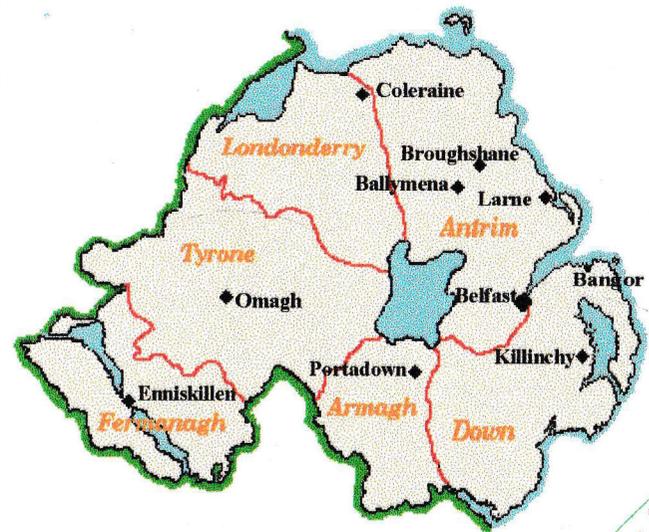


Newsletter
of the
Northern Ireland
Daffodil Group



Half yearly publication

Autumn 96
Issue

RULES OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP

1 Title

The group shall be called "The Northern Ireland Daffodil Group".

2 Registered Office

The registered office is 22 Moira Drive, Bangor, Co. Down.

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 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;

THE NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP NEWSLETTER

VOL 4 NO 9

NOVEMBER 96

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Good New Ones

The Daffodil Breeders Society (yet to be formed) is rapidly increasing in Northern Ireland, and the results they are producing augurs well for their continued existence.

There was a time when Guy Wilson was on his own - in fact many might say he was out on his own, but these days the amateurs no longer seem to be overawed by the likes of Brian Duncan, Carncairn or Ballydorn. The 1996 season would seem to bear this out from the point of view of results. Take for instance the early show when Sam Jordan's 2A 23 91 (Loch Hope x Loch Carron) 2YR, a torridon look-alike, was best bloom. This was a great result for someone very recently bitten by the fever. This seedling also appeared in the winning nine at Coleraine. Speaking of Coleraine, Derrick Turbitt who lives nearby and who has produced good winners in the past with his seedlings, seemed to miss out this year. I have little doubt that we will see his seedlings in the winners enclosures in the future.

None of the four shows held on the 13th. of April (unlucky 13) had any big seedling winners; but then when we look at the Belfast Show results we find that Sandy McCabe's S3 (Shining Light x Bunclody) was best seedling in Show. This seedling has won many times before, and it is my opinion that it should come off the seedling category! It is also noted that in the Open section of the Belfast show only 10% of all prizewinners were under seedling number, so even the professionals find it hard to beat their named varieties.

At the Omagh Show the best bloom Div. 1 was a seedling exhibited by Brian Duncan. This seedling was raised by amateur Patrick Kiernan from Co. Longford (see March 1995 Newsletter) who has little opportunity for showing his flowers.

Then on to the Late Show. Here we find Maurice Kerr winning best bloom with a seedling (Round Robin x Duncan 2WWP seedling) 3WWR. In a high quality field this one had

to be good to come out on top.

I look forward to more ' good ones ' from our amateur breeders!

W. J. E. Dukelow

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I hope you all enjoyed the successes of this past show season. I know that Nial Watson did, best bloom with Achduart and top award for our Society Stand in Belfast Spring Show. This is a tremendous achievement for Nial and our Group. I know he would like me to say 'Thank-you' to all who helped him in arranging this stand. Already he is putting ideas together for next year, but I have heard on the grapevine that the Orchid Society were disappointed and are going all out to win this award next year. So lets get behind Nial.

Speaking about Belfast Spring Show, may I take this opportunity to say 'Thank-you' to all who responded to requests, or volunteered Awards. This year's exhibits were up on last year, including 16 Championship twelves, but, as usual, I will bring you a more detailed report at our A.G. M. We were pleased to welcome Dr. and Mrs. Peter Ramsey (N.Zealand) and Mr. and Mrs. John Pearson (England) who were our principal Judges and Speakers at our dinner. We were also pleased to welcome a number of overseas visitors.

We must take this opportunity to say a huge thanks to Brian and Betty Duncan for hosting our Late Show in Omagh. With it being a late season, this turned out to be one of the best shows of the year. At this show Brian and Sandy, ably assisted by Derek Berkumshaw, ran the Judging Tests. We are glad to announce that seven people passed the test.

Our Barbecue at Crosby and Freda Cochrane's, Newtownards

was well supported by over forty of our members, although the weather was disappointing, the occasion was enjoyed by all. A special word of thanks to John McAusland who gave us a most informative guided tour of Dickson's Rose Nursery.

Could I approach a prickly problem? I know that some Saturdays in the spring there will be more than one Show. This year it was exaggerated by a couple of shows moving for one reason or another from their 'normal' dates - April the 13th this year was a prime example, there were no less than four shows on this Saturday. Would Society Secretaries please consider this, possibly liaising with the N.I.D.G. and informing them well in advance so that it may be possible to arrange to have no more than two shows on any Saturday. I know that this has been tried before so please give it some careful consideration and let me know as soon as possible what you think.

Earlier this year we had a Daffodil Breeding Workshop with a panel of four members, chaired by Kate Reade. This was a great success and some members have asked if this could be repeated. Have you ideas that could be used for similar workshops, please let us know.

Richard McCaw

GRAND BULB BALLOT

Tickets £1 each

Top show bulbs to include following

Pink Silk	1WP	Arthurian	1YY
Ethos	1YY	Goldfinger	1YY
Gold Bond	2YY	June Lake	2WP
Naivasha	2WP	Tyrian Rose	2WP
Border Beauty	2YR	Burning Bush	3YR
Triple Crown	3YGYR	Serena Lodge	4WY
Park Avenue	4WP	Notre Dame	2WGYP
Pink Paradise	4WP	Ethel Beauty	2WGWP
Young Blood	2WR		

EDITOR'S REPORT

As you no doubt are aware the Newsletter has been published by a team from within the group now for the last two years. Change once again is upon us as you will have already noticed. The cover on this edition has been changed due to the fact that our supply of pre-printed covers is now exhausted and the cost of having more professionally printed is becoming prohibitive. I would be most interested to have your comments and suggestions on the cover which binds this edition. The system of classification has been dropped pending the changes which are being considered, and as soon as we have the information we will publish it.

It is nice to be able to report that copy has been much more forthcoming during the last year and I think you would agree that there have been some very interesting articles recently. May I urge you to keep writing as it makes it a lot easier for me if there is a bank of material which I can use in future editions.

