Daffodil

Final Trials Report

2010-2011

Trials Office
The Royal Horticultural Society Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QB
Trial Notes

Objectives:
- To assess, compare and demonstrate a range of cultivars submitted by nurserymen and individuals in the UK and the Netherlands.
- To judge which of these excellent garden plants should be recommended for the highest accolade, the Award of Garden Merit.

Judging:
The entries were judged by the Daffodil and Tulip Trials Assessment Panel in 2010 and 2011 for the Award of Garden Merit (AGM), using a scoring system out of 50 points based on the following criteria:

- Maximum of 30 points for Impact, Grace and Charm [i.e. colour, style and proportion, carriage and pose, bloom density]
  
  Impact/Grace and Charm Max
  Colours 10
  Style and Proportion 10
  Carriage and Pose 5
  Bloom Density 5
  Total 30

- Maximum of 10 points for Durability [i.e. weather resistance, flower life]
  
  Durability Max
  Weather resistance 5
  Flower life 5
  Total 10

- Maximum of 10 points for Constitution [i.e. plant health and vigour, plant habit]
  
  Constitution Max
  Plant health & vigour 5
  Plant habit 5
  Total 10

  Maximum Score = 50

After considering the cumulative scores on 6 June 2011, the Trials Assessment Panel recommended the Award of Garden Merit (AGM) to 7 entries.

Entries:
There were 34 entries (16 miniature and 18 standard height) in this trial. Entries were submitted by nurserymen and individuals from the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.
Cultivation:
The plot was rotavated with a tractor-mounted rotavator and prior to planting the ground was cultivated by hand. Bulbs were planted in the autumn of 2009 at a depth of 3 times the height of the bulb (approx 15cm / 6in), spaced 15cm apart each way in blocks of 25. Entries were examined for virus each spring and affected bulbs removed.

Possible Pests and Diseases:
Virus - yellow streaking of the foliage. Entries are examined for virus in spring and affected bulbs removed.
Narcissus bulb fly - netting is placed over the trial when female flies are laying eggs (late May to mid July).
Entries are examined for virus in Spring and affected bulbs removed.

Records:
A record was made of the date of start and finish of flowering, the number of flowering stems per bulb and the number of blind bulbs in each entry.

Meteorological Report and Findings:
January 2010 was a very cold month with a mean daily temperature of 1.5 °C, which was below the long term average of 4 °C. Whilst 6th January saw the deepest snowfall (12cm), a total of 23cm of snow fell during the whole month. February was 1°C lower than the long term average, and a low of -9.3°C was reached at grass level on the 20th. This exceptionally cold weather, with unusual amounts of snow resulted in frost damage to some of the trial entries. The long cold spell early in the year led to a general trend for the early flowered daffodils to be substantially later flowering than usual. March and April saw much less rainfall and much more sunshine that the long term averages and this led to a wonderful display of flowers in late spring 2010.

The trial was covered with fleece on 26th November 2010 to protect the early foliage from icy winter weather. The fleece was subsequently removed on 10th January 2011.
Unfortunately quite a number of bulbs failed to emerge or develop properly in spring 2011. These bulbs were dug up and sent to the Pathology and Entomology departments for further investigation. The main problems were found to have been damage from the larvae of the large narcissus fly, *Merodon equetris*, (despite the usual preventative of the trial being covered with Environmesh) and basal rot, *Fusarium oxysporum* (f. sp *Narcissi*). Other problems included a few bulbs with small bulb fly larvae (*Eumerus* spp.) and a few with virus. Despite these problems, a good display of flowers was seen in spring 2011 and a number of AGM recommendations were made.

**Plants Receiving AGMs During Trial**

The following are the plants thought to fulfil the Award of Garden Merit criteria during the trial and to be worthy of receiving the award. The criteria which a plant needs to fulfil in order to receive the award are:

- excellent for ordinary garden use
- available
- reasonably resistant to pests and diseases
- of good constitution
- essentially stable in form and colour
- reasonably easy to grow

Hardiness ratings are as follows:
H4 – hardy throughout the British Isles

Abbreviated comments from members of the Trials Assessment Panel are shown in italics and the number of flowering stems per ten bulbs relates to the second year. Plants produced one flower per stem unless otherwise stated.
Plants Awarded AGM

**Narcissus 'Angel's Breath' AGM (H4) 2011**

**Classification 5 Y-Y (Trial Entry M4)**

Raised by Glenbrook Bulb Farm.  
Sent by J S Pennings.  
Available from: Bramcote Bulbs and Miniature Bulbs  
Trials Assessment Panel Comments: “A beautiful little thing with fantastic flowers.  Flowers stand up well on strong stems.”  
Flowered for 28 days in 2011 (from 11th March), with 51 flowering stems per 10 bulbs.  Produced 3-6 flowers per stem.  
Description: Flowering stems 31.5cm in height.  Outward to slightly downward facing flowers 4cm in diameter.  Perianth segments often slightly reflexed.  Prostrate green foliage to 51cm in length.

