

Newsletter

of the
**Northern Ireland
Daffodil Group**



Half-yearly publication of the
Northern Ireland Daffodil Group

OCTOBER 1984
ISSUE

The Northern Ireland Daffodil Group



Objects

The purpose for which the Society is established is the advancement of horticultural education through the study of the genus *Narcissus* and in furtherance of such purpose:

- (i) to promote public participation in the said educational purpose;
- (ii) to promote the establishment of public gardens or of display beds in such gardens which include plantings of *Narcissus* bulbs;
- (iii) to provide bulb stocks for plantings within para (ii) above;
- (iv) to promote, or advance scientific or practical research into the breeding, cultivation, and production of *Narcissus* cultivars;
- (v) to promote, or advance the study of *Narcissus* diseases and pests with particular reference to making Northern Ireland an international centre for the production of healthy stocks of *Narcissus*;
- (vi) to promote, or advance the production of new and improved cultivars of *Narcissus* by hybridisation, and the increase of stocks of the best types of existing cultivars;
- (vii) to publish, or assist in the publication of scientific and practical information and to publish a journal in respect of the activities of the Society;
- (viii) to promote, or advance the holding of shows, lectures, meetings, and displays which include exhibits of material relating to the *Narcissus* and to which the public is admitted, and wherever held throughout the World;
- (ix) to promote, or sponsor the promotion of classes for *Narcissus* at any Horticultural Show including the provision of trophies, cups, or prizes for such classes;
- (x) to provide, or nominate suitable qualified persons to judge classes or exhibits of *Narcissus* at any Horticultural Show or at any Show or display having such a class or exhibit;
- (xi) to provide, or nominate suitable qualified persons to give lectures, or to provide exhibits relating to the *Narcissus*;
- (xii) to aid, and to receive aid from the Departments of Agriculture in Northern Ireland, and for England, Wales, and Scotland, or from any body or person whether incorporated or not and whether carrying on activities in Northern Ireland or elsewhere, which has objects which include the purpose of the Society and which aid will advance the purpose of the Society;
- (xiii) to grant financial aid to meet in whole or in part the travel costs of a person provided or nominated by the Society to act as a judge at a Show within para (x) above, or to give a lecture or provide an exhibit within para (xi) above, or to provide a trophy, cup or prize at a Show within para (ix) above, whether or not such person is a member of the Society;
- (xiv) to accept subscriptions and gifts (whether of real, chattel real or personal assets), devises and bequests;
- (xv) to borrow, or raise, or secure the payment of money by mortgage or otherwise;
- (xvi) generally to manage, invest, and expend all the property and monies of the Society;
- (xvii) to affiliate or associate with any body or person whether incorporated or not, and whether carrying on activities in Northern Ireland or elsewhere;
- (xviii) to do all such other acts which lawfully are incidental to the purpose of the Society.

THE NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP

NEWSLETTER

October, 1984

Vol. 2 No. 5

OFFICERS OF THE GROUP

Chairman

JACK CARLISLE, Northern Bank, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

Vice-Chairman

KATE READE, Carncairn Lodge, Broughshane, Ballymena

Secretary

SAM BANKHEAD, 32 Ballybollen Road, Ahoghill, Ballymena
Telephone Ballymena 871899

Treasurer

GILBERT ANDREWS, 1 Glenholm Crescent, Belfast
Telephone Belfast 702881

Committee

MRS. E. MAJOR, 62 Abbey Park, Bangor
MRS. M. JONES, 21 Ward Avenue, Bangor
WILLIAM DUKELOW, 70 Dublin Road, Omagh
B. S. DUNCAN, Dergmoney, Omagh

Liaison to Northern Ireland Growers

W. J. TOAL, 16 Beechland Park, Dunmurry

Liaison to Guy Wilson Gardens

TOM BLOOMER, Galgorm Road, Ballymena

Liaison to Ministry of Agriculture

H. CROSBIE COCHRANE, 3 Manse Road, Newtownards

Newsletter Editor

SANDY McCABE, 21 Parkmount Crescent, Ballymena. Tel. 48231

Rules of the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group

1. **Title**
The group shall be called "The Northern Ireland Daffodil Group Society".
2. **Registered Office**
The registered office is 1 Glenholm Crescent, Belfast BT8 4LT.
3. **Objects**
The purpose for which the Society is established is the advancement of horticultural education through the study of the genus *Narcissus* and in furtherance of such purpose:
 - (i) to promote public participation in the said educational purpose;
 - (ii) to promote the establishment of public gardens or of display beds in such gardens which include plantings of *Narcissus* bulbs;
 - (iii) to provide bulb stocks for plantings within para (ii) above;
 - (iv) to promote, or advance scientific or practical research into the breeding, cultivation, and production of *Narcissus* cultivars;
 - (v) to promote, or advance the study of *Narcissus* diseases and pests with particular reference to making Northern Ireland an international centre for the production of healthy stocks of *Narcissus*;
 - (vi) to promote, or advance the production of new and improved cultivars of *Narcissus* by hybridisation, and the increase of stocks of the best types of existing cultivars;
 - (vii) to publish, or assist in the publication of scientific and practical information and to publish a journal in respect of the activities of the Society;
 - (viii) to promote, or advance the holding of shows, lectures, meetings, and displays which include exhibits or material relating to the *Narcissus* and to which the public is admitted, and wherever held throughout the World;
 - (ix) to promote, or sponsor the promotion of classes for *Narcissus* at any Horticultural Show including the provision of trophies, cups, or prizes for such classes;
 - (x) to provide, or nominate suitable qualified persons to judge classes or exhibits of *Narcissus* at any Horticultural Show or at any Show or display having such a class or exhibit;
 - (xi) to provide, or nominate suitable qualified persons to give lectures, or to provide exhibits relating to the *Narcissus*;
 - (xii) to aid, and to receive aid from the Departments of Agriculture in Northern Ireland, and for England, Wales, and Scotland, or from any body or person whether incorporated or not and whether carrying on activities in Northern Ireland or elsewhere, which has objects which include the purpose of the Society and which aid will advance the purpose of the Society;
 - (xiii) to grant financial aid to meet in whole or in part the travel costs of a person provided or nominated by the Society to act as a judge at a Show within para (x) above, or to give a lecture or provide an exhibit within para (xi) above, or to provide a trophy, cup or prize for a Show within para (ix) above, whether or not such person is a member of the Society;
 - (xiv) to accept subscriptions and gifts (whether of real, chattel real or personal assets), devises and bequests;
 - (xv) to borrow or raise, or secure the payment of money by mortgage or otherwise;
 - (xvi) generally to manage, invest, and expend all the property and monies of the Society;
 - (xvii) to affiliate, or associate with any body or person whether incorporated or not, and whether carrying on activities in Northern Ireland or elsewhere;
 - (xviii) to do all such other acts which lawfully are incidental to the purpose of the Society.
4. **Membership and Subscription**
Membership of the Society shall be open to anyone on the payment of a minimum subscription, for the time being, of £4 per annum or £10 for 3 years due on the 1st January. Any member being twelve months in arrears shall be deemed to have resigned.

Honorary Members, who shall be elected on the recommendation of the Committee at a general meeting of the Society shall not be eligible to vote and shall not be liable to pay the subscription.

5. **Committee**
The management of the Society shall be vested in the committee of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer and four additional members, and the committee shall have power to co-opt, and power also to invite a non-member to attend its proceedings.
A quorum for committee meetings shall be four, with the Chairman having a casting vote.
A record of proceedings shall be kept.
The officers and committee shall be elected annually at the annual general meeting, and may be removed from office only by a general meeting.
6. **Sub-Committees**
The committee shall have power to appoint a sub-committee for any special purpose. A sub-committee shall make a record of its proceedings. The Chairman of each sub-committee shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.
7. **Annual General Meeting and Other General Meetings**
The annual general meeting shall be held in January each year, and other general meetings may be held at any time directed by the committee. Ten or more members may convene a general meeting if the committee refuses their written request for a general meeting. At least 7 days notice in writing shall be given of any general meeting and shall state the agenda.
A quorum for General Meetings shall be fifteen, with the Chairman having a casting vote.
Any member desiring to propose a resolution shall send the proposed resolution in writing to the Honorary Secretary, to arrive not less than 48 hours before the meeting.
8. **Amendment of Rules**
Rules may only be amended at a general meeting of which due notice had been given.
9. **Voting at General Meetings**
Every fully paid up member shall be entitled to vote at a general meeting and the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
A record of the business conducted shall be kept.
10. **Accounts**
A Bank Account shall be maintained in the name of the Society and cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer and the Chairman or Secretary.
An audited statement of the accounts of the Society shall be submitted by the Treasurer to the annual general meeting.
An auditor, whether honorary or paid, shall be elected at each annual general meeting.
11. **Disputes**
Any dispute between a member and the committee shall be determined by a sub-committee appointed under Rule 6 and the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Society, the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer for the time being, shall be members of such sub-committee.
12. **Dissolution**
On dissolution of the Society the assets shall not be divisible between the members but shall be given to a body, whether incorporated or not which has purposes which are charitable in a manner as nearly as may be resembling the purpose of the Society and which is selected by the Society at its terminal general meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

It does indeed seem a short time ago since I wrote my first message to you as your Chairman in this magazine, yet two years have hastily passed and here I am penning my final letter. I find it an opportune time to reflect and review the ambitions and achievements of the N.I.D.G. over the years. To do this we must firstly remember to keep the aims of the Society in view.