We have included a new form of show report this year and would be interested to hear your views. Also you will find that we are including articles where members of the group express their views on the breeding and development of flowers to be found in each of the divisions. Richard and Sandy kindly agreed to start the ball rolling with their thoughts on Division 1 -YY and the Bicolours. I hope to include further articles on composts and pests and will publish extracts from a thesis submitted by a Scandinavian student on bulb production which will be serialised.

May I take this opportunity to thank the other members of the editorial group namely Sandy and Sam for their help. I hope the new PC and printer which I am now using will make production a lot easier as I will now be able to accept material which has been produced on other computers. This would ease the burden for the typist who produces all the copy which I format.

Maurice Kerr

NORTHERN IRELAND SHOW REPORT

N.I.D.G. EARLY SHOW 31st March 96

With the season running very late there was quite a scarcity of good blooms in Divisions 1 to 4 - most obvious in Div.3. Ian Scroggy supplied most of the winners in these classes, largely due to the fact that his plants are protected.

Barnum was a worthy winner in Division 1. but the winners in Div. 2 and 3 were all seedlings. While Carncairn's seedlings in Div.2 pink and Div.3 were good for the season pride of place must go to Sam Jordan's 2A 23 91; an impeccable medium sized 2YO which was also judged best bloom in show. It is great to see an amateur breeder producing quality like this.

The best Division 6 bloom came from the 7 bloom exhibit of Ian Scroggy; and was an excellent example of Rapture - a Grant Mitch flower registered 30 years ago. In fact all the Div.6 prizewinners were registered around that time! Brian Duncan was almost unbeatable in Div. 7, 8 and 12. His Avalanche was not quite fully open but had 19 blooms or buds.

The only other point of real note was that Carncairn swept the boards in the miniature class with three seedlings. It is good to see our local breeders expanding into this field.

COLERAINE SPRING SHOW 6th April 96.

An early Easter and a late Spring all add up to give a show secretary reasons to be anxious. However a few sunny days before the show brought out some of the early cultivars and with exhibitors from all over the province and further afield a very creditable display of daffodils graced the show benches.

Winners — Open

9 bloom Collection class	Sam Jordan
3 bloom classes most points	William Dallas (Coleraine)

Single bloom classes	most points	Ian Scroggy
Intermediate classes	most points	Robert McMurray

Novice classes	most points	A. Mc Fadyen (Coleraine)
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BANGOR HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 13th April 96.

Despite the poor season, and the fact that several other Societies had chosen the same date for their Shows, the display of daffodils at Bangor Horticultural Society's Spring Show was quite impressive, there being entries in 65 of the 74 classes for daffodils.

Sir Frank Harrison made the comment that the quality of the exhibits was remarkably high, considering the season.

The names of Jack Carlisle (15-1sts.), P. Wallace (9-1sts.) and Richard McCaw (6-1sts.) featured in the prize lists for the Senior Section, Jack Carlisle taking the cup for the best bloom in show (Broomhill) and the May Maguire cup for the most points in the Senior Section. P. Wallace won the daffodil cup for the best amateur exhibit in the class for 12 blooms of different varieties. Mr. R. McMurray took all 3 cups in the Intermediate section. He is a relatively new exhibitor with us and we hope he continues his interest in daffodils. Mrs. Maureen Burge, the Society Chairman won the Novice cup, and will have to graduate to Intermediate next year.

It is hoped that the clash of dates can be avoided next year, but of course, we have to overcome two factors - the variability of the seasons and the availability of halls.

BALLYMENA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW 13th April 96.

With clashing show dates only five competitors exhibited in the Open and Senior sections. Kate Reade won most of the Open

section, though Robbie Curry took the top 12 bloom class from two other exhibitors. His entry contained top Div. 2 flower High Society. Kate Reade was the only exhibitor in the four miniature classes. N. Rupicola was best miniature bloom.

The poorly supported Amateur Senior section was won by Ian Scroggy from Derrick Turbitt. Ian also walked away with the Novice section, where many of his exhibits were un-named.

CITY OF DERRY SPRING SHOW 13th April 96.

A Spring Show with a difference; staging from 3-00 -7-45 p.m. on the Friday followed by judging from 8-00 p.m. Show open on the Saturday (13th) morning from 10-00a.m.- 12 noon. It is a combination of a show and a coffee morning.

As to the daffodils; these varied from the excellent to the mediocre. Some good blooms were staged by R.Patton (Sion Mills) and S.McAuley (Derry). Unfortunately only about 10 per cent of the blooms on show were named. On the positive side the show was quite well supported, and the benches were well filled with a good supply of daffodils.

The Novice classes were well supported with an average of over 5 entries per class. Unfortunately a lot of blooms had to be marked N.A.S. Novice classes require an experienced daffodil steward to guide the new exhibitors.

Best bloom was a smooth 2Y-Y shown by Seamus McAuley the hard working show secretary. Unfortunately due to a mix up over labels it was marked unknown.

FERMANAGH GARDENING SOCIETY SHOW 13th April 96.

Owing to a clash of shows (five in Ireland on this day) the number of exhibitors was small; add to this the fact that the season was very late and one can realise why there were few

exhibits. There was only one entry in Section A of the show ; and only two exhibitors in Section B- Amateur Senior. Of these only John Ennis had sufficient blooms to enter multiple bloom classes.

The N.I.D.G. Silver Thread award was allocated to this show, and John Ennis had no opposition. His medium quality entry of Bryanston, Muirfield and Perky included one good bloom of Muirfield. He was also the only entrant in Class 2 - Six varieties Irish raised, a well balanced exhibit with a very good Galahad and a good Gold Bond. He also won the R.U.C. cup with another exhibit of six Irish raised. In section B John achieved 9 firsts and 5 seconds while Sam Dukelow got 4 firsts and 4 seconds mostly with seedlings. Five classes had no entries. Best bloom was Kingsgrove from a single bloom class, best Division 2 Gold Bond; Badbury Rings had only to beat Rimmon in Division 3, and Trena had little else to beat in Division 6. Best any other Division was a nine bloom Soliel D'or from the Novice section and exhibited by the Fermanagh Society Chairman Mrs. V. Wilson.

John Ennis took home a total of seven trophies for his daffodils; Noel Thompson from Omagh did best in the Intermediate section, and Mrs. V. Wilson won the Novice section.

OMAGH SHOW REPORT

4th May 96

This show was fortunate in many respects. The season came to life with some warm weather the preceding week, and internationally known expert John Blanchard travelled over for it (we know he also wanted to see Brian Duncan's daffodils). He was quite naturally roped in as top Judge and Guest of Honour.

The very large entry gave the judges plenty to do; some classes exceeding 20 entries while in almost half the classes entries went into double figures. The Open 12 bloom class had an unprecedented seven entries, one of which was a Blanchard entry by proxy containing only Blanchard raised flowers. This may have

surprised him, but I am sure he was thrilled to see one of the twelve - Arish Mell win Best Bloom any other Division (see center page photograph). Brian Duncans winning entry in this class contained a 1YY seedling raised by amateur breeder Patrick Kiernan which was best Division 1 in the show. This remarkable breeding feat achieved by a man who had never previously been to a daffodil show. Hopefully now we will see more of his work.