**Narcissus 'Bell Rock' AGM (H4) 2011**

**Classification: 1 W-Y (Trial Entry L1)**

Raised, sent by and available from R A Scamp at Quality Daffodils.  
Trials Assessment Panel Comments: “Flowers are held well above the foliage.  Very neat flowers.  Excellent foliage.  Has strong flower stems.  A strong grower.”  
Flowered for 17 days in 2011 (from 25th March), with 14 flowering stems per 10 bulbs.  
Description: Upright habit with outward facing flowers.  
Flowering stems 51cm in height, glaucous grey-green foliage to 42cm.  Flowers 9.2cm in diameter.

**Narcissus 'Elka' AGM (H4) 2011**

**Classification 1 W-W (Trial Entry M1)**

Raised by A Gray.  
Sent by J S Pennings.  
Available from Broadleigh Bulbs, Miniature Bulbs and Quality Daffodils.  
Flowered for 31 days in 2011 (from 25th February), with 28 flowering stems per 10 bulbs.  
Description completed in 2012: Upright habit with downward facing flowers.  Flowering stems 26cm in height, glaucous grey-green foliage to 22cm.  Flowers 5.8cm in diameter.  Flowers open with white perianth segments and a yellow corona (trumpet), and the corona matures to white.
**Narcissus 'Oxford Gold' AGM (H4) 2011**

**Classification 10 Y-Y (Trial Entry M16)**

Raised by Walter J M Blom.

Sent by J S Pennings.

Available


Flowered for 22 days in 2011 (from 17th March), with 120 flowering stems per 10 bulbs.

Description: Flowering stems 19cm in height. Upward facing flowers 4.5cm in diameter. Prostrate green foliage to 26cm in length.

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**Narcissus 'Sint Victor' AGM (H4) 2011**

**Classification 1 Y-Y (Trial Entry L4)**

Raised by K van der Veek.

Sent by J S Pennings.

Available

Trials Assessment Panel Comments: “Exceptional. Late, bright showy flowers. Strong, healthy foliage.”

Flowered for 17 days in 2011 (from 22nd March), with 27 flowering stems per 10 bulbs.

Description: Upright habit with outward facing flowers. Flowering stems 53cm in height, glaucous grey-green foliage to 51cm. Flowers 12cm in diameter.

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**Narcissus 'Spoirot' AGM (H4) 2011**

**Classification 10 W-W (Trial Entry M14)**

Raised by Glenbrook Bulb Farm.

Sent by J S Pennings.

Available from John Gibson Daffodils and P de Jager & Sons Ltd.

Trials Assessment Panel Comments: “Beautiful, eye-catching flowers, and very floriferous. The flowers have beautiful form. Flowers are above the foliage and are a consistent height.”

Flowered for 42 days in 2011 (from 14th February), with 180 flowering stems per 10 bulbs.

Description: Flowering stems to 19cm in height. Upward facing flowers, 4cm in diameter. Mix of prostrate and arching green foliage to 25.5cm in length.
Narcissus 'Yellow Pearl' AGM (H4) 2011
Classification 7 Y-Y (Trial Entry M13)
Raised by Walter J M Blom.
Sent by J S Pennings.
Available
Trials Assessment Panel Comments: “Very free flowering. Lovely flowers. A good plant which grows well.”
Flowered for 17 days in 2011 (from 25\textsuperscript{th} March), with 42 flowering stems per 10 bulbs.
Description completed in 2012: Flowering stems to 12cm in height. Outward facing flowers, 2.5cm in diameter. Mix of prostrate and arching glaucous grey-green foliage to 15cm in length.

The following cultivar received an AGM recommendation in 2009-2010 trial subject to availability, which has now been resolved:

Narcissus 'Dinnerplate' AGM (H4) 2010
Classification 2 W-Y (Trial Entry 8)
Raised by K van der Veek.
Sent by Narveco, Largevliet 40, 1788 BE, Juliardorp, Netherlands.
Available from Bloms Bulbs.
Trials Assessment Panel Comments: “Has big flowers.”
Flowered for 18 days in 2010 (from 26\textsuperscript{th} March), with 19 flowering stems per 10 bulbs.
Description to be completed in due course.
Flowering Details for 2010-2011 Daffodil Trial
Planted 23 October 2009 unless otherwise stated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Sender</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<td>Flowering start/end = total days flowering</td>
<td>Flowering stems per 10 bulbs</td>
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<tr>
<td>M 1 'Elka’</td>
<td>1 W-W</td>
<td>AGM (H4) 2011</td>
<td>J S Pennings</td>
<td>23 Mar</td>
<td>16 Apr</td>
<td>24 days</td>
<td>25 Feb</td>
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<td>M 2 'Little Spell’</td>
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<td>23 Apr</td>
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<td>M 3 'Rip van Winkle’</td>
<td>4 Y-Y</td>
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<td>5 Y-Y</td>
<td>AGM (H4) 2011</td>
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<td>M 6 'Mother Duck’</td>
<td>6 Y-Y</td>
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<td>M 7 'Mother Goose'</td>
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<td>‘New-Baby’</td>
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<td>‘Baby Moon’</td>
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<td>Bloms Bulbs</td>
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<td>7 Apr 28 Apr =21 days</td>
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<td>‘Chiva’</td>
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<td>4 Apr 19 Apr =15 days</td>
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<td>‘Moonyellow’</td>
<td>7 Y-Y</td>
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<td>25 Mar 11 Apr =17 days</td>
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<td>‘Spoirot’</td>
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<td>AGM (H4) 2011</td>
<td>15 Mar 9 Apr =25 days</td>
<td>14 Feb 28 Mar =42 days</td>
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<td>‘China Gold’</td>
<td>10 Y-Y</td>
<td>J S Pennings</td>
<td>26 Mar 30 Apr =35 days</td>
<td>9 Mar 13 Apr =35 days</td>
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<td>17 Mar 8 Apr =22 days</td>
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<td>L 1 ‘Bell Rock’</td>
<td>1 W-Y</td>
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<td>L 2 ‘Chesapeake Bay’</td>
<td>1 YYW-WWY</td>
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<td>R Scamp</td>
<td>9 Apr</td>
<td>30 Apr</td>
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<td>L 3 ‘Stann Creek’</td>
<td>1 YYW-WWY</td>
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<td>R Scamp</td>
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<td>L 4 ‘Saint Victor’</td>
<td>1 Y-Y</td>
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<td>2 W-WPP</td>
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<td>R Scamp</td>
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<td>2 YYW-W</td>
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<td>R Scamp</td>
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<td>L 8 ‘Clouded Yellow’</td>
<td>2 YYW-Y</td>
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<td>R Scamp</td>
<td>6 Apr</td>
<td>30 Apr</td>
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<td>L 9</td>
<td>‘Goonbell’</td>
<td>2 Y-Y</td>
<td>R Scamp</td>
<td>9 Apr 10 May</td>
<td>25 Mar 14 Apr</td>
<td>9 Apr 10 May =31 days</td>
<td>19 21</td>
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<td>L 10</td>
<td>‘Celestial Fire’</td>
<td>2 Y-O</td>
<td>R Scamp</td>
<td>9 Apr 28 Apr</td>
<td>28 Mar 13 Apr</td>
<td>9 Apr 28 Apr =19 days</td>
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<td>L 11</td>
<td>‘Demmo’</td>
<td>2 Y-O</td>
<td>J S Pennings</td>
<td>23 Mar 13 Apr</td>
<td>7 Mar 4 Apr</td>
<td>23 Mar 13 Apr (2\textsuperscript{nd} flush 23 Apr – 30 Apr) =21 days, plus 2\textsuperscript{nd} flush = 7 days</td>
<td>27 18</td>
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<td>7 W-Y</td>
<td>World Flower BV</td>
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<td>‘Conestoga’</td>
<td>2 W-GYO</td>
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<td>28 Mar 14 Apr</td>
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<td>‘Soprano’</td>
<td>2 W-GPP</td>
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<td>13 Apr 7 May</td>
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<td>‘Dancing Queen’</td>
<td>2 W-P</td>
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<td>L 16 *</td>
<td>'Lennymore'</td>
<td>2 Y-R</td>
<td>Ringhaddy Daffodils</td>
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<td>22 8</td>
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<td>L 17 *</td>
<td>'Surrey'</td>
<td>2 Y-R</td>
<td>Ringhaddy Daffodils</td>
<td>30 Mar 16 Apr 17 days 21 Mar 4 Apr 14 days</td>
<td>20 14</td>
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<td>L 18 *</td>
<td>'Ladies’ Choice’</td>
<td>7 W-W</td>
<td>Ringhaddy Daffodils</td>
<td>13 Apr 10 May 27 days 30 Mar 21 Apr 22 days</td>
<td>26 22</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* = Planted 3 November 2009