Although we are the most recently formed specialist daffodil society, in our short period of existence our activities and progress have gained us the admiration and respect of other societies. Our assistance to local Horticultural Societies with daffodil classes in their Spring Shows by advice with their schedules, encouragement of larger entries in various classes, and provision of judges, is greatly appreciated. It was rewarding to record last spring a show once more taking place in Coleraine. We extend congratulations and best wishes to Coleraine Horticultural Society.

Over the past years at our meetings we have been very fortunate in having informative talks and interesting discussions on such subjects as breeding, cultivation and exhibition. Regularly our speakers were well known experts, but it was heartening and pleasant on occasions to listen to members of the Group sharing with us their knowledge and experience.

Undoubtedly our largest and most successful show venture since our formation was hosting the World Daffodil Convention in 1979. That gathering brought to Northern Ireland the largest number of daffodil enthusiasts ever assembled at one time on this island. It will be some time before we can match anything on that scale again, but remembering that communication, friendship and fellowship play a large part in our success, it is good to see more members joining our organised trips to Harrogate Spring Show and the R.H.S. Spring Show in London, both as exhibitors and spectators. On these occasions new friendships are made, old friendships renewed, support and help given freely. The joy of an Irish success, whether it is one of the top growers or that of a small individual entry is an experience of pleasure for everybody!

Progress and development have only been possible because of the support we receive from you, our members, and I am delighted to advise you that the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group is continuing to prosper and grow, and providing we can retain the enthusiastic support we have enjoyed since our formation, our future is assured.

September, 1984

A. J. CARLISLE
Letterkenny

In garden arrangement one has not only to acquire a knowledge of what to do but also to gain some wisdom in perceiving what it is well to let alone.
Gertrude Jekyll

W. J. TOAL: An Appreciation

The 14th of July was not a happy day for any of us.

I had just finished breakfast when the telephone rang. It was Louis Toal to tell me that she had bad news for me — Billy had passed away in the early hours following a heart attack. I felt very sorry for Louis for it never crossed our minds that such a thing could happen.

This was for me the end of over half a century of the most wonderful friendship that one could ever have. Indeed, in a way, it was a special sort of friendship for to me there was only one Billy Toal. Yet in another way it wasn't the end for Billy's inspiration and the many qualities he possessed will be like my father's — ever a burning light pointing the way ahead.

The previous Saturday, my wife, Rita, and I had gone up to see him. It was a beautiful, warm, balmy evening with the sun shining late and there we sat drinking tea as usual and Billy was in great form. He was to go into hospital the following morning for a major operation, but there he sat "cracking" away and planning a day together in September to celebrate both our weddings. "Yes" he said "we'll make a day of it".

It is given to many to be liked but few to be loved. Billy was one who without any question whatsoever was deeply loved, for he always radiated love, kindness, tolerance, understanding and consideration. A person of complete integrity and depth of character, one whose loyalty to those around him was complete, who never was heard to utter any unkindness about another — one who possessed a rare richness of tranquility, contentment and peace of mind and when in his company you felt the warmth of one who was the complete gentleman. I was always amazed at his width and depth of knowledge for in those articles which appeared in "The Irish Times" for years on end, he shared with thousands — maybe hundreds of thousands — that knowledge and his love and sense of beauty flowed through every word he wrote. He enjoyed most those days when he could get away to a Daffodil Show and it did not matter whether he was judging or not for it was the company among friends which was special and to see the flowers he loved so much. Yes, he could, as Kipling wrote "Walk with kings" for that was the stature of the man who was completely at ease in any company. For me it was those moments wandering about a garden together or sitting beside his own fireside that will live forever in my mind, for there was an uniqueness about being in Billy's company enjoying him recalling old times or telling of rare occasions of country folk.

We shall all miss him very much and while our sympathy goes out to Louis our thanks go also — our thanks, Louis, for so generously sharing with us your wonderful husband. In Billy Toal no one had a better friend and he has enriched the world as few ever achieve.

W. J. DOUGLAS

The lesson I have thoroughly learned and wish to pass on to others is to know the enduring happiness that the love of a garden gives.
Gertrude Jekyll

LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL 1984

When our Editor heard that Kate and I were going to the Festival in Liverpool, he pointed a finger at me and said "You are going to write an article about it for the Group Magazine".

The idea of going to Liverpool originated about a year ago when George Tarry invited us to assist the Daffodil Society Northern Group by putting up a Trade Stand alongside the show benches where they were having a competitive exhibit.

The Festival was due to open on Wednesday, 2nd May, and our stand was expected to be there until the night of Monday 7th. We were due to cross on the Sunday night boat to Liverpool; stage on Monday and Tuesday ready for the opening. This meant that flowers cut on the Friday or Saturday would have to last 10 days or more.

We put our 22-years-old Land Rover through its M.O.T. test on Friday and set off on the Sunday laden down with boxes, moss leaves and all the usual impedimenta of the daffodil exhibitor.

George had given us explicit instructions on how to get from the docks to the Festival site — which was just as well, because at 7.30 a.m. there were very few people about to tell us the way. We drove into the site amid piles of rubble, brick, earth and whatever debris you care to name, and went to the magnificent Festival Hall.

When we arrived at the hall we were met and greeted by name by Ian Rowland-Smith, the floor manager and shown to our stand which was all ready for us. Robin Wiltshire and Ian could not have been more helpful and co-operative. Nothing was too much trouble for them and a lesson could be learnt here by some other shows in their approach to exhibitors.

Thanks to the help of George Tarry, John Williams and Bill Morris of the Daffodil Society, we had all our blooms staged in vases by Monday night, which left us all Tuesday to design and arrange the stand and to throw out a lot of flowers which had not survived the journey, having been picked in temperatures varying from 74°F to 77°F.

At this stage the international incident occurred. Next door to us the Government of Barbados had staged a display of exotic tropical flowers which they were hoping to introduce to the U.K. market. One of the organisers of the display had the bright idea of keeping the flowers warm at night and, to our horror, we saw two gas heaters and two huge cylinders of gas being wheeled on to our area of the hall. The temperature that day had been 74°F and a lot of our flowers were already wilting but this would have been the death knell of all the fresh blooms in our area of the hall. A frantic rush found Robin Wiltshire who ruled firmly that no heater would go on in the hall — a ruling that did not greatly please the Barbadians.

Wednesday morning saw an early reveille as judging would start at 6 a.m. Miraculously all the rubble, bricks, etc., had disappeared and what had been a dusty track was now a tarred road.

The Queen and Prince Philip duly arrived and at a short ceremony in the arena which we all attended, declared the Festival open. They spent the rest of the day touring the site and hall. Sadly H.M. did not actually come to our

Stand which she wanted to do as she was behind schedule, and though she pointed over to us, was hustled on.

Due to the length of time our blooms were expected to last we had arranged that our daughter, Patsy, and John Maybin would pick another 600 blooms for us, and she and James would take them up to the Liverpool boat on Wednesday evening. There they would bully or charm someone with space for 8 boxes in a car to take them over on the boat, and we would meet them at Liverpool on Thursday morning. She and James found Cecil McMillan from Saintfield with a large and empty Volvo Estate, who very kindly and willingly brought them over for us, and delivered them to us at Liverpool. Our thanks are due to him.

The whole of Thursday was spent staging and throwing out dead men, and after a brief visit on Friday morning again to cull, we came home on the boat. The Daffodil Society had guaranteed the Festival organisers that they would keep a display going until Tuesday, so that they very kindly looked after our stand as well as their own benches. For this we are most grateful to them.

In the Daffodil Society's Show classes Clive Postles won most of the trophies. In Class I six varieties of 3 stems he won with 'Misty Glen', 'Purbeck', 'Torrison' and 3 seedlings. In Class II six varieties of one stem he won with 'Misty Glen', 'Gold Convention', 'Cairn Toul', 'Minster Lodge', 'Ben Rinnes' and a seedling.

In Class I Sheffield Chrysanthemum Society were second and the Daffodil Society Northern Group third. In Class II this order was reversed.