Brian Duncan did clean up in the open section. Carncairn did likewise in the miniatures, where the four classes between them had 25 entries.

In the Amateur Senior section John Ennis took the trophy for highest points in the multiple bloom section, while Richard McCaw did the same in the single bloom section. In the Intermediate section the trophy went to John Smyth, and Noel Thompson won the Novice section.

Not only was there a very good display of top quality daffodils at this show but the same could be said for the Floral Art section; and indeed the General Flowers sections. Truly a Spring Flower Show.

N.I.D.G. LATE DAFFODIL SHOW 12th May 96

In many years daffodils would be nearly over by this time - but not this year. The show was held at Brian Duncan's, and his garden and bulb field were open to the general public partly in aid of the National Trust Ulster Gardens Scheme. There were many visitors to this, some of whom had never before seen quality daffodils in such abundance.

As for the show - the benches were filled with a total of 29 classes. Not only this but Brian set up a big stand of a huge variety of daffodils. The weather was good and the crowd roamed the daffodil field and the beautifully kept garden. Our sincere thanks to Brian and Betty and all others who helped to make this closing event such a success.

BELFAST SHOW 1996 BEST BLOOMS

	Winner	Varieties
Best Bloom in Show	N. Watson	Achduart
Best Div.1	R.McCaw	Goldfinger
Best Div.2	B. Duncan	Golden Sheen
Best Div.3	N.Watson	Achduart
Best Div.4	M.Ward	Dunkery
Best Div.5to 9	B.Duncan	Ice Wings
Best Seedling	S. McCabe	Shining Light/ Bunclody - S3
Best Seedling (Amateur)	P.Wallace	D 1463
Best Overall 3 Bloom	D.Turbitt	Cool Crystal
Best 3 Bloom (Amateur)	S.McCabe	Goldfinger
Best 3 Bloom (Novice)	N.Watson	Parkfield's Beauty
Best Bloom Class3	B.Duncan	Pacific Rim
Best Bloom Class33-75	R.McCaw	Goldfinger
Best Bloom Class 76-96	N.Watson	Portnoo
Other Best Blooms Amateur		
Best Bloom Div.2	J.S.Ennis	Mentor
Best Bloom Div.4	S.McCabe	Waldorf Astoria
Best Bloom Div.5 to 9	P.Wallace	Arish Mell

Belfast Show Open Section

CHAMPIONSHIP OF IRELAND

Class	Winner	Second
1	B.S. Duncan	R. Curry
	D1693, Savoir Faire, State Express, Chinchilla, Young Blood, Bouzouki, 1450, Bandesara, Golden Sheen, June Lake, Surrey, Ridgecrest.	Dunkery, Young Blood, Solar Tan, Loch Alsh, Ravenhill, Red Cameo, High Society, Triple Crown, Surrey, Mentor, Loch Naver, Royal Princess

Class	Winner	Second
ROYAL MAIL TROPHY		
2	B.S. Duncan Goldfinger, Asante, High Society, Garden News, Triple Crown, Kebaya.	M. Ward Bossa Nova, Triple Crown, D1393, Gay Kybo, Ahwanee, Address.

WH ROESE BOWL

3	B.S. Duncan Skeat Pink, Pacific Rim, Quasar, Lorikeet, Glissando.	M. Ward First Formal, Molten Lava, Grebe, Potential, Chaste.
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GUY WILSON TROPHY

4	D.Turbitt Cool Crystal, Silk Cut, Misty Glen	M. Ward Arley Kings, White Star, Cool Crystal.
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GILBERT ANDREWS TROPHY

5	S. McCabe Colourful, Val D'incles, Waldorf Astoria, Hambleton, Loch Lundie, Lighthouse	D.Turbitt Majestic Star, Sunapee, Hambleton, Mentor, Merlin, Rory's Glen.
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COLLECTION CLASSES

6	B. S. Duncan Goldfinger, Barnes Gold, Mulroy Bay.	
7	B. S. Duncan Coromandel, Ashmore, Cauldron.	M. Ward Silversmith, Conestoga, Caithness
8	B. S. Duncan Ravenhill, Badbury Rings Silver Crystal.	M. Ward Purbeck, Molten Lava, Portnoo.
9	B. S. Duncan Serena Beach, Pink Pageant, Monza.	
10	B. S. Duncan Kaydee, Elfin Gold, Sheer Joy.	B. S. Duncan Lilac Charm, Georgie Girl, Tiger Moth
11	B. S. Duncan Tyrian Rose, June Lake, D1290.	B. S. Duncan D1274, Soprano Yoshiko

Class	Winner	Second
SINGLE STEM CLASSES		
12	B. S. Duncan Goldfinger	B. S. Duncan Barnes Gold
13	M. Ward White Star	B. S. Duncan White Star
14	B. S. Duncan Gold Bond	B. S. Duncan Gold Bond
15	M. Ward Bouzouki	B. S. Duncan Cauldron
16	M. Ward Address	Mrs. K. Reade Ramada
17	B. S. Duncan D1505	B. S. Duncan D1471
18	M. Ward Evesham	M. Ward Moon Shadow
19	B. S. Duncan Dunkery	M. Ward Dunkery
20	M. Ward Serena	P. Wallace Dorchester
21	B.S.Duncan Ice Wings	M. Ward Tuesday's Child
22	M. Ward Ellfin Gold	
23	B.S.Duncan Kaydee	P. Wallace Swing Wing
24	M. Ward Stratosphere	B.S. Duncan Intrigue
25	B.S.Duncan Highfield Beauty	B.S. Duncan Avalanche
26	Sir F.Harrison Malin Head	
27	B.S.Duncan D1716	B.S. Duncan D1717
28	B.S.Duncan D1699	B.S. Duncan Ethereal Beauty
29	M. Ward D11639	S. McCabe 30/15 - S3
30	R.McCaw Skerry	B.S. Duncan D1739

MINIATURE SECTION

31	Mrs.K.Reade Clare	Mrs. A. McMullan Conspicuous
32	W.J.E.Dukleow Segovia	Mrs. K. Reade Clare

AMATEUR CLASSES

AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP OF IRELAND

33	R.McCaw Gold Convention, High Society, Gold- finger, Silent Valley, Glen Alladale, Achduart, Loch Alsh, Chilmark, Loch Lundie, Cool Crystal, Royal Marine, Gold Bond.	P.WALLACE 1463 -2WP, Loch Hope, Loch Alsh, Goldfinger, Bryanston, White Star, Red Spartan, Val D'Incles, Dr. Hugh Loch Lundie, Megalith, Gold Bond.
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COLLECTION CLASSES

34	S.McCabe Goldfinger	R. McCaw White Star
35	M.Kerr Creag Dubh	S. McCabe Shining Light / Bunclody
36	S.McCabe Triple Crown	R. McCaw Glen Alladale
37	M.Kerr Lemonbrook	D. Turbitt Halstock
38	D.Turbitt Mentor	J. Ennis Tyrian Rose