Name and Address of Senders to the Trial:
- Bloms Bulbs, Primrose Nurseries, Melchbourne, Beds, MK44 1ZZ
- Miniature Bulbs, The Warren Estate, 9 Greengate Drive, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, HG5 9EN.
- J S Pennings, Schorweg, 14 ‘De Bilt’, 1764 MC Breezand, The Netherlands
- Ringhaddy Daffodils, Ringhaddy Road, Killinchy, Newtownards, Co. Down, N Ireland, BT23 6TU
- R Scamp, Quality Daffodils, 14 Roscarrack Close, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR11 4PJ
- World Flower BV, Burgermeester Lovinkstraat 105, 1764 GD, Breezand, The Netherlands

Additional Sources for Daffodil Bulbs:
- Bramcote Bulbs, 105 Derby Road, Bramcote, Nottingham, NG9 3GZ
- Broadleigh Gardens, Barr House, Bishops Hull, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 1AE
- John Gibson Daffodils, 14 Waverley Road, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN15 6NT
- P de Jager & Sons Ltd., Church Farm, Ulcombe, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 1DN
**Key to classification** from the *International Daffodil Register 1998 / RHS*

For garden purposes daffodils are classified in thirteen divisions. Whether of wild or cultivated origin, once a selection has been made distinguished by a cultivar name it should be assigned to Divisions 1-12. Daffodils distinguished solely by botanical name should be assigned to Division 13.

**Division 1** - Trumpet Daffodil Cultivars  
One flower to a stem; corona as long as, or longer than the perianth segments.

**Division 2** - Large - Cupped Daffodil Cultivars  
One flower to a stem; corona more than 1/3, but less than equal to the length of the perianth segments.

**Division 3** - Small - Cupped Daffodil Cultivars  
One flower to stem; corona not more than 1/3 the length of the perianth segments.

**Division 4** - Double Daffodil Cultivars  
One or more flowers to a stem, with doubling of the perianth segments or the corona or both.

**Division 5** – Triandrus Daffodil Cultivars  
Characteristics of *N. triandrus* clearly evident: usually two or more pendent flowers to a stem; perianth segments reflexed.

**Division 6** - Cyclamineus Daffodil Cultivars  
Characteristics of *N. cyclamineus* clearly evident: one flower to a stem; Perianth segments clearly reflexed; flower at an acute angle to the stem, with a very short pedicel (‘neck’).

**Division 7** – Jonquilla and Apodanthus Daffodil Cultivars  
Characteristics of Sections Jonquilla or Apodanthi clearly evident: one to five (rarely eight) flowers to a stem; perianth segments spreading or reflexed; corona cup-shaped, funnel-shaped or flared, usually wider than long; flowers usually fragrant.

**Division 8** - Tazetta Daffodil Cultivars  
Characteristics of Section Tazettae clearly evident: usually three to twenty flowers to a stout stem; perianth segments spreading not reflexed; flowers usually fragrant.

**Division 9** – Poeticus Daffodil Cultivars  
Characteristics of the *N. poeticus* group: usually one flower to a stem; perianth segments pure white; corona very short or disc-shaped, usually with a green and/or yellow centre and red rim, but sometimes of a single colour; flowers usually fragrant.
**Division 10 - Bulbocodium Daffodil Cultivars**

Characteristics of Section Bulbocodium clearly evident: usually one flower to a stem; perianth segments insignificant compared with the dominant corona; anthers dorsifixed (ie. attached more or less centrally to the filament); filament and style usually curved.

**Division 11 - Split Corona Daffodil Cultivars**

Corona split, usually for more than half its length.

a) Collar Daffodils

Split-corona daffodils with the corona segments opposite the perianth segments; the corona segments usually in two whorls of three.

b) Papillon Daffodils

Split-corona daffodils with the corona segments alternate to the perianth segments; the corona segments usually in a single whorl of six.

**Division 12 – Other Daffodil Cultivars**

Daffodils not falling into any of the previous categories

**Division 13 – Daffodils distinguished solely by botanical name**

Perianth segments = petals
Corona = cup/trumpet

The colour code consists of two letters or two groups of letters, separated by a hyphen: the letter(s) before the hyphen describe the perianth segments; the letter(s) following the hyphen describe the inside of the corona. Hence an all yellow daffodil is Y-Y and one with a white perianth and pink corona is W-P. For purposes of description, the perianth segments may be divided into three zones – outer, mid and base; the corona into three zones – base, mid and rim; so a daffodil with a white perianth and a corona with a green eye, yellow mid-zone and red rim would be described as W-GYR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Y = yellow</th>
<th>R = red</th>
<th>P = pink</th>
<th>G = green</th>
<th>O = orange</th>
<th>W = white</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Intermediate**

An Intermediate Daffodil is defined as a single-floreted cultivar from divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, or 11 with flower diameter typically 51mm – 80mm.

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More information about RHS Trials and other Trials reports can be found on the RHS Website at www.rhs.org.uk/trials