The many types of daffodils. Although all daffodils are narcissus, and vice-versa, there are about 25 species and wild hybrids in this branch of the Amaryllis family, so the variation is much greater than most people realize. Some of the species are very tiny, and are classed as "miniature". Those include Narcissus triandrus, N. cyclamineus, N. jonquilla, and N. bulbocodium. Many of these species are dug from the hills of Spain and Portugal, where they are native, and are sold cheaply, but in general these small species are not good garden subjects and most do not persist more than a year or so. The larger species have been selected and improved by cross-breeding until now there are thousands of named varieties, the majority introduced since World War II. Most familiar are the trumpets, now designated as Division I.

Another of the larger species is the so-called "pet" daffodil (Division 9), with the red-rimmed small green eye and the sweet scent. By crossing the poets with the trumpets, the very lovely large-cup (Division 2) and small-cup (Division 3) types have been developed. These are the ones with the widest color range: gold petals with red cups, white petals with pink cups, apricot petals with orange cups, creamy petals with green cups, rimmed gold, etc. Many of these beautiful daffodils are not well-known as only a few varieties are widely sold. The acquiring of exciting ones takes some planning ahead.

Hybridizers have also been working with the miniature species, and in crossing these with the "standard" trumpets and poets, a whole race of charming small (golden) daffodils has been developed. The triandrus hybrids (Division 5), include 'Thalia', often found in larger garden stores, but there are many others, both white and yellow, with names like 'Merry Bells', 'Silver Bells', 'Jingle Bells', 'Harmony Bells'. All have several flowers per stem, slightly drooping like bells.

The hybrids developed from N. cyclamineus are equally delightful. They tend to bloom earliest of all, one to a stem. A well-known one is 'February Gold', but among dozens of others are orange-cupped ones such as 'Jetfire', and white and yellow ones such as 'Dove Wings'. These are all in Division 6.

Division 7 is derived from N. jonquilla, a species which has 5 or 6 very small, golden, sweet-scented flowers per stem. These hybrids are perhaps the most popular of the smaller flowers for they are hardest as well as very prolific in bloom. Named varieties include 'Trevithian', but by looking further one can find a whole avairy of jonquil hybrids: 'Flycatcher', 'Pipit', 'Kinglet', 'Dickcissel', 'Quail', 'Chat', 'Verey', 'Vireo', 'Curlew'...as well as a host of other fine ones.

Other hybridizers are working to improve the double forms (Div. 4) so that these camellia-like daffodils now have strong stems and a color range that goes all the way to pink. The flowers in Division 8 are more tender. This section includes the winter-forcing 'Paper White', but there are some which are more hardy, such as 'Geranium' and 'Golden Dawn'. These are late-bloomers, coming after the trumpets are long gone.

**Conclusion.**

Daffodils make wonderful garden articles about spring-flowering bulbs, and dig holes may well be forgotten. They have as much information right then and there about ways and means of duplicating that splash of blooms, and unless they receive information right then and there about ways and means of planting.
DIVISION V—TRIANDRUS NARCISISUS. Usually more than one flower to a stem, head is drooping, perianth segments often reflexed and of a silky texture. The cup is shaped like half an egg.

DIVISION VI—CYCLAMINEUS NARCISISUS. One flower to a stem, perianth reflexed and corona straight and narrow.

DIVISION VII—JONQUILLA NARCISISUS. Usually several flowers to a stem, although a few cultivars have only one bloom.

DIVISION VIII—TAZETTA NARCISISUS. Usually two to six or more flowers to a stem, sweet scented, very small-cupped. Perianth segments rounded and often somewhat crinkled.

DIVISION IX—POETICUS NARCISISUS. Single flowers, one to a stem, glistening white petals, small flat cup edged with red.

DIVISION X—SPECIES AND WILD FORMS AND WILD HYBRIDS. All species and wild, or reputedly wild forms and hybrids.

DIVISION XI—SPLIT CORONA NARCISISUS. Corona split for at least one-third of its length. The corona may be split into three or six segments spreading outward towards the tips of the perianth segments.

DIVISION XII—MISCELLANEOUS NARCISISUS. All narcissus not falling into any of the foregoing divisions.

Sources of information. No article about daffodils is complete without the mention of the American Daffodil Society. Any interested gardener is welcome to join this group. Membership is $10.00/year, for which one receives a quarterly Journal (National Council prize-winner). Checks for membership, made out to the American Daffodil Society, may be mailed to Wm. O. Ticknor, Exec. Dir., Tyner, NC 27980. The ADS office has for sale a number of informative booklets: the Handbook for Growing, Exhibiting, and Judging Daffodils ($3.50), and Daffodils to Show and Grow, a list of about 2,000 of the best-known cultivars and species, with information on Division, color, size, parentage, year of introduction, etc. ($4.00). Nine sets of slides are available for rent ($7.50 to members, $15.00 to non-members) by applying to the chairman: Mrs. Kelly Shryoc, 2933 Owenwood Dr., Ft. Worth, TX 76109.

Much information can be gleaned by perusing the catalogs of daffodil growers. U.S.A. sources include: Richard Havens (handling Grant Mitsch originations) P.O. Box 218, Hubbard, Oregon 97032 (colored illustrations, $2.50, redeemed with first order); de Jager Bulbs, Inc., 188 Ashbury St., S. Hamilton, Mass. 01982 ($1.00); The Daffodil Mart, Rte. 3, Box 208 R, Gloucester, VA, 23061. Overseas sources: John De la, Dunley Hall, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire, DY13 OTX, England; Carnearn Daffodils, LTD, Broughshane, Ballymena, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland; Rathowen Daffodils, Dergmoney, Omagh, C. Tyrone, N. Ireland; and for those who would like the challenge of acclimatizing daffodils from "down under" (the bulbs arrive in the spring and have to be held until fall to plant): Jackson's Daffodils, P.O. Box 77, Geeveston, Tasmania, 7116 (Australia).

A spring-written story, giving this information, will enable those interested to order catalogs from these growers so orders for bulbs may be sent in early summer. The earlier the better, as some stocks sell out quickly. Also, early orders are delivered early in the fall, so that planting can be done before cold weather. Thus, it is good to remind your readers for unusual daffodils, it's a sound idea to PLAN AHEAD.

January-February, 1983

Book Notes


Theme Gardens by Barbara Dambrosch Workman, 1982, $19.95. Sixteen gardens with schematic drawings and lists of plants, planned for small areas.


Fuchsias for House and Garden by Sidney Chapham. Universal Books, 1982, $15.00. Contains a fuchsia growers calendar and information on how to pot, prune, and propagate a plant that is making a comeback.

Hedges, Screens & Espaliers: how to select, grow and enjoy by Susan Chamberlin. H. Workman, 1982, $9.95. How to use plants as living walls, borders, and dividers. Useful information on how to use plants for energy conservation and the creation of a more attractive environment.

Pruning: how to guide for gardeners by Robert L. Stebbins and Michael MacCaskie. HPBooks, 1983, $7.95. How to prune trees, shrubs, flowers, and fruit. Good material on tools and how to use them and how to select an arborist.