Class	Winner		Second	
39	J. Ennis	High Society	J. Ennis	Badbury Rings
40	S. McCabe	Waldorf Astoria	M. Kerr	Beauvallon
41	P. Wallace	Arish Mell	D. Turbitt	Ice Wings
42	Mrs. A Bonugli	Foundling	R. McCaw	Foundling
43	J. Ennis	Sweetness	M. Kerr	Sweetness
44				

SINGLE STEM CLASSES

45	T.R.Eakins	Goldfinger	R. McCaw	Ethos
46	M.Kerr	Pops Legacy	I. Erskine	Elmbridge
47	R.McCaw	White Star	D. Turbitt	White Star
48	T.R.Eakins	Alltun Ha	S. McCabe	Altun ha
49	J.S.Ennis	Golden Sheen	S. McCabe	Gold Bond
50	P. Wallace	Surrey	S.McCabe	Colourful
51	.S.Ennis	Twicer	T.R.Eakins	State Express
52	J.S.Ennis	Ardress	R.McCaw	Megalith
53	R.McCaw	Wychavon	P. Wallace	Rushmore
54	S.McCabe	Ringleader	R. Curry	Ottoman Gold
55	P. Wallace	Dromalga	D. Turbitt	Areley Kings
56	R. Patton	Fragrant Rose	J.S.Ennis	Tyrian Rose
57	M.Kerr	June Lake	D. Turbitt	Songket
58			S.McCabe	Ferndown
59	N. Watson	Achduart	R.McCaw	Chilmark
60	R. Curry	Badbury Wings	S.McCabe	Amboseli
61	J.S.Ennis	Rivendell	R.McCaw	Loch Alsh
62	J.S.Ennis	Dr. Hugh	R. Patton	Dr. Hugh
63	J.S.Ennis	Purbeck	R. Curry	Picasso
64	J.S.Ennis	Val D'incles	D. Turbitt	Cool Crystal
65	M.Kerr	Crackington	S.McCabe	Dunkery
66	S.McCabe	Unique	J.S.Ennis	Piraeus
67	R. Patton	Arish Mell	M.Kerr	Tuesday's Child
68	N. Watson	Elfin Gold	R. Curry	Elfin Gold
69	M.Kerr	Georgie's Girl	R.McCaw	Bilbo
70	I. Erskine	Stratosphere	R.McCaw	Intrigue
71	M.Kerr	Avalanche	R.McCaw	Highfield Beauty
72	M.Kerr	Malin Head	M.Kerr	Malin Head
73	N. Watson	Tripartite	R.McCaw	Tricollet
74	D. Turbitt	9104(2WWWP)	S.McCabe	89/4 (2WP)
75	N. Watson	Prairie Fire	P. Wallace	Brodick

NOVICE CLASSES

NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIP OF IRELAND

Class	Winner		Second	
76	N. Watson		J. Smyth	
	Bandesara, Kebaya, Crackington, Wetherby, Gabriel Klieberg, Golden Jewel, Abel Smyth F33/92, Badbury Rings, Carncairn 15/11/82		Amber Castle, Woodland Prince, Sportsman, Park Avenue, Rockall, Rotarian, Gracious Lady, Bulbarrow, Sandymount, Newcastle, Kingsbridge	

COLLECTION CLASSES

77	G. Wilson	Silent Valley	N. Thompson	Rashee
78	N. Watson	Parkfield's Beauty	N. Thompson	Misty Glen
79	I. Scroggy	Doctor Hugh	N. Watson	Badbury Rings, Altruist, Wetherby
80	N. Watson	Aslan	J. Smyth	Beauvallon

SINGLE STEM CLASSES

81	J. Smyth	Rio D'or	N. Thompson	Sperrin Gold
82	N. Watson	Drumlin	I. Scroggy	Drumlin
83	I. Scroggy	White Star	J. Smyth	White Star
84	N. Watson	Golden Ranger	I. Scroggy	Golden Jewel
85	N. Watson	Carncairn 15/11/82	J. Smyth	Sandymount
86	J. Smyth	Ardress	N. Watson	Conestoga
87	N. Watson	Glasnevin	N. Watson	Broomhill
88	N. Watson	Achduart	J. Smyth	Achduart
89	N. Watson	Portnoo	N. Thompson	Unknown
90	I. Scroggy	Park Avenue	N. Watson	Gresham
91	J. Robinson	Highfield Beauty	I. Scroggy	Intrigue
92	N. Watson	Foundling	N. Thompson	Lilac Charm
93	N. Watson	Actaea	J. Smyth	Pheasant Eye
94	I. Scroggy	Carib Gypsy	N. Thompson	Halstock
95	N. Thompson	North Rim	N. Watson	Dailmanach
96	N. Watson	Carncairn Seedling	I. Scroggy	Duncan 1393

BEST BLOOM NOVICE

N. Watson Portnoo

NEWEST and BEST 1Y-Y's

You only have to look in the Daffodil Journal at George Tarry's '95 list of award winning yellow trumpet daffodils (12 from 4 shows) to see the number of different varieties which are basically tied to one class in each section of a Spring Show Schedule. This will show the enormity of varieties which could be mentioned in this report of the newest and best of Division 1 yellow trumpet Daffodils. So I reserve the right to comment on varieties I have grown or seen. In my first couple of years of showing, I thought 1Y-Y's were a flower to be endured and shown only to help gain points in overall sections. Whether I have mellowed or yellow trumpet daffodils have got better remains to be seen.

In those first few years I remember having big floppy things that would do everything but sit up on the show bench. As I progressed I began obtaining better varieties. The following remain in my collection from those early days. Valley Gold stands out large enough and consistent, very suitable for three bloom classes because the inner three petals all cockle but still manage to give uniformity. Viking, slightly smaller, smoother but not featuring as much in my exhibits these days. Banbridge and Comal still win top awards. Banbridge, well up to size, with little dressing before going on to the show bench. Comal remains my favourite, a good round flower, reasonably large, although I think the trumpet can be straight and slightly narrow. This is my outstanding early variety and remains a good banker for me. It was also first and second in the Novice Section of the R.H.S. London Show and would have lived in the company of the open classes. A quick mention of Golden Vale, a deep yellow colour and most impressive in three bloom collections.

These flowers were my good 1Y-Y's until I was able to obtain even better varieties. Despatch Box is a good flower, strong substance, and strong stem allows a large head to be held up. Ethos, good deep colour, a good flower for late exhibition.

