



# Bulb Gardening



News and advice for better gardening

Newsletter no. 16

## THE DAFFODIL PROJECT



The tragedy of the 9/11 terrorist attacks has spawned a large community project of planting and so beautifying New York with Daffodils. The following is from an article in the NY Daily News.

"The Daffodil Project germinated while Hans van Waardenburg, the Dutch tulip mogul who owns B+K Flowerbulbs, was trying to reach New York friends by phone.

Most lines didn't work, but he finally got a fax through to Fifth Ave. horticulturist Lynden Miller, who had bought flowers from him for places like Bryant Park and Union Square for 25 years.

"I was looking out the window, and I could see the plume of smoke, and I was grieving," Miller recalled.

"All of a sudden, I got a fax, and it was from Hans...

"He had written, 'I feel so distressed and heartbroken for New York. New York and my country have had a long relationship going back to New Amsterdam. ... I just wish there was something I could do.'"

"And I sent back, 'Hans, you don't have any extra bulbs, do you?' "He did. For New York? On Sept. 12, 2001? How about half a million? And how about another 500,000 pitched in by the city of Rotterdam?"

The Dutchman and the native New Yorker mixed the idea of planting tulips, the iconic Holland flower. "Squirrels eat the bulbs," Miller said. "And tulips don't regenerate as well," van Waardenburg said. "The great thing about daffodils is that not only do they come back every year, but they multiply." "If you plant one bulb, the bulb itself gets bigger and bigger, and you get one or two or three flowers the first year. The next year, you get double that. They will keep coming back year after year."

Thousands of bulbs began arriving by late September, said Miller, author of the urban gardening bible "Parks, Plants, and People."

She told Parks Department boss Adrian Benepe what she and van Waardenburg wanted: "I said we want to put them in places that haven't seen a flower for years."

Neighborhoods that had lost fathers and mothers, sons and daughters in the twin towers: Soundview and Williamsbridge, Clinton and Ridgewood, East New York and Jackson Heights, Harlem and Chelsea and Chinatown.

Some 10,000 volunteers from New Yorkers for Parks, some of whom had never tossed a seed into soil, started digging and found solace in responding to loss with life.

They planted in neglected parks, in projects, near ugly highway exits, in tree pits.

Over the past 10 years, the Daffodil Project has been the largest volunteer planting effort in city history. In its honor, Mayor Bloomberg named the daffodil the official flower of New York City in 2007. Like a daffodil, van Waardenburg, 57, continues to give year after year - a total of 4 million bulbs, which have been shipped courtesy of Con Edison.

"I would estimate those bulbs have sprouted about 10 million flowers, spread over the five boroughs of New York City," he said.

The sunny, bell-centered flowers pop up every spring, challenging the grittiest corners of the city with their fragile beauty, urging us to remember as they wave in the breeze."

We know of on going community daffodil planting projects at Bombala (NSW) and Kyneton (Vic).

## 2012 SHOW DATES

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



**Farm Display (Menzies Creek)**  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Aug. to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Sep.

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

**Royal Adelaide Show**  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Sep. to Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Royal Melbourne Show**  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep. to Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct.

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

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## 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**

## MT TOMAH



David Roberts, Supervisor at Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens in NSW sent me these photos of their Daffodil plantings. David has been working hard to raise the standard of these beautiful gardens and make them more accessible and relevant.



Lawn plantings

## FAMILY AFFAIRS

Jessica & Simon, our teenage children, helped out at the shows again this Spring. We appreciate their help during this busy time. As we do appreciate our part time staff who increase their hours and help us in numerous ways.

Jessica is now studying Agriculture at the University of Melbourne and living with her grandmother in term time. Simon is in year 11 and has completed one VCE subject this year. Both are still busy in their spare time with scouting and basketball.

Christine & Will have enjoyed supporting our children's academic & extracurricular activities. We were a little surprised with Jessica's course of study, but she now knows what tremendous opportunities there are for young people in agriculture.