To show willing in the International Theme, Bill and Rosie Roesse, when staying with us, had selected 6 American-raised blooms for Class II to be entered on behalf of the A.D.S. They were tired after the heat and got Highly Commended but at least it showed a presence.

Alas, nobody from the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group produced any flowers to be exhibited in spite of our offer to collect them, and Northern Ireland was unrepresented — apart from our stand — a pity!

In the other Single Bloom classes the names appearing under the Red Card (U.S. Blue) were F. Postles, D. Williams, W. Stewart, I. Wood, D. Barnes, G. Tarry, B. Stockley, R. Brook, P. Royles — showing 'Gold Convention', 'Cristobel', 'Honeybird', 'Torrison', 'Golden Aura', 'George Leak', 'Misty Glen', 'Grand Prospect', 'Merlin', 'Dalmanach', 'Cool Autumn', 'Lemonade', 'Gin and Lime', 'Dr. Hugh', 'Foundling', 'Bunting' and 'Cantabile'.

Best bloom was a seedling shown by F. Postles and Reserve was 'Dr. Hugh'; other outstanding flowers were 'Purbeck', 'Golden Aura', 'Daydream', 'Amber Castle', 'Inverpolly' and 'Chevalier'.

The concept of transforming 130 acres of old oil tanks, disused docks, rubbish dump and general decay into one huge garden with its waterfalls, lakes, ducks and other international ornamental features needed vision, and it is a great credit to those who initiated in all 30 months ago. The site will eventually be developed as a housing estate with the huge hall as its central feature making a magnificent athletics stadium, being, we were told, large enough to house a football field. Those of you who saw the T.V. presentation of the Festival site saw more than we did because three out of the four days were spent in staging; half the fourth day in the opening ceremony and preparation for it, and the other half in manning the stand as there was a large attendance while H.M. was there.

We would not have missed it for anything — the whole atmosphere of it — sweetened by a Gold Medal and a first prize for 'Quiet Day' in a class for 15 blooms of a variety introduced since 1981.

Finally we cannot thank George and Rita Tarry enough for providing the best hotel in the Wirral — lovely picnics in the hall — and much help in every way; also the Daffodil Society for all their help and numerous cups of coffee when most needed.

If anyone is travelling by road and boat and passing anywhere near Liverpool the Festival is a 'MUST'. It is very easy of access being on the way to Speke Airport and well worthwhile for Horticultural Societies to visit as a summer outing. There are cheap rates and the Festival continues until October featuring different flowers in their season.

ROBIN READE

OBITUARY: MR. JOHN S. B. LEA

It was with great shock and sadness that we received news of the sudden death of John Lea while he was on a fishing holiday in Scotland.

John Lea was the most successful of daffodil raisers in the British Isles since the end of the Richardson/Wilson era, and he won the Engleheart Cup twelve times since 1971 including an unbroken run from 1975 to 1984.

His methodical line breeding system resulted in new and undreamed-of standards in several types of daffodils, especially in reds and yellows, though it seems almost unfair to pick out any particular type as the flowers he exhibited each year in his Engleheart collection displayed a quality and range of colours which provided the focus for all enthusiasts. An analysis of Best Bloom Awards in Daffodil Shows throughout the British Isles and indeed further afield, would show a high proportion of Lea-raised varieties as winners. How often have 'Canisp', 'Inverpolly', 'Loch Hope', 'Achduart', 'Dailmanach' and 'Loch Naver' been Best in Show?

It was when I first visited the London Daffodil Show in 1964 that I became aware of John Lea and his daffodils. In his second prize Engleheart group there was the most magnificent and perfect daffodil bloom I could imagine — 'Canisp' and it was awarded Best Bloom. I have since shown slides of that particular bloom to numerous Horticultural Societies as an example of the qualities of a good exhibition daffodil.

In subsequent years those of us who regularly travelled to the London Daffodil Show came to know him well and to enjoy his cheerful sense of humour. His trade exhibits were staged with the same care and precision as his competitive entries and the freshness and polish of his flowers were a source of envy to some of us.

Awarded the Peter Barr Cup for his work with daffodils in 1972, John had just been appointed Chairman of the RHS Narcissus and Tulip Committee in 1984. In recent years he was a regular visitor and exhibitor at American Daffodil Society Conventions and had been invited to the New Zealand World Daffodil Convention in September 1984 as a special guest speaker.

Those of us who had the good fortune to know John Lea will miss him sadly. Our comfort will be in the many beautiful daffodils he has left as a legacy for enthusiasts throughout the world. Lea-raised daffodils will continue to win prizes and more importantly through their blood lives they will influence daffodils of the future for many decades. What better legacy of the hobby of a lifetime?

B. S. DUNCAN

GILNAHIRK DAFFODIL SHOW

The Show season opened on 7th April, 1984 at Gilnahirk.

The very cold spring retarded the flowers so much that the Show was sparsely supported. It was solely through the efforts of our Treasurer, Gilbert Andrews, that any flowers were on display.

The judging panel had their easiest job for years. Most classes only had one entry and in those classes where there was a multiplicity of entries; it was Gilbert competing against himself to give some semblance of a display for the public.

Ballydorn Bulb Farm did, however, exhibit some seedlings in the Open Classes. Best of these were a W-Y cross-bred from 'Preamble' and a 2Y-Y cross from 'Golden Amber' x 'Golden Aura'

Best Bloom in the Show went to Gilbert's 'Ben Hee' and other noteworthy blooms exhibited by him were 2W-R, 'Osmington', 'Ruth Haller' (Div. 5) and a vase of 3 'Rose Royale'.

Best in the Intermediate Classes were 'Banbridge' (1Y-Y) and 'Preamble' (1W-Y).

S. McCABE

BANGOR DAFFODIL SHOW

14th APRIL, 1984

The entries at Bangor were an improvement on Gilnahirk but some exhibitors were absent due to preparations for the London Show.

Two of our more recent converts made the long trip from Omagh and were well rewarded for their efforts. William Dukelow scooped Best Bloom in Show and Reserve Best Bloom with 'Golden Aura' and 'Loch Stac' respectively, while his travelling companion, George Marsden, did likewise in the Intermediate Section with 'Empress of Ireland' and 'Strines'. Best Bloom in the Novice Section was awarded to 'Dunlambert' shown by Miss J. Laverick with 'Banbride' (A. Todd) being runner-up.

In the Open Section — 12 Bloom Class — our Chairman, Jack Carlisle, got the verdict over Ballydorn. Best of the winning 12 were 'Rivendell', 'Crenelet', 'Owen Roe' and 'Sunapee' while the pick of Ballydorn's twelve were the aforementioned 'Owen Roe' and 'Golden Amber'.

The Amateur Open Session was keenly contested between William Dukelow and me. I was successful in the 12-Bloom Class and gained highest points in the Collection Classes while William scored highest points in the Single Bloom classes. My best flowers were 'Ben Hee', 'Ormeau', 'Violetta' and 'Tullybeg' while those of William's which caught my eye were 'Evenlode', 'Dimity' and 'Pennine Way'.

W. Davison won the Intermediate Class showing good blooms of 'Eskylene' and 'Golden Aura', 'Owen Roe' and 'Park Springs' while I also liked Mrs. Jones' 'Churchfield' and 'Crown Royalist'.

Mrs. Pearson won the Novice Section. Pick of her entries were 'Golden Aura' and 'Pipit'.

G. ANDREWS

COLERAINE SHOW

21st APRIL, 1984

The prizes at this show were presented by Mr. Jim Bankhead and the senior judge was Mr. Tom Bloomer who had been friendly protagonists when Coleraine last held a Daffodil Show 28 years ago.

Coleraine had once been the best Daffodil Show in Northern Ireland and it is a delight to all of the new brigade of growers and enthusiasts that an effort is now being made to re-establish the Show and interest in daffodils in one of the most pleasant and fertile areas of the Province.

The choice of the Town Hall in Portstewart as the venue was ideal and the brilliant sunshine and azure Atlantic gladdened the hearts of Californian visitors — Mr. and Mrs. Bill Roese — and indeed those of us from just a short drive away. We wish Coleraine continued success and judging by the youthful faces of some of the enthusiastic prize-winners there seems every prospect of excellent progress.

Unfortunately, due to the very late season, outside visitors were scarce but this gave the locals a chance to pick up quite a few prizes and the one major outsider — Mr. A. McCabe — set standards of flower quality and staging technique which were a fine example for those budding local enthusiasts to follow.

Mr. McCabe won the Mrs. A. W. Clark Cup for six blooms with an immaculate set in which 'Golden Joy', 'Broomhill' and 'Resplendent' were noteworthy. He also won four of the five classes for Three Blooms with 'Arctic Gold' (massive flowers for the variety), 'Broomhill' (Best Exhibit in the Section), 'Loch Stac' (neat but nice) and 'Sweetness'. Dr. David Willis produced three lovely 'Capisco' to win the other class.