Sperrin Gold, smooth round flower, again very suitable for late shows. This year has not been a good year for yellow trumpets but the outstanding variety has to be Goldfinger. I am slightly biased, I like everything about this flower. Some people can take it or leave it, others tend to completely ignore it. This flower has to be judged for what it is. It is a good round flower, beautiful trumpet, slightly flared. It is said that the fault with Goldfinger is that it is hooded (incurving of the petals). I do not look on this as a fault. Although this hooding makes it very difficult to work with, as it will easily nick at the tips of the petals, this is almost a cut and show flower and will also grow when cut early. This flower won both 1Y-Y classes and was included in two winning Championship of Ireland collections at Belfast Show. I have crossed Goldfinger by Comal. So come back to me in five years time.

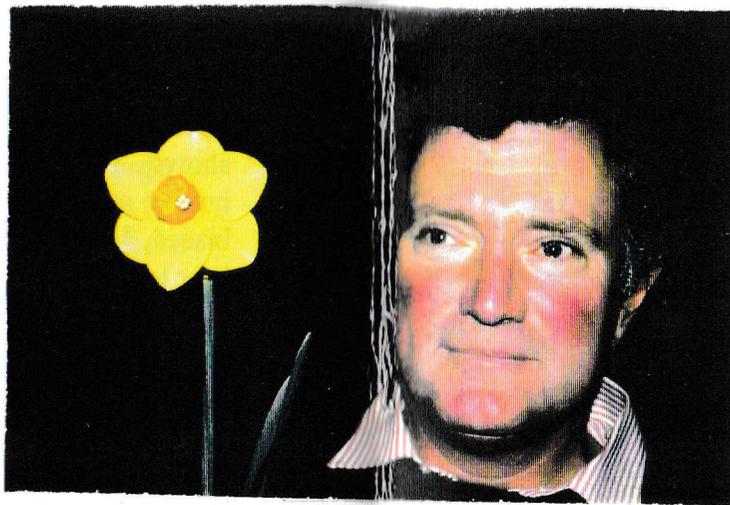
Some varieties which I am now growing for the first time in my collection are Barnesgold which is a large round good yellow colour. Arthurian, any flowers which I have seen I like, and look forward to seeing what it does in my garden. Barnum is a long flower and slightly hooded.

Other varieties I have seen have been Akala, nice form, good Ace of Spades, smooth with a nice waisted cup. I saw Mulroy Bay and Goldfinger in the same exhibit, the two being similar with Mulroy Bay having a slightly deeper colour and with a more flared cup. Meldrum, deep colour, flared trumpet. I also liked Ritsin though any I saw were small.

Flowers I have seen this year for the first time have been Chobe River, beautiful deep yellow, smooth and good texture, similar to Goldfinger but without the hooding. I thought this flower was small but the grower tells me that the ones I saw were pot grown and did not do justice to the size. Postles 1-7-81 (Gold Convention x Midas Touch) just measures Div.1, good front row flower because of its pose if there were another three flowers in the row to match its size. There have been a couple of



Best Vase of 3 Belfast 1996
 'Cool Crystal' exhibited by
 Derrick Turbitt



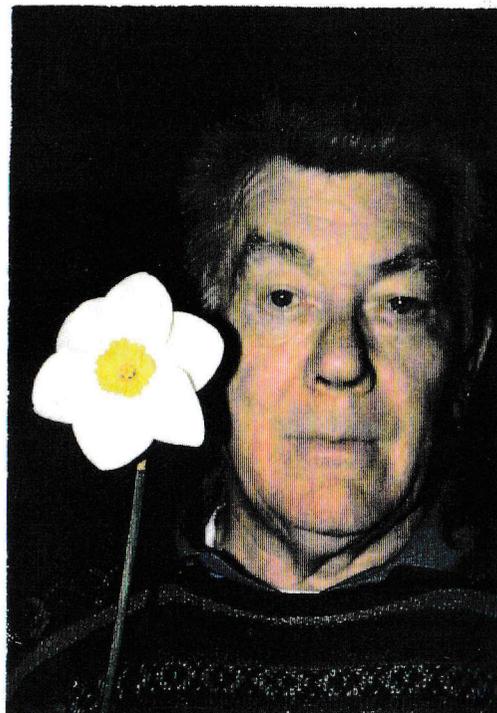
Nial Watson with
 'Achduart' best bloom
 Belfast 1996



Sandy McCabe with
 S3 Best seedling
 Belfast 1996



Secretary Richard McCaw with
 'Goldfinger' Best bloom Div. 1
 Belfast 1996



Sam Jordan with
 'Loch Alsh' Best bloom
 Omagh 1996



John Blanchard with
 'Arish Mell' Best Div 5-9
 Omagh 1996



Brian Duncan's winning
 12 bloom entry at
 Late Show 1996

other flowers that have been noticeable which could be worth looking out for such as Golden Girl and Rio'D'or, both being late.

It is surprising to note how many of the pre-mentioned flowers have Golden Jewel 2Y-Y in their breeding; also notable is Midas Touch.

A yellow trumpet report could not be complete without mentioning King Alfred but all I am going to do is mention it. I wonder what John Kendall would have thought of Goldfinger?

Richard McCaw

DAFFODIL TRIALS

The trials which were mentioned in the last edition of the newsletter are to go ahead this year. It is hoped to plant 50 varieties, 25 bulbs of each in beds with companion plants in Lady Dixon Park. Each variety will be labelled

- 1 - with the name of the cultivar
- 2 - the R.H.S. classification
- 3 - the name of the raiser
- 4 - donors name and address.

Applications for inclusion for planting next year should be made to our secretary Richard McCaw giving the information by mid May. If more applications are submitted than can be included the committee of the N.I.D.G. reserve the right to select the varieties that will give the best coverage of all divisions and colourings.

This is an opportunity for the members and friends of the N.I.D.G. to let the public see that daffodils have come a long way in the last 25 years, and may even have the effect of arousing the interest of some to the extent of wishing to find out more about our favourite flower.

BI-COLOUR TRUMPETS - THE POOR RELATION?

Over the past 25 years there have been dramatic advances in the size, form, colour, substance in many sub-divisions with one notable exception. To my mind Bi-Colour trumpets (1W-Y) have shown very little improvement, if any.

In 1971, when I was first smitten with yellow fever, Newcastle was generally regarded as being the top exhibition variety. Though not pure white and with an infuriating habit of "Cockling" a petal. Many fine examples were produced - particularly if grown under glass.

In 1996, what has changed? Numerous Bi-Colours have been introduced in the intervening quarter century. Where is the one that stands out and creates that immediate "must have" feeling I experienced on first sight of Soprano, Dorchester, Altun Ha to name but three. If it exists, I have not yet seen it.

I have tried to remedy the situation but all seedlings to date have been worthless. Numerous crosses involving Newcastle, Downpatrick, Pennine Way etc. have all been tried without success.

Later this year I am looking forward to seeing the results of North River X White Star which set seed in 1991. North River was obtained from U.S.A. and has attractive form but is not white enough. Other American varieties recently acquired are Central Park and Apostle. These will figure in my breeding plans for the future though I believe that several generations of flowers will be needed before my ideal is achieved.

