



# Bulb Gardening



News and advice for better gardening

Newsletter no. 15

## DAFFODILS FOR THE NORTH

Recently I received a call from Don Burke asking if we had a list of daffodils that do well in Sydney and along the northern coast as he wanted to be able to give definitive advice to his listeners.

Our advice has always been that true jonquils (division 7) and tazettas (division 8) are most likely to succeed. For other divisions, select early flowering varieties. Culturally, we recommend planting deeply and to keep up the moisture until after flowering but then no further watering.

It must be remembered that in these areas daffodils are at the limit of their range, so can't be expected to perform as well as ones growing in their perfect climate. Each cultivar, however, is an individual so some will do better than others. Growing conditions and microclimates also vary greatly within a district and even within a garden so it is worth experimenting to see what grows.

On the right is a list of varieties we can confidently recommend (marked with an asterisk are those not available from Hancock's). There are plenty more that should be on this list though, so we ask that our gardening friends who grow in the more challenging warmer climates send in lists of what daffodil varieties have flourished for them.



Adaptable 'Golden Dawn'

## APPARENT CHANGE

In August I was a guest on Melbourne's 3AW radio gardening talk back program with Jane Edmans. A caller rang in convinced her daffodils had turned into 'jonquils'. She was adamant that this had happened. Jane mentioned that she had had many similar calls this spring. I expect this is a result of the favourable seasons which has meant many 'hidden' or 'sleeping' jonquils/daffodils have had the strength to flower after not having been apparent in previous years and so give the appearance of 'changing'.

It seems that many people think that 'jonquils' (tazetta's) are a primitive type that daffodils were bred from. This is not true, in fact 'jonquils' have a totally different genetic make up (chromosome number) which means that they can't breed with daffodil species.

## WEB ORDERING

Over the past year we have been developing an online shop for ordering our bulbs. We are confident that it works well now and is secure using the Commonwealth Bank's web services.

There will be a link on our home page or direct at <http://daffodilbulbs.evulveshop.com.au>

Published by Christine & Will Ashburner  
© J.N. Hancock & Co. 2010

## Recommended Narcissus cultivars

- N. italicus*\* (Straws)
- N. x intermedius*
- N. jonquilla* ssp. *jonquilla* (early flowering form)
- N. odorus* (Campernelle)
- N. papyraceus* (Paper White)
- N. tazetta*
- Avalanche\* 8 W-Y
- Carlton 2 Y-Y
- Double Roman 4 W-O
- Erlcheer 4 W-Y
- Golden Dawn 8 Y-O
- Golden Perfection 7 Y-Y
- Grand Primo 8 W-Y
- Grand Soleil d'Or 8 Y-O
- Saint Keverne\* 2 Y-Y
- Silver Chimes 8 W-W



'Carlton' - easiest of the traditional yellows

## GREEN DOUBLES

Have you noticed a green tinge to your doubles this year? We believe this is caused by the colder weather. When there is a cold snap at a critical time in the flower buds' development some of the layers of petals get damaged. Often this greenish fades out as the flower matures, rarely is the flower completely distorted.

## 2011 SHOW DATES

To see our living display next spring, please note the following dates;



**Farm Display (Menzies Creek)**  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Aug. to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Gardening Australia Expo (Sydney)**  
To be announced.

**Royal Adelaide Show**  
Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep. to Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Royal Melbourne Show**  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Sep. to Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Gardening Australia Expo (Melb.)**  
To be announced.

## Gamblers Pot Luck



At the end of the dispatch season in April we often have small quantities of bulbs packaged up. We offer these bulbs at half-price to people who are happy to take 'pot-luck.'

We make up packages of bulbs to the value of at least \$90 worth. These are available for \$45 post free. The packages generally contain a wide variety of bulbs as well as some daffodils.

To order, simply add to your order;

**Gamblers Pot-Luck \$45**

## Caring for the farm



Winter 2009 plantings

Last winter's landcare plantings (newsletter 14) have been coming along very well. They have enjoyed the milder summer and more normal rainfall. Already smaller birds and wallabies are using it as a corridor to move along the creek.



Winter 2009 plantings one year on

## FAMILY AFFAIRS

This spring our teenager Jessica & Simon helped out at the shows. Jessica helped out at the Royal Melbourne Show and Gardening Australia. Simon helped at the Farm and at the Sydney Show along with our German exchange student. We appreciate their help during this busy time.

Jessica is in the final stages of her VCE and has been busy at school as a student leader. In August she was presented with her Queens Scout Award. This year Simon has enjoyed advanced sport at school and is looking forward to going on exchange to Germany over the summer.

Christine & Will have enjoyed supporting our children's academic & extracurricular activities this year.