In the single bloom class Mr. McCabe won 7 of the 13 classes; Dr. Willis and Leslie Conn won two each. The Best Bloom in the Show was 'Burntollet' (A. McCabe) which was only a smitch ahead of 'Galahad' (A. McCabe). Other winning blooms of note were an unknown 2Y-R shown by H. Wright, Leslie Conn's 'Capisco' and Derek Turbitt's 'Merlin'.

The Novice Section was well contested by Leslie Conn, M. Donnell and Elizabeth McCabe, the former winning the Cup; Mr. Donnell showing a superb 'Irish Light' to gain Best Bloom in the Section and Elizabeth winning with 'Descanso' to show promise of better things to come.

All in all, a very promising restoration of a famous Show. The organisers are to be congratulated, especially Mr. Derek Turbitt who still found time to exhibit a few flowers.

Carncairn Daffodils and Rathowen Daffodils each staged small non-competitive displays of newer varieties which were favourably received.

B. S. DUNCAN

BALLYMENA SHOW REPORT

The Show season has been and gone and I can sit now and reflect on the past 3/4 weeks.

Looking back on the season and having been to the majority of shows, I feel that Ballymena had the edge on others as far as the numbers and quality of the entries were concerned. In Section A Open Class 1 Rathowen Daffodils winning twelve included a 2W-W seedling, D619 'Easter Moon/Silent Valley' and a 1Y-Y seedling (Best Div. 1) D.736, — both very beautiful flowers — also an outstanding 'Smokey Bear' (Best Div. 4) and a wonderfully smooth 'Doctor Hugh'. Other notable flowers in this section included a wonderful 'Cool Crystal' (Best Div. 3), 'Firefox' and a very smooth 'Bunclody' — all from Carncairn, also a very unusual, almost perfectly round 2W-W 'Stainless' x 84/2W-W/3 seedling from Ballydorn.

In Class 2 — 6 varieites, 3 blooms — Rathowen's winning group included a very striking 'Pismo Beach'. Tom Bloomer's seedlings were very noticeable; in particular B.247 (2Y-R) and B.278 (3W-YYR) and Kate Reade's seedling W9/27 (2W-WWP) was particularly appealing to me. The foreign-raised varieties Class 3 was won by Carncairn and my favourite blooms here included the New Zealand raised 'Coolah', a 2W-P shown by Rathowen and Sandy McCabe's 'Resplendent' — a beautiful 2Y-R bred by Grant Mitsch. The Single Bloom Classes 4-10 included many outstanding flowers — D.311 (1W-W, D.677 ('Irish Splendour' x Bloomer seedling), D.826 a double with intense pink and good form and D.714 (2W-GYY) which won the Best Bloom in Show, Section A and Best Unregistered Seedling — a most beautiful flower which has, I am sure, a great future.

Others which caught my eye were Carncairn's 6/52/59 (1Y-Y) and W4/20 (Div. 3) and 'Campion' which got best bloom Div. 5-12. The Amateur Senior, although lacking in quantity, was certainly very high in quality. Top of the list came 'Golden Amber' and Best Div. 2 which was very striking also 'Cul Beag' both shown by G. Andrews. 'Rimmon', 'Crenelet' and 'Balalaika' shown by A. McCabe; 'Loch Hope' (B. Sterling) and 'Loch Stac' (G. Marsden) were noted.

Entries in the Intermediate and Novice Classes were very high, both in quantity and quality and this certainly augurs well for the future. Blooms of note were 'Cairngorm', 'Irish Light', 'Glazier', 'Premiere' and 'Tudor Minstrel' (Best Bloom Intermediate). Also 'Newcastle' shown by John O'Reilly, Glengormley (Best Bloom Novice) a newcomer to the show scene. Miss Elizabeth McCabe who won the Novice Section looks set to follow in father's footsteps and even overtake him.

Finally I would like to thank the people of Ballymena for the hospitality shown to my wife, daughter and me during our visit and we look forward to seeing them all next year — D.V.

G. C. MARSDEN

THE ALL-IRELAND DAFFODIL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

ENNISKILLEN — 28th APRIL 1984

The weather, for something like a fortnight before the show was totally out of place in the month of April — June or July certainly, but April definitely not. The earlier months had, as luck would have it, put the daffodils slightly behind schedule for the show season, but the timing of the event could not have been better, almost to the hour. Certainly a week later and there would have been little to stage in the amateur classes.

The first class — "The Lionel Richardson Perpetual Trophy" — calls for 12 cultivars, 1 bloom of each, and Rathowen Daffodils led the field with all 12 cultivars having been raised by Brian Duncan — only three of which are as yet registered, 'Lennymore' (2Y-R), 'Smokey Bear' (4O-ORR) and the well established 'Dr. Hugh' (3W-GOO). Of the numbered seedlings, D.598 (2W-W) is a flower with a particularly large perianth and good substance; D.663 a 4W-P which shows promise of living up to the standard set by 'Pink Pageant' and 'Pink Paradise' from the same hybridist, and D.782, another 2Y-R of quality. Second place went to Carncairn Daffodils, whose dozen included five cultivars originated at Carncairn Lodge. 'Cool Crystal' and 'Irish Light' were their usual immaculate selves, whilst an 'Acropolis' from this exhibit collected the Best Division 4 in Show accolade. One flower which is not seen too often, but nonetheless did catch the eye, was the 2Y-R 'Fuego'. This was raised by Lionel Richardson, and although relatively small in size is noticeable for some slight red flushing in the perianth. The third place exhibit contained a 1W-W seedling styled somewhat along the lines of 'Vigil' together with good examples of 'Dr. Hugh' and 'Achduart'. The next class, "The Roesse Perpetual Trophy" sought 5 cultivars, American-raised, 1 bloom of each. Rathowen again led the way, this time including what was eventually to be selected as Best Bloom in Show, 'Eminent'. This cultivar was raised by Mitsch and has been catalogued in this country since the late 1960s; in fact it won an RHS Award of Merit for Show as long ago as 1968. It does not seem to have received much exposure on the bench, and may prove to be one of those which has many good qualities but for one reason or another, has been overlooked by the exhibiting fraternity. Carncairn came second and their exhibits included another very good example of 'Cool Crystal'. This cultivar has really found a home from home at Carncairn and whether or not it ever throws less than a perfect flower there we will never know; but it must produce an exceptional number of first class examples, for Kate Reade seems able to produce them at shows as though they were coming off some kind of horticultural conveyor belt. Two other less well-known flowers in the exhibit were 'Foxfire' and 'Cadence', both rimmed flowers, the first from Division 2, the latter Division 3. Third place went to M. J. Ward all the way from Dublin, whose flowers were specimens of well-known and tried cultivars. Each of the three exhibitors staged a 'Daydream' and an 'Aircastle', which suggests that newcomers to the hobby should regard them as bankers for future exhibiting.

The "Royal Mail Trophy" requires 6 cultivars — Ulster-raised, 3 blooms of each from at least 3 divisions. Rathowen once again beat Carncairn for first

place. Their exhibit included the already well-known 'Dr. Hugh' (another banker) and 'Pink Pageant', together with the 1984 introduction 'Smokey Bear' and the yet to be introduced 'High Society' (2W-GWP) plus two numbered seedlings, D.525 (3Y-R) and D.619 (2W-W). 'Smokey Bear' was looking a little tired and did not do the cultivar itself justice, whilst D.619 was particularly interesting for the fact that its three-quarter length goblet cup was whiter than the perianth and contained, perhaps, a hint of lilac. Carncairn's six cultivars were also home-produced, only one of them 'Cabra' (1Y-Y) at present catalogued. 'Silver Fox' is a promising 2W-W which produces an extremely high proportion of perfect flowers, as does the attractive 2W-WWY 'Pankot'. 'Apricot Sundae' (4W-P) has much to commend it; one slight drawback, as staged here, was that each of the blooms displayed a slightly different arrangement of petaloids. Third was the patriarch of the Northern Ireland Daffodil fraternity, Tom Bloomer. His exhibit contained two named cultivars — the already acknowledged best 1W-W available today, 'White Star', and the yet to be introduced 'Mentor'. This one is on the large side and appears to be a most consistent 2W-P which Rathowen plan to introduce shortly. The remaining four cultivars were under number, the most spectacular being B.292, a very large 2W-Y with a wide, very circular, perianth of great substance, well worthy of naming and introduction.

In the classes for seedlings raised by the exhibitor, Brian Duncan's D.847 won the Division 1 class along with the best Division 1 in the Show title. Tom Bloomer's 'Mentor' won the Division 2 class, whilst the same exhibitor's 'Vernal Prince' 3W-Y was first in the Division 3 class. This attractive cultivar has been registered as a Division 2 flower, though it shows every sign that it should be re-registered in the Division 3 section. We believe that there are plans to do so before its introduction.

