightly, just keeping damp, until the leaves are ripe when the bulbs may be planted out or if danger from frost is gone by, gently shake the bulbs apart, being careful not to break the roots, and plant out at once. They will need no other care and after a year or so in the open the largest bulbs may be dug again for forcing.

The flower of "White Queen" narcissus is carried on a slender but strong stem fourteen inches high and is of a pale chalcedony yellow fading to almost white. The perianth segments overlap at the base, three of them being almond shape, one inch broad at the widest place. The three others are pointed; all are one and a half inch long. The cup is one inch deep, is delicately fringed and of a citron yellow. The whole flower is three and a half inches in diameter, has a fragrance akin to "Castile soap" and is held well up without any appearance of drooping. The leaves are the same length as the flower stem, are half an inch wide and pointed. They are sage green and are heavily ridged down the centre, being twisted slightly at the apex.

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