The only flowered seedling still under trial with me comes from open pollinated Newcastle. To date it has not inherited the cockle petal of its mother but is not as white as necessary. Perhaps if it were crossed with White Star or Chinchilla something worthwhile might result.

One other aspect in which Bi-Colours are lacking is trumpet colour. All the ones with which I am familiar are yellow rather than gold. So come on all you hybridisers - amateur as well as

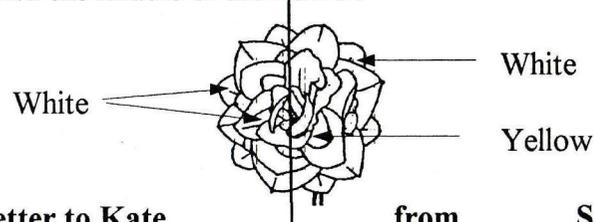
professional.

Produce for me the ultimate 1W-Y. It will have the perianth whiteness of White Star, the trumpet colour of Goldfinger and the elegance of Silent Valley.

Sandy McCabe.

CONTINUING SAGA OF THE SPORTING DAFFODIL

Kate reports this year that the bulb which she potted came up even more peculiar this year. The smaller part of the bulb produced a flower in which the yellow segments appeared on one side of the flower only just as if a line had been drawn straight down the middle of the flower.



Letter to Kate from Sally Kington.

This is by way of the comment you ask on your intriguing piece in the N.I.D.G. Newsletter on an apparent sport of 'Gay Song'. You are wondering if the sport is the same as 'Gay Symphony' and therefore whether 'Gay Symphony' was itself a sport. But from the R.H.S. files, and from Mrs. Richardson's catalogues too, I see that 'Gay Symphony' is down not as a sport, but bred from 'Gay Time'(s) and 'Brussels' (p). So however much they may resemble one another, your sport and 'Gay Symphony' cannot be the same.

It is a pity that the database here at the R.H.S. is not quite ready to pour forth parentages, otherwise we would be able to discover which doubles of the Richardson's were sports and match yours with those, if any. Perhaps Mary Lou Gripshover would do it for you, she has parentages computerised already.

If you can find no match among other Richardson doubles, I guess you are in possession of a whole new daffodil of your own. Sent by the fairies.

THE NOVICE IN LONDON

I joined the chattering ladies waiting to check in for the flight from Belfast to London clutching polystyrene fish boxes and feeling very out of place. There were the usual delays at check in and eventually my boxes were covered with 'FRAGILE' labels and gently taken from me. The noise in the departure lounge hit me as I peered in alarm at my fellow travellers. Cowering in the sea of ladies I saw three other men making a total of four on the flight. Above the noise I think our flight was called and this was confirmed as people moved towards the door. We filed out to the plane and to my horror I saw my boxes on their sides under a pile of luggage - so much for 'FRAGILE'.

After a good flight we arrived at Gatwick and waited for our bags. My boxes duly arrived this time upside down. Having recovered my daffodils I headed for the London train "Enjoy your fish" said a man as he saw me carrying my fish boxes. Thirty minutes later I was at Victoria station and walking to Vincent Square and the R.H.S.

The first people I saw as I entered the hall were the Irish contingent who gathered round as I warily opened the boxes expecting the worst. I was lucky, one or two blooms had come adrift and two were quite badly bruised. However I was assured that a few hours in water would perk them up and sure enough by the time I had staged the rest the two battered blooms had almost returned to their former glory.

At first I felt overawed by this 'mecca' of horticulture but the friendliness of everyone soon put me at my ease and I settled down to the task in hand. I had only staged about six blooms when I was told that I would need staging fluid. Now this really threw me as I hadn't a clue what staging fluid was. I soon learnt and was very quickly back to work with a glass of gin and tonic by my side, it really does help the staging process.

Eventually I had done all I could, my flowers were up and now all I had do was the final touch up the next morning to make

sure they were at their best for the judges. Having arranged to meet the others somewhere for supper, I left those with a lot more flowers than I to keep on staging while I went off to explore.

At ten o'clock I walked into the restaurant and sat down with a very cold beer while I waited for the others to arrive. I didn't have long to wait and we were soon tucking into vast quantities of spare ribs, chicken wings and chips followed by very rich puddings. We then all of us went to a hotel where some of the group were staying. There we had a drink and discussed the day's events and generally put the world to rights. I left fairly soon as several of the others had an early start and I did not want to be too late to bed myself.

The next morning found me in Vincent Square putting the final touches to my blooms. Now their future was in the lap of the gods and the minds of the judges.

Not far from the halls was a very good little cafe which is an obvious haunt for people from the show. It serves a breakfast which would be as close to an Ulster fry as you could get outside Ulster. Here we had gathered in pairs or small groups before going off into the London shops.

Much later I returned to the halls to see how I had done. I could hardly believe my eyes when the first bloom I looked at had a second, I was very pleased. I carried on round the novice classes to find that several blooms had been placed including one first. I was ecstatic. Having overcome my surprise and delight I moved on to look further afield. N.I.D.G. names were cropping up with great regularity. This all made for a very pleasant day but what really made it a great day was my chance to meet so many other growers. It was particularly good to be able to put faces to well known names which to date had only been seen on catalogues.

All too soon it was time to leave but I am looking forward to a return visit in 1997 still a novice but not so green.

Nial Watson

SPENT MUSHROOM COMPOST

Has it a value for daffodil growers?

Dr. Moore Chestnutt.

In recent years there has been a rapid growth in the local mushroom industry. As a result spent mushroom compost, a by-product of the industry, is now widely available and growers are keen to identify the best means of disposal. This product is largely organic which should make it an effective soil conditioner and it contains useful plant nutrients. On the other hand its high lime content may cause problems with soil pH. How then does it rate in comparison with other sources of organic matter such as garden compost and farmyard manure?

WHAT IS SPENT MUSHROOM COMPOST?

Modern mushroom composts are based mainly on a mixture of wheat straw and poultry litter. The wheat straw is initially wet and poultry litter is added. This material is then formed into rough stacks and turned regularly to mix ingredients uniformly, aerate the pile and encourage optimum composting conditions. After an initial two week conditioning period, long windrows are formed and gypsum is added to correct the acidity and 'greasiness' of the compost. Finally it is pasteurised to render it free from any diseases, pests and weeds.

The compost is then seeded with mushroom spawn, filled into 20kg plastic bags and distributed to growers. It is kept in a controlled environment while the mushroom mycelium colonises the compost. Before the mushrooms begin to emerge the surface of each bag is cased, i.e. it is covered with a layer (about 1 inch) of a mixture of lime and peat. After cropping the compost and casing are referred to as spent mushroom compost (or spent mushroom substrate - SMS).

In trying to determine the value of spent mushroom compost we

need to consider three aspects - it's lime content, it's capacity to supply useful plant nutrients and the value of - its organic content as a soil conditioner.

LIME CONTENT

The most common problem with the use of spent mushroom compost in gardens is that it may generate soil pH levels which are too high for some plants. It contains gypsum and lime both of which will increase soil pH.