In the Amateur sections, the 12 bloom class was won by J. S. Ennis with excellent examples of 'Ambergate', 'Silent Valley' and a brilliantly coloured 'Loch Stac'. In the single bloom classes the same exhibitor won the 1W-Y class with the Tasmanian-raised 'Cyros' which showed promise in a subdivision short of good cultivars. He also won the 2Y-R class with a flower that we had never seen staged before though it has been catalogued for a few years now, the Tom Bloomer bred 'Battle Cry' which, if this example was anything to go by, promises to be a very worthwhile one to look out for. Sandy McCabe staged a medium-sized 'White Majesty' to win the 1W-W class, whilst his 'White Ermine' took first place for 2W-W's, followed by 'Misty Glen' in second and third positions. A very nice 'Loth Lorian' also gave him the 3W-Y class. M. J. Ward, who having journeyed up from Dublin was probably the exhibitor who had travelled the furthest, won the single bloom classes for 2W-R with the now rarely exhibited 'Irish Rover' and the 3W-R class with a good 'Dr. Hugh'.

In those classes calling for 3 blooms — 1 cultivar, the best exhibit of all the winners, was the vase of 'Amber Castle' staged by Sandy McCabe. Amongst these three was the best Division 2 flower in Show, the same bloom also being runner-up behind 'Eminent' for the Best in Show Award. We found everywhere that 'Amber Castle' has the signs of being a most consistent flower, and whilst it may be difficult, because of its colour combination, to place in single bloom classes, it is of great value in collections or 3 blooms — 1 cultivar classes. Of the other classes in this section, Sam Bankhead won

the pink class with three very nice 'Tynan'; M. J. Ward had further successes with 'Merlin' in the Division 3 class, and 'Foundling' in the class calling for 3 flowers from Division V-IX; whilst R. W. Newport, another visitor from Dublin, collected first prizes for three very good 'Derg Valley' in the Division 1 class and three 'Acropolis' in the class for doubles.

Of the remaining classes, special mention must be made of an 'Easter Moon' staged by Mrs. Norwood in her prize-winning collection of nine blooms in the Intermediate classes, and Mr. Currie's 'Tahiti' which won the single bloom Division 4 in the same section. The Best Bloom in this section going to Mr. Marsden's 'Amber Castle'.

We apologise for rather scrimping this report over the latter classes, but with the best will in the world it is an almost impossible task to take notes of all the prize-winners within the allotted time. It was this constraint, rather than lack of quality of those unrecorded winners, which has led to many very good flowers going unmentioned.

R. NICHOLL and E. JARMAN

OMAGH DAFFODIL SHOW

The season concluded on 5th May, 1984 when Omagh Horticultural Society held their Annual Spring Show. They had the honour of staging this year's Amateur Championship which unfortunately again only attracted two entries.

Last year the Championship was too early — this year too late. Maybe 1985 will see this class attract the numerous entries it deserves.

For the record I was successful from George Marsden through staging a refrigerated twelve which I had intended to enter for the Championship of Ireland at Enniskillen but kept for a further week as I thought there would be nothing left for Omagh. Best of the defrosted twelve were 'Silent Valley' and 'Ben Hee' which, as Michael Ward remarked, had absolutely no right to be shown as late as 5th May!

Unfortunately Carncairn were not able to compete in the Open Section due to their attendance at the International Garden Festival at Liverpool. We missed their competition and can only hope that at some time in the future someone will find a way of incorporating too many shows into too little time.

Best Bloom in the Show went to D.904 (4W-P) — another in the seemingly endless stream of pink doubles which Brian Duncan is producing. D.800 is another similar type flower to note.

Rathowen won the 12-Bloom Class with 'Dr. Hugh' and D.751 (an extremely smooth 2Y-Y taking the eye). Michael Ward made the trip from Dublin to win the A.D.S. Ribbon, showing an excellent 'Cool Crystal' in the process and also picking up the best Div. 2 with 'Hotspur'. Sam Bankhead

showed another fine example of 'Cool Crystal' to win best Div. 3 award and the aforementioned D.904 was naturally the best Div. 4. Trumpet daffodils — not unnaturally at so late in the season — were scarce but I succeeded in saving a bloom of 'Lancelot' to win best Div. 1 and with 'Elizabeth Anne' won Best Bloom in Amateur Section and Best Bloom Divs. 5-9.

George Marsden kept up his run of success in the Intermediate Section, winning the Council Cup for best exhibit in Novice and Intermediate Classes, though the best bloom in the Section went to 'Tudor Minstrel' shown by Mrs. Turner. 'Narya' (3Y-R) shown by R. H. Allen was awarded Best Bloom in the Novice Section.

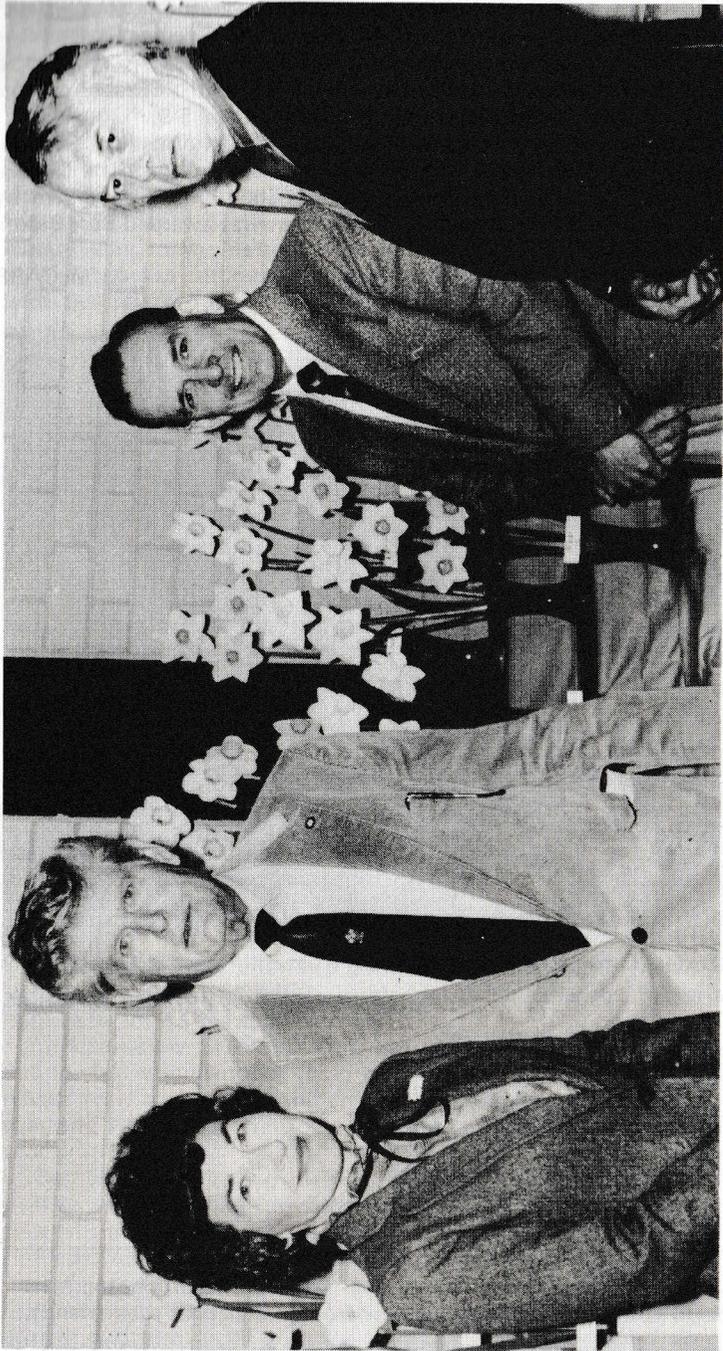
S. McCABE



George Marsden, Omagh, receiving his award from Bill Roesse at Omagh Show

Photograph by courtesy of Tyrone Constitution

The Editor will be pleased to receive articles and/or photographs on daffodil culture and related subjects from members or their friends.



JUDGES AT BALLYMENA SHOW

Left to Right: Mrs. W. Roese and W. Roese, California, R. Nicholl and E. Jarman, Essex

Photograph by courtesy of Ballymena Guardian



**Sandy McCabe and his daughter Elizabeth with their trophies
at Ballymena Show**

Photograph by courtesy of Ballymena Guardian

DISEASES OF NARCISSI

(Reprinted from AGRICULTURE IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Vol. 58, Nos. 9 and 10)

A. R. McCracken, B.Sc., Ph.D., M.I.Biol.

R. S. McILWAINE, H.N.C.

Plant Pathology Research Division

The British flower bulb industry is now the largest producer of Narcissi in the world, growing about 50 per cent of the world's total. In order to compete in both the home market and abroad it is important that growers maintain a high standard of health in their stock plants. This is especially true in the case of Northern Ireland daffodil hybridists who are continually introducing new varieties and exporting them all over the world.

Narcissi are susceptible to a wide range of diseases caused by fungi, bacteria and viruses. These and other physiological disorders reduce the yield and quality of the crop. This article, the first of two, discusses the major fungal diseases of Narcissi and gives the measures recommended for their control.

Fungal diseases are often specific to one plant species and those that affect Narcissi can be broadly categorised into those that attack the above-ground parts of the plants, and those that grow on the bulb, base plate and roots. Climate is important in the incidence of diseases with, for example, leaf diseases being more prevalent in the warmer more maritime climate of south-eastern England than in Northern Ireland. However outbreaks of disease vary enormously from year to year.

There are three common leaf diseases of Narcissi.

White mould (*Ramularia vallisumbrosae*)

This fungus causes the rapid decay of leaves and flower stalks. Greenish-white spots appear, usually near the tip of the leaves, which soon become covered in powdery white spores. Just beyond this area there is a dark green zone and outside that a yellow area. As the plant dies masses of resting structures called sclerotia develop on the leaves. These eventually drop into the soil and act as the source of infection for the disease in the following season.

Warm, damp conditions favour the spread of this disease causing very premature leaf death. As the fungus is not carried on the bulb it is advisable to collect and destroy old foliage which may be harbouring sclerotia, thus avoiding reinfection. During the growing season good control can be obtained using zineb with petroleum oil emulsifier. Spraying should commence when the foliage is about 70 mm. tall.

Leaf scorch (*Stagonospora curtisii*)

Leaf scorch appears as yellow-red to brown spots on the top 50 to 75 mm. of leaves usually just as they emerge from the soil. Stems and flowers can also become infected. The fungus survives in the neck of infected bulbs and on the remains of foliage which then leads to infection on developing leaves. As the disease progresses small brown fruiting bodies develop, which exude large quantities of spores which are then spread by rain or water splash. Leaves die soon after the spotting appears. Spots which can also

develop on flowers after picking and during transit make the flowers unsaleable. The disease is most serious in cool-stored, late planted field crops which flower early. Almost all cultivars are susceptible to the disease. Grand Soleil d'Or and Magnificence are most commonly affected.

Control of leaf scorch can be achieved by treating bulbs with hot water (3 hrs. at 44°C)/formalin mixtures before planting. Benomyl or carbendazim may also be used. At the first signs of the disease in a growing crop a high volume (HV) spray with carbendazim plus a surfactant is advisable. The latter will ensure good wetting of the foliage and neck of the bulbs. Long periods of high humidity and leaf wetness should be avoided and if possible the planting site should be changed annually.

Fire (*Sclerotinia polyblastis*)

Fire initially affects the flowers, the edges having water-soaked areas which then enlarge, turn brown and wither. Leaves can also be attacked, the fungus appearing on only one side causes them to twist and droop, taking on a yellow-brown discolouration. All of the foliage can be destroyed very quickly in warm, moist conditions. This can be a devastating disease of flowers in the field but is seldom serious in forced crops. This fungus also usually produces resting sclerotia in leaf debris although they can also be found between the scales of badly infected bulbs. The sclerotia act as the source of infection in the following season. The varieties Carlton, Golden Harvest, King Alfred, Minister Talma and Rembrant are claimed to be resistant.

Fire is a very serious disease which is difficult to control effectively. The same ground should not be used repeatedly and areas where the disease has been identified should be avoided for at least eight years. Where possible all flowers should be picked. Treatment of the soil/compost or bulbs with quintozene dust or a pre-planting dip with carbendazim or thiabendazole gives protection against infection of the bulbs. If detected in time disease spread can be prevented by two HV sprays of carbendazim with a 14-day interval.

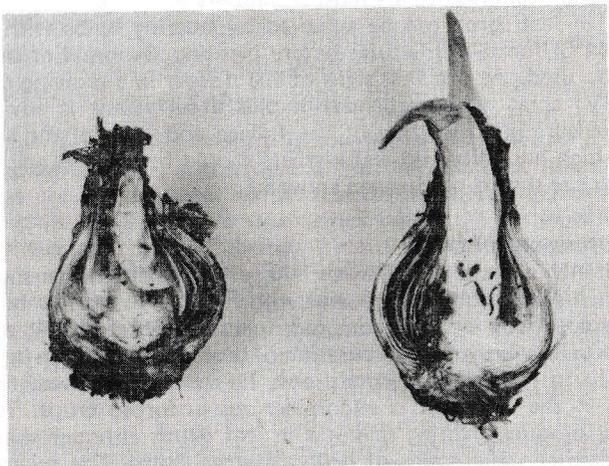
There are also three important bulb diseases of Narcissi.

Basal rot (*Fusarium oxysporum* f. *narcissi*)

Basal rot starts as a brown discolouration of the roots or base of the scales. The rot spreads initially through the centre of the bulb becoming reddish-brown in colour with a pinkish tinge. Rapidly the whole bulb is affected. A whitish fungal mycelium appears between the scales or even on the surface of the bulb on which typical pink coloured masses of *Fusarium* spores develop.

The disease normally occurs in bulbs which have been wounded or damaged during lifting or handling. The fungus can be soil-borne in forced crops but is usually introduced with the bulbs. The spread of the disease is rapid at temperatures above 18°C. There is a great variation in the susceptibility of cultivars. Golden Harvest and Carlton are particularly susceptible although most of the other major varieties are considered resistant. In order to control basal rot, bulbs should be lifted as early as possible and kept dry while avoiding sunburning, bruising and wounding. All visibly diseased bulbs should be discarded. A hot water/formalin treatment or a benomyl type fungicide pre-planting dip gives good control. When harvesting

an infected crop, dipping of bulbs in formalin helps control spread during storage. Infected areas should not be used for Narcissus culture for several years.



Bulbs showing Basal rot

Smoulder (*Sclerotinia (Botrytis) narcissicola*)

Sclerotinia narcissicola first attacks leaves at ground level producing dark brown tips on which the fungus later sporulates profusely. These spores then affect fully grown leaves and stems causing spotting. Serious flower spotting may also occur. Small black sclerotia later form in the leaf tissue. They are also found on the bulbs usually beneath the papery scales. Infected bulbs can also rot in store or leaves fail to emerge in the spring. These bulbs are the main source of infection although sclerotia can survive in the soil between crops. The disease is most serious in a cold, wet spring when growth is delayed.

There are no known resistant cultivars or cultural measures to control smoulder, apart from lifting infected bulbs. However there is some evidence that the pathogen is checked by dipping the bulbs in benomyl, carbendazim or thiobendazole before planting.

White root-rot (*Rosellinia necatrix*)

This disease tends to be a problem only in the extreme southern regions of the United Kingdom. Affected bulbs appear black and rotten and white strands of fungal mycelium are often seen near the base plate. In the field white root-rot can result in large bare patches in which shoots have died or failed to appear. Bulbs in these areas are usually soft, black and without roots. The pathogen is soil-borne although it may be carried over in partially infected bulbs. No adequate control measures are available apart from the destruction of diseased bulbs and avoidance of infected ground. The fungus does not tolerate dry conditions so if infected ground is turned over frequently and allowed to dry the pathogen may be eliminated more quickly than if the ground is left undisturbed.

Other less serious pathogens include:

Blue mould rot (*Penicillium* spp.) which develops on bulbs during storage. This occurs after bulbs have been damaged mechanically or stored in moist conditions.

Crown rot (*Pellicularia rolfsii*) which grows profusely over the surface of the bulb. It is only occasionally found in the U.K. and usually then only on imported material.

Leaf spot (*Didymellina macrospora*) can cause leaf spotting of Narcissi although it is more common on Iris and Freesia. The spots, which may coalesce causing the entire leaf to shrivel, normally appear in mid-summer after flowering.