Gypsum (Calcium Sulphate) is added to the compost during the later stages of preparation to stabilise pH at 7.5. Subsequent mushroom growth reduces this to about 6.8. While the recommended pH for daffodils is 6.5 this material (ie. the compost without casing) would be unlikely to cause any problems even if it were applied to soil which had recently been limed .

The casing, however, which is inevitably part of the product has a much higher concentration of lime. About 0.3kg of lime is used in the casing for each bag. Assuming a bag of spent compost weighing about 15kg was spread over 5square meters this would add about 60g of lime per square meter (2oz per square yard) This would increase soil pH by between 0.5ph units (on a light low pH soil) and 0.1 pH units (on a heavy soil where pH was near optimum) .

Where soils have been allowed to become a bit acid spent mushroom compost will obviously perform a useful function. With their optimum pH of 6- 6.5 daffodils should tolerate fairly high usage of mushroom compost. However constant high usage could result in pH's climbing above the optimum range. It is wise to take the precaution of regularly measuring pH to ensure that this does not happen. It would not be advisable to use heavy dressings of mushroom compost at soil pH's above 6.5.

NUTRIENT CONTENT

Poultry manure is a good organic source of plant nutrients and only a small proportion of these is removed by the mushroom crop. The composition of mushroom compost is not very different

from that of farmyard manure or garden compost. On average it would have a marginally higher concentration of useful plant nutrients. A 15kg bag of compost would probably supply about 140 gms. of Nitrogen, 40 gms. of Phosphate and 120 gms. of potash. Count on around half of these quantities being available in the year of application. This would be equivalent to 500gms. (just over a pound) of 14:4:12 N:P:K compound. Spread over 5 square yards (a fairly high dressing rate) this would be equivalent to just over 3oz./square yard.

Mushroom compost can be a useful source of trace elements. However, many of these are present in the form of salts and can increase soil salt levels. Where the salt concentration of the soil is too high growth of the bulbs may be impaired. It is generally recommended that the spent mushroom compost is stored in the open for a period before application to the soil. Remove all plastic and keep the storage heap as open as possible and fairly well spread out. Do not let the compost dry out and turn it occasionally to improve uniformity and maintain aerobic conditions. Salt concentration will be reduced by the leeching effect of rain.

One virtue of spent mushroom compost is it's uniformity. Because it is put together according to strictly controlled formula it should be less variable than garden compost or farmyard manure.

ORGANIC MATTER

The organic matter in mushroom compost has been subjected to a certain amount of breakdown during composting. There should be few problems with temporary nitrogen depletion of the soil which can occur, for example, with partially rotted strawy manure.

During the preparation process the compost is subjected to pasteurisation (60 degrees C for 8 hours). This should ensure that it is free from most disease producing organisms and from live weed seeds. However it can be a bit slow to break down in the soil. Anything which can be done to help mixing with the soil, eg.

a few shovelfuls of soil mixed through the storage heap will help to speed the rotting process. Mixing the compost as thoroughly as possible with the soil at the time of spreading will also help.

Thanks are due to Mairead Kilpatrick of the Northern Ireland Horticultural and Plant Breeding Station, Loughgall, for technical information in this article.

Stem Nematode on Narcissus

HOST PLANTS: At least two races of stem nematode can infest narcissus: the narcissus race and the tulip race. Each race has a wide host range. The hosts vary in their susceptibility to the pests, some allowing a large build-up in numbers while others may support merely a few individuals. In practice, the most important alternative host crops are as follows:

Narcissus race - onion, bean, pea, bluebell;

Tulip race - tulip, bean, pea, maize, hyacinth, bluebell.

In addition, many common farm weeds such as black bindweed, chickweed, cleavers, fat-hen and scarlet pimpernel can also act as hosts.

DESCRIPTION: Barely visible, transparent, worm-like, less than 1.3 mm long. A mass of immature nematodes may sometimes form an off-white 'wool' on or under the surface layers of infected material.

LIFE CYCLE AND DAMAGE: Stem nematodes can invade narcissus bulbs from the soil, other bulbs or nearby infested weeds. In addition, stock that is lightly infested but shows no clinical symptoms can be planted unknowingly. The whole life cycle of the stem nematode occurs within the host tissue. After mating, each female lays between 200 and 500 eggs. Development from egg to adult can be completed in as little as three weeks at flower-forcing temperatures. Breeding may continue until the bulb

decays, when the nematodes return to the soil, infest other hosts or, after harvest, form the resistant 'wool' stage on the bulb tissue.

Damaged tissue has a puffy appearance and growth is distorted. Leaves often develop pale swellings called spickels. If affected bulbs are cut across, damage shows as brown rings where individual scales are affected by nematodes and secondary pathogens.

PEST STATUS: The most important pest of narcissus in the UK, necessitating routine treatment of stocks. Attacks are variable, but tolerance levels are low, particularly for those crops intended for export.

CONTROL MEASURES: Sound crop rotations, good hygiene and the use of healthy planting material are all important. Growing crops should be inspected regularly as symptoms are then much easier to recognise. Spickels on foliage, gaps, stunted or distorted plants and late-flowering patches may all indicate problems. Plants from affected areas should be removed and destroyed. Self-set bulbs should be eliminated as soon as possible after harvest to prevent carry-over of the pest.

All stocks should be routinely hot-water treated. Those obviously infested should be given priority and treated as soon as possible after lifting. Standard treatment is three hours at 44.4 degrees C.

Dan McCormack

Dates for 1997 Season

18/19th March	London Early Show
15/16th April	London Daffodil Show
19/20th April	Belfast Show
29/30th April	London Late Show
20/23rd May	Chelsea Show

Plants Passports and Phytosanitary Certificates

People need passports to travel internationally. Plants for growing on need "passports" (labels with Plant Health number) which show where they have been grown, to travel between the twelve Member States of the European Union. The purpose is to enable the potential spread of plant pests and diseases to be eliminated, reduced or traced to source. Good idea - I hope you agree.

Like many good ideas this one gets rather complicated in the delivery. There are European community Directives, there is National Legislation and there are implementing rules and procedures. As well as this there are seemingly endless special cases, exempted species, protected zones and marketing regulations. There is a 20 page compendium of phytosanitary terms. By the way, phyto means Plant, sanitary means Health so Plant Health certificates are pieces of paper which importing countries insist should accompany most Plant material (including tobacco waste and peat) certifying freedom from specified pests and diseases not already established in that country.

The Plant Protection organisation of all countries is responsible for the operation of these controls which are specified in legislation: that is, there are statutory requirements and standards of freedom from pests and diseases, of purity - and health. The Plant Protection organisation or Plant Health. Inspectors are usually also responsible for the control and monitoring of internal plant health and plant movement from grower to grower, from nursery to retailer, residential gardens and amenity areas and parks.