Symptoms of Damage in Narcissus

SYMPTOMS	CAUSE
Damage in patches in the field	
Plants missing or severely distorted; bulbs when lifted are rotting or show brown rings when cut open	Stem nematode
Poor growth of plants with yellowing or rotting of leaves but no distortion; bulbs with outer scales rotting	Waterlogging or disease
Growth of plants retarded but otherwise normal; bulbs intact but roots missing or brown and rotting	Root-lesion nematode
Plants flowering late or with short stems; bulbs when lifted and cut open show brown rings	Stem nematode
Damage to scattered plants throughout crop	
Plants with swelling or distortion on leaves or stems	Stem nematode or HWT* damage
Plants with few or no flowers but many "grassy" leaves	Large narcissus fly or HWT damage
Plants with few or no leaves; only flower showing and often early	Bulb scale mite

*HWT = hot-water treatment

Damage to foliage

Leaves roughened and speckled at tips
Leaves sometimes curved with pale stippling, often in the form of an inverted V, just below tip
Leaves with pale streaks and rusty or scorched leaf tips
Leaves uniformly bright yellow
Leaves with raised, pale-coloured lesions or spickles
Flower stems and leaves with brown "saw-toothed" edge; flowers of poor quality

Damage to flowers

Flowers blind or with petals and cup reduced, split or narrowed
Flowers fully developed but fail to open, swelling into a "balloon"
Flowers remain within sheath and may rot

Flowers remain green and do not expand fully

Damage to bulbs

(cut across and then lengthwise through damage)
Brown rings or discoloured areas
Greyish areas on outer scales

Small brown spots at the angles of scales only
Brown rings affecting outer scales only
Base plate completely rotten and rot spreading upwards
A single large maggot in bulb, or large cavity without maggot
Many small maggots in decaying bulb

Bulb tissue dry and disintegrating, with many slow-moving pinhead-sized mites

HWT damage
Bulb scale mite

Virus or other diseases or herbicide damage
Herbicide damage
Stem nematode

Bulb scale mite

HWT damage

Herbicide damage

Bulb scale mite or disease
Genetic disorder

Stem nematode
Narcissus bulb and leaf nematode or bruising
Bulb scale mite
Waterlogging or disease
Disease or severe stem nematode
Large narcissus fly

Small narcissus fly or other scavengers following damage
Bulb mites

MR. PHIL PHILLIPS, NEW ZEALAND

Members will be saddened to learn of the sudden death of Phil Phillips on 23rd March, 1984 just as he was preparing to leave for the A.D.S. Convention in Portland, Oregon.

Phil Phillips was one of the world's most widely travelled daffodil breeders and enthusiasts and he twice came to Northern Ireland in recent years. Firstly he came in 1972 accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Tim Jackson of Tasmania. Thereafter he was a regular correspondent and sent gifts of New Zealand raised daffodils for trial in Northern Ireland. He returned in 1979 with his wife, Esme, and had encouraged a strong band of fellow countrymen to attend our World Convention and Tour of that year, during which many friendly contacts were made and have been maintained ever since.

Phil raised many fine daffodils some of which are now becoming well known in the Northern Hemisphere. He was an original thinker — he did things his own way and usually on a vast scale. The parentage of a flower didn't bother him if the flower itself was good enough; that way he saved a lot of time on record keepings. He had a tremendous ability to identify flowers and had a wealth of knowledge on all daffodil types which he willingly shared. His contribution to the daffodil was recognised by the R.H.S. in the award of the Peter Barr Cup in 1979 and by the American Daffodil Society Gold Medal Award in 1983. He was also a member of the A.D.S. Board of Directors and a Past President of the National Daffodil Society of New Zealand.

We have lost a good friend. To his wife, Esme and his family we send our sincere sympathy.

B. S. DUNCAN

DAFFODILS AT GREENMOUNT FAIR

In 1983 it was suggested that the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group should take a stand at Greenmount Fair to bring its existence to the notice of the public.

The validity of the idea was accepted by the Committee but it was not practical to adopt it that year as Ballymena Show was held on the same day as Greenmount Fair. Therefore people who could man such a stand would not be available. Others were going to Harrogate Show the same week.

This year the matter was raised again and it was decided to go ahead and see what could be done. It was thought that the stand should be educational and we should endeavour to show the public good daffodils grown in Northern Ireland and also to explain how the flower is made up detailing the different divisions and colour coding.

A small sub-committee was formed and by "telephoned meetings" the venture was organised. On the Tuesday morning previous to the Fair five of us arrived at Greenmount and found our site. We were not very happy with it

As we prepare to go to press, our globe-trotting enthusiast, Brian Duncan, is currently enjoying the delights of Springworld '84. His exclusive report on his antipodean safari will appear in our next issue.

at first as it was at the end of a side of the tent and seemed very dark. It was also cut off by a trellis erected by the neighbouring nurseryman (he was perfectly entitled to do this as he had not exceeded his allotted depth).

So instead of following the line of the tent we turned our stand through 45 degrees and placed it across the corner. This turned out to be very acceptable as the daffodils seemed to catch the eye of the visitors entering on the other side.

The basic structure of the stand was a six ft. high framework by ten ft. wide with wings and a table between. It was covered with dark blue cloth and divided into named divisions with pale green ribbon. The daffodil blooms were supplied chiefly by the professional growers but some were brought by our amateurs. They were staged singly and in threes in green vases and when we left that evening we were very pleased with our efforts.

But how are the mighty fallen!

The Fair opened at 10 a.m. on Wednesday and on arrival at 9.30 a.m. three of us were dismayed by what we saw. The tent pole nearest our corner had slipped and was sloping towards our stand. The canvas was moved part way down it and was supported by the upper part of the framework and what was worse — it was still moving!

The tent erector foreman was summoned and assured us all would be well. But it took quite some time and several attempts to lift the pole and canvas before eventually the status quo was restored and we breathed again; it was a worrying hour or so!

We were never without people looking at and commenting on the blooms. Many found it difficult to believe that the beautiful doubles were actually daffodils and were surprised that daffodils are actually bred in Northern Ireland.

We distributed the names and addresses of the growers, i.e. Ballydorn, Carncairn and Rathowen to all who were interested.

One person could not believe that they were cut flowers — she was sure we had the actual bulbs in the vases!! Many were amazed to know that all the flowers had been cut 5 or 6 days beforehand. It was hard to convince some as they knew daffodils only last 2 or 3 days when cut. The moss in the vases intrigued many people who seemed to think it had some magical properties (I wonder if it has?).

We three ladies were joined after tea by three male members, but where were all the other members of the Group?

We had a busy and very interesting day — we were glad we took our own chairs — and I believe we did some little thing to promote the daffodil and to let the public know that there are other varieties besides King Alfred and Carlton. I think also that we ourselves learnt a few things and we certainly enjoyed meeting old friends and making new acquaintances.

It remains to be seen what effect this effort will have on the public at large. Will they buy bulbs in Northern Ireland or continue to send to England for them? Will they be bold and buy varieties new to them, and having done that will they bring them along to the Shows? Will they join N.I.D.G. — we hope so because that is how we can promote interest in the Daffodil (or should I say Narcissus?) and learn from each other as well as from the professional speakers who visit us during the "off season".

MAISIE A. JONES

PESTS OF NARCISSI

(Reprinted from AGRICULTURE IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Vol. 59, Nos. 2, 3 and 4)

THE NARCISSUS FLIES (1)

S. J. MARTIN, H.N.C.

Agricultural Zoology Research Division

There are three species of narcissus or bulb flies of importance to narcissus growers in Northern Ireland. The large narcissus fly is the most important since it is a primary pest of narcissus, while the small flies normally attack only diseased or damaged bulbs. Both large and small flies will also attack other bulbous plants such as Amaryllis. Damage by the two types of fly are easily distinguished; in an attack by the large fly a single maggot will be found in an otherwise undamaged bulb, while the larvae of the small flies are found in groups in rotting bulbs.

The narcissus flies are members of the family Syrphidae which also includes the beneficial insects known as 'Hover flies' and 'Drone flies'. Two subsequent articles will discuss the other important pests of narcissi.

Description and habits

Large narcissus fly (Merodon equestris)

The adult is about 12 mm. long with a stout body which is basically black in colour but with a dense coat of variably coloured hairs which range in colour from tawny red to grey. It has a characteristic whining hum in flight and is active between late April and the end of June especially on bright sunny days. It resembles a small bumble bee but is distinguished from a bee by having only one pair of wings.

Each female during her short lifetime lays about 40 white-coloured eggs, one per bulb, on or as near the host as possible. On hatching, the small legless maggot crawls down the side of the bulb and penetrates the base plate. After tunnelling in the base plate for several weeks the larva eventually enters the centre of the bulb. By the time it is fully fed it has eaten out a large cavity which becomes filled with wet brown material. A fully grown larva may reach 20 mm. in length and occasionally as food becomes depleted it may move from one bulb to another. The larval stage overwinters within the bulb and in early spring it leaves the bulb, either by a hole previously cut in the base plate or through the neck, and pupation occurs in the soil. The adult fly emerges 5 to 6 weeks later.

Small narcissus flies (Eumerus tuberculatus and Emerus strigatus)

For all practical purposes both species of the small flies may be regarded as one. The blackish-green adults are about 6 mm. long with white crescent-shaped marks on the abdomen and white lateral lines on the thorax. They appear at the same time of year as the large narcissus fly. The females lay their eggs in groups of ten or more, usually on or near to damaged bulbs. The hatched maggots may enter the bulb either at the site of an injury or through the "nose". They rapidly consume, and finally destroy, the bulbs.