Northern Ireland has an internationally recognised High Plant Health status maintained by vigilance, restrictions and co-operation from traders and growers. We have a high potential

for export of healthy plants - including NARCISSUS BULBS, and SEED POTATOES.

In practice the health of most plants is assessed by official Growing Season Inspections and pre-export inspections. The timing, frequency and intensity of inspections are related to the likelihood of a pest or disease being present. "Quality" diseases usually have tolerances allowed but "quarantine" diseases are strictly prohibited.

If you are exporting or importing plants commercially (there is an exemption for very small quantities for personal use) you will be regularly in touch with your Plant Health Inspector who will not only carry out the specified official inspections but also at your request arrange the issue of the necessary documents - Phytosanitary Certificates for Third Countries - to allow entry to the chosen destination through that country's Plant Protection Service.

NOTE: The Plant Health Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland can be reached at Room 139A, Dundonald House, Belfast, BT4 3SB. Tel: (01232) 524552.

Dan McCormack

A YELLOW DAFFODIL

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Oh the glowing beauty
Of a yellow daffodil
Bringing springtime freshness
To a winter sill. | 2. Like a living promise
Of garden song and sun,
Joyous little prelude
Of lovely days to come. |
| 3. Like a note of laughter
Upon a dreary day
Breaking through the winter gloom
With melodies of May. | 4. Strange how notes of beauty
Can change our world about
Bits of loveliness in life
We cannot do without. |

NARCISSUS FLOWER BULBS

This is the first in a series of articles which make up the thesis submitted by a student from Sweden in the third year of study for a B.Sc. Horticulture. The thesis is very wide ranging and should be of interest to all and may well point the way to those who would like to delve more deeply into the subject.

Introduction

Plants with storage organs are found in all climatic areas of the world, coming from a number of botanical families and with a range of types of storage organs. What this group has in common is that they have a storage organ which gives them an opportunity to survive unfavourable periods and to grow and flower at periods of the year when food-synthesis is limited.

Storage organs are like seed in the way that they contain the plant in miniature and are full of food reserves. The storage organs are also a mechanism of propagation. In bulb production this is an advantage, the offspring is genetically the same as the mother. It is packed in a sound bulb, has a good storage life and can be manipulated to flower outside its natural flower period because of its lack of dependence on external conditions (Rees, 1992). It is not yet known why storage organs evolved, but obviously it has importance in food plants. The storage tissue is often closely associated with phloem tissue which helps in sink filling and emptying.

The type of storage food materials vary, the most usual are starch and glucose, sucrose and highly polymerised glucofructans such as inulin occurring commonly (Rees, 1992). The food reserves are protected by outer layers of material such as old leaf bases or scales, which restrict water losses. The presence of toxic, repellent or deterrent chemicals such as alkaloids, oxalic acid and the "flavour chemicals" of the onion and garlic protect the reserves from predation by insects and micro-organisms.

Ornamental bulbs occur mainly in the monocotyledons and

in a few families; within the order *Asparagus*, the *Alliaceae*, the *Amaryllidaceae* and *Hyacinthaceae*, and within the order *Liliales*, the *Alstroemeriaceae*, *Iridaceae* and *Liliaceae*.

But in this report I am just going to consider the *Narcissus* belonging to the *Amaryllidaceae* family.

Botany

Narcissus originates from the area Spain and Portugal. There is a big problem in the taxonomy of the genus *Narcissus*, because so many species have been cultivated for a long time with selections from varieties and ecotypes and there has been natural hybridisation in their original habitat and recently crossing and selection by man (Rees, 1992). Many of these cultivars have escaped back into the wild and the true geographical origins have become confused.

Within the genus *Narcissus* there are 30 species from Europe and five confined to North Africa. The chromosome number of seven and multiples thereof are the most common. In a few species the chromosome number is ten and eleven, based on five. The present day species are speculated to have arisen from no longer existing ancestors, with fourteen chromosomes by gene mutation, hybridisation, polyploidy and chromosome alteration or loss. Species cross very easily in the wild, producing spontaneous hybrids. Most species are diploid, but some are triploid or tetraploid, and there are some hexaploid (Rees, 1992)

Narcissus

Narcissus was developed as a crop plant only towards the end of the 19th century. Early lists of apothecary's medicinal plants include the daffodils. Monastic sites still today often retain populations of old established kinds. These plants were probably introduced centuries ago (Jefferson Brown, 1991).

Records written in the 16th century show interest in daffodils grown in Britain and mainland Europe, especially the

Netherlands. In 1548 Tuner listed 24 species and varieties in his "A Few Narcissus of Diverse Sports" (Jefferson-Brown, 1991).

The modern classification of plants and animals was made by Carl von Linne. He was born in Sweden and worked throughout his life in Uppsala in Sweden. He created the two-word nomenclature, one generic and one specific name. This work swept away former names that tended to grow into miniature descriptions (Jefferson-Brown, 1991). In his *Planatarum* 1753, he listed six kinds of narcissus and in the second edition he listed 13 (but two of these are not true narcissus).

Beginning with growing plants for medicinal and culinary purposes, it soon became a subject for private collecting in Britain. Here and in the Netherlands the collecting of all types of bulbs accelerated as international travelling and trading increased. Bulbs were easy to handle and unusual forms and mutations were collected and propagated.

In A.H. Haworth's "Monograph on the Suborder V of Amaryllideae" published in Sweet's British Flower Garden of 1831, he brought together all his knowledge in Narcissus. The Linnean Narcissus was now replaced by 16 genera and 148 species, some based only on the evidence of indifferent drawings (Jefferson-Brown, 1991).

But soon Dean Herbert, in his *Amaryllidaceae* of 1837, cut the Haworth proliferation down to six genera and 45 species with some 130 varieties. Species based on illustrations alone were summarily dismissed (Jefferson-Brown, 1991).

Later the flower king Peter Barr made J.G. Baker to bring order among the daffodils. Haworth's fanciful genera were banished and the Linnean single genus firmly established. His 1888 "Handbook of Amaryllidaceae" is still today regarded as the basis of the botanical view of the family (Jefferson-Brown, 1991).

(To be continued.)

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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 £7.50 per annum or £18 for 3 years due on the 1st January. Any member being 12 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 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 4 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 4, 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. No members may serve for more than 4 consecutive years on the Committee.

6 Sub-Committee

The committee shall have power to appoint a sub-committee for any special purpose. A subcommittee shall make a record of its proceedings. The Chairman of each sub-committee shall be 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 15, with the Chairman having a casting vote. Any member desiring to propose a resolution shall send 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 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 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.

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The Northern Ireland Daffodil Group MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

To R. McCaw, 77 Ballygowan Road, Hillsborough
Co. Down, BT26 6EQ

Mr. _____
I/We Mrs. _____
Ms. _____

Post Code _____
desire to become a member of The Northern Ireland
Daffodil Group, and enclose the sum of £7.50/£18.00
being my subscription for 1 or 3 years. (Please delete one figure)

Date _____