In July the fully fed maggots pupate and produce a second generation of flies which are on the wing from July to October. The larvae from this generation remain in the attacked bulbs during the winter and give rise to the first generation of flies in the following spring.

Symptoms and diagnosis

Large narcissus fly

In the spring, bulbs attacked by the large fly will either fail to shoot and die or, because the flower bud has been eaten, will produce from axillary buds abnormally narrow leaves familiarly known as "grass". If less severe damage occurs the bulb may produce weak yellowish and distorted foliage such as follows an attack by stem nematode or bulb scale mite.

When bulbs are lifted from the soil in July or early August the current year's larvae are still small and will usually have caused little injury. Diagnosis of the infested bulbs is therefore difficult at this stage. Nevertheless if a bulb has been attacked careful examination of the base will reveal a small rust coloured spot surrounding the entrance to a small tunnel. Further careful cutting may remove the larva before it has caused any serious damage.

At the time of planting in September-October the majority of the larvae will have tunnelled extensively into the centre of the bulbs. With experience, infested bulbs may be detected at this time, being rather softer than normal particularly around the neck region and internal examination will reveal the single large maggot surrounded by frass (excrement). Such bulbs should be rejected and destroyed by burning. Larvae in bulbs thrown on to a rubbish heap can complete their development and reinfest growing plants.

Small narcissus fly

Infested bulbs are softer at all stages of growth with obvious rotting of the bulb tissue and contain groups of maggots.

Prevention and control

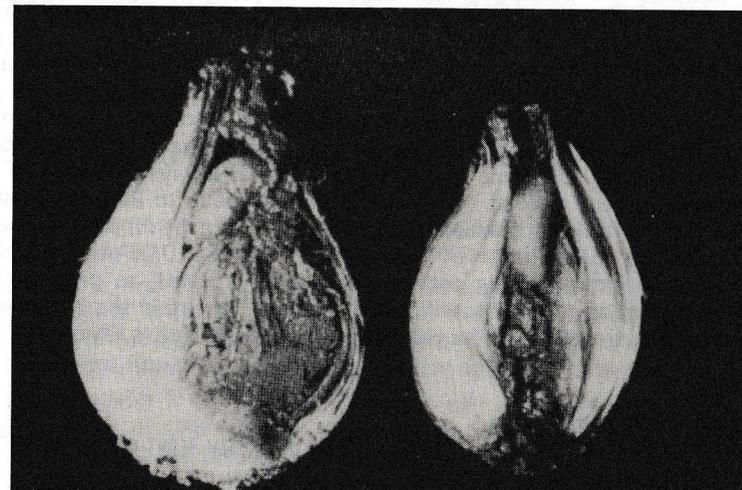
Control in the field

Measures to control narcissus flies during the growing season have usually been unsatisfactory or uneconomic.

Control of adult flies by chemical or trapping methods is mainly ineffective. Surface cultivations or the use of hessian sacking to cover the bulbs may be partially effective, but these methods involve considerable labour and may result in damage to the bulbs. However, they may be useful when protecting small stocks of valuable material. When roguing for stem nematode or other disorders, plants which appear to be attacked by narcissus fly should be removed at the same time.

If temporary wind-breaks are used to protect flowers from damage they should be dismantled after flower picking ends as they will create sheltered conditions attractive to the flies.

If after lifting, bulbs are left in the open to dry they should be protected from small narcissus fly attack by some form of covering such as sacking, empty trays or dried bulb foliage.



Bulbs with single larva of large narcissus fly



Bulb with numerous larvae of small narcissus fly

Pre-planting treatments

Control of maggots in the bulbs

Bulbs should never be replanted without some form of treatment. Routine hot-water treatment for stem nematode control will successfully kill the maggots of narcissus flies. If for some reason nematode control is not required maggots can be killed by immersing the bulbs in hot water at 43.5°C for 1 hour. Formalin (40 per cent formaldehyde) should always be added to the hot-water treatment tank at the rate of 1 part formalin to 200 parts water. If there are no facilities available for hot-water treatment dipping the bulbs for 3 hours in a cold solution of gamma-HCH diluted to 0.05 per cent active ingredient and extra wetting agent (about 0.1 per cent), to promote immediate wetting of the bulbs, will kill the larvae. To obtain the best results bulbs should be treated with the HCH as soon as possible after lifting.

Protective treatments

Attack on the growing bulbs can be prevented by treating them, before planting, with a persistent insecticide.

Good protection from narcissus fly attack for two seasons is obtained by immersing the bulbs for 15 minutes in a cold solution containing 0.2 per cent of aldrin, i.e. 625 ml. of a 30 per cent miscible formulation in 100 litres of water. This strength of dip must not be exceeded. The aldrin dip should always follow and not precede hot-water treatment (when this is used) but before the bulbs are put into the insecticide they must be allowed to cool down to air temperature. In practice this is done by hot-water treating one day and dipping the next. The bulbs may be planted immediately after dipping; if however they are to be stored for a short period they should be thoroughly dried. Prolonged storage after aldrin treatment can lead to severe damage. Rubber gloves must be worn when handling bulbs which have been dipped in insecticide.

Precautions

If the basal plates of the bulbs have commenced to swell the insecticide dip should not be used or damage will occur to the root initials and the next season's growth will be poor. As an alternative an aldrin spray may be applied at a rate not exceeding 3.4 kg. (11.2 litres of a 30 per cent formulation) per hectare to the open furrows immediately before planting.

TREASURES WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE

Geoff Hamilton has the Last Word

THREATENED GARDENS ARE A VITAL SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE AND ART

The Government's spending cuts in education are now threatening botanic gardens, particularly those that are part of a university.

I suppose, from the point of view of the universities themselves, you can see the point. With less money to spare, they are naturally going to look closely at those activities that cost most and prune them back as much as possible. And running a botanic garden these days is not cheap.

But I wonder if the grey-faced money-men at the Treasury know what they're doing. If you run out of money to build a road, very little is lost. If the Civil Service offices can't be expanded this year, there's no reason at all why they can't continue in the Portakabin for another 12 months. We Brits know how to make do and mend and if necessary we will.

But if we allow our great plant collections to disappear, they will never be replaced. And that is far more serious than most folk realise.

The plant collections at university gardens are not there purely for the enjoyment of the students and the public. They are used as a practical extension of the lecture room, to teach our next generation of botanists, without whom we would be in a very sorry state indeed.

These are the people who will become plant breeders, agricultural scientists, etc. And they are vital to our future.

The collect at the great gardens like Kew and Edinburgh are not just the whim of some Victorian plant enthusiast. These institutions are the receptacles of botanical knowledge unsurpassed worldwide.

Right now, for example, the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew is engaged in the vital work for the Third World countries in an effort to find alternative crops they can grow to help relieve hunger.

To cut that programme might be signing a death warrant for millions of starving children some time in the future.

And quite apart from all the practical considerations, great gardens are just as much an expression of art as the National Gallery or Covent Garden.

They are as much part of our national heritage as St. Paul's Cathedral or Caernarvon Castle and indeed, in my view, they are more important to preserve because more British people can relate to the beauty of a garden than will ever understand the art of Picasso or Salvador Dali.

And, my goodness, there have rarely been periods in our history when we have been more in need of the kind of uplift to the spirit than a beautiful garden can give.

I don't want to get into a debate about the money we spend on the Health Service and on the arms race because I simply don't understand it. But the one thing I am completely convinced of is that there's absolutely no sense whatever in becoming obsessed with prolonging life at the expense of living it.

For many of us, particularly you and me, plants and gardens are our way of life. Without them it would be a barren existence indeed.

So, for heaven's sake, if you become aware of a garden faced with closure, especially if it's not one that's funded by government money, shout as long and loud as you can. Write letters to the local papers and to your M.P. and to the local council. Make a real nuisance of yourself. It's the only way.

Reprinted by kind permission of Editor, Garden News

DEATH IN THE SUN

As the daffs decline and fall in sorry disarray, we should be thankful that they do not suffer — in the Cotswolds at any rate — the indignity of their fellows on the Arctic Circle.

Up in Lapland, writes a Swedish reader to The Times, the sun does not dip below the horizon at this time of year; it merely goes around in a circle. In reference to the bulbs which he planted on his three-month visit to that part of the world, he says: "The daffodils grew rapidly and within three weeks were in full bloom. Then tragedy.

"They insisted on following the sun for its full circle and within one week had strangled themselves. All of them".

BUY ULSTER DAFFODIL BULBS

- **Ballydorn Bulb Farm**
Frank and Patricia Harrison
- **Carncairn Daffodils**
Robin and Kate Reade
- **Rathowen Daffodils**
Brian Duncan and
Clark Campbell