

feet shelter, drainage, and aspect rather than to mere excellence of soil. Perhaps the very thorough craftsmanship and genial temperament of their grower, "Charlie" Saunders, has much to do with it. He is a fine gardener, but he has one fault—he prefers his flowering shrubs (of which he has a superb collection) to daffodils, because, as he said

prepared a bare 14 days prior to planting. The site is marked off 4 feet wide, the top spit turned out, and 6 inches of recent stockyard manure is incorporated with the second spit, and the top soil is turned back. The bulbs are planted at four inches, in clumps of four or six, never more; clumps, one foot apart, in 3 rows, running the whole length of the bed, at least a foot separating the rows. I think it was Mr Moreland Crossfield who said that a bulb suffers if it is one hour only out of the ground, and that lifting and transplanting should be one operation; this is faithfully carried out in Riverlea. As the whole of the orchard, where the daffodils are, is double trenched, and has been a kitchen garden for 17 years, the soil is in great heart, and the beds of exceptional richness. The health and vigour of the plants is phenomenal, even the cernuus daffodils seemed quite happy; of course, Mr Gibson has his troubles, like other men. He admits quite freely that *N. Cyclamineus* does not seem quite at home in his beds, and that he has lost one bulb of *Cernuus Pulcher* from basal rot! As for the blooms, I have seen them before, and can vouch

weed your beds, the fork is more fatal to blooms than the *Merodon Equestris*. And an epilogue about the use of stockyard manure. The judicious use of animal manure is no new gospel in Daffodil growing. It has been recommended by several authorities, but more especially of late by Kirby and Walter Wright. What has scared the beginner has been the dictum: "Daffodils dislike ammonia." Most plants would dislike ammonia *per se*, as it is only valuable on account of the nitrogen which it contains, but nitrogen is certainly as necessary to the life of the *Amaryllid*s as it is to another bulbous thing. The ordinary stockyard manure of Taranaki, which consists of the solid dejecta of cows only, is not to be confounded with the stockyard manure of the agricultural experts, which has been so treated (under cover) as to retain its ammonia. On the contrary, I have, by chemical tests, repeatedly found samples of our local stuff to be ammonia free. Why then withhold from a hungry soil so valuable a source of humus which is a sine qua non in the higher culture of garden hybrids that have been bred in the lap of luxury?

In sending forth this special daffodil number, we have to express our indebtedness to those who have so kindly assisted in its preparation, and to thank our readers for the kind reception of our former specials, and trust that the present number may be deemed worthy of their commendation.

VERONICA.



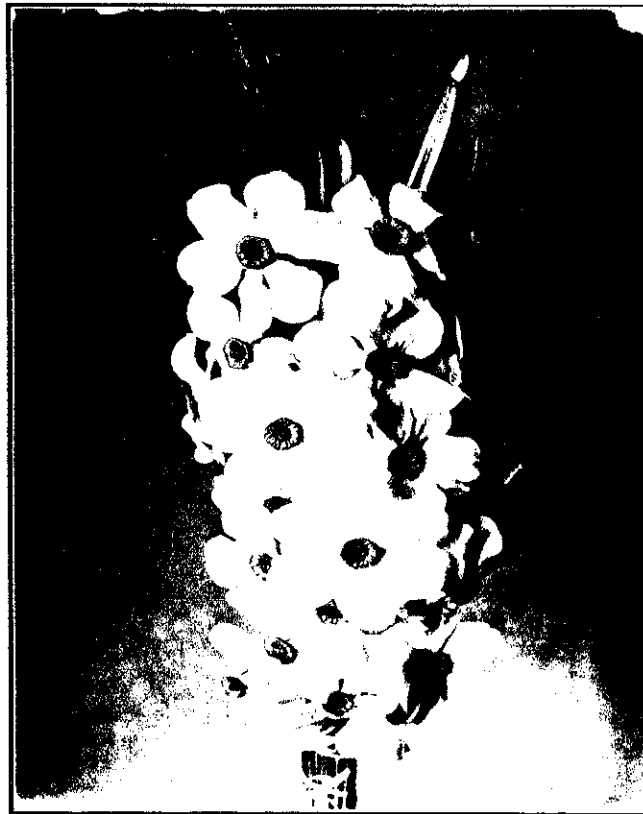
A FINE SEEDLING FROM HAWERA. This fine blossom was raised by Mr. C. Goodson, Hawera. The bloom in question was 4 inches in width, the length of the trumpet was 2 1/2 inches and the width 2 inches. The colours were those of the Emperor type.

to me, the things "seed so all over the borders!"

The photographic reproduction shows a fine clump of C. J. Backhouse (a rather shy gentleman hereabouts), undisturbed for four years and blooming freely on very long stems in the border; there must be over fifty bulbs in this planting, and everyone seems to bear a good bloom.

Mr. Goodson, of Hawera, whose well-furnished garden I visited lately, has a black loam unequalled for fertility. This soil of the Waitate Plains is a rose and wheat soil, and needs practically no amelioration for daffodils save drainage. Mr. Goodson turns over his heavy soil and lightens with a little spent horse dung in some time before planting. He plants his bulbs in clumps 1 ft apart in long rows, 2 ft apart. The favorite aspect is southerly, but there is full sunshine. I saw an interesting batch of Early Trumpet seedlings in this garden. Amongst others there was a *Maximus X Golden Spur Magni* of great size, height 24 in, fine bold deep golden crown, and good star-shaped perianth measuring over four inches. (Illustrated on photo, No. 2.) But better still there was a *Hy. Irving X Maximus* seedling, height 34 in, clear yellow-bordered perianth, and rather straight deep yellow crown. The bloom was young when I saw it, and would no doubt go to four inches when well expanded. This seedling is interesting inasmuch as *Hy. Irving*, an uncertain doer in England, is stated by Cartwright and Goodwin to give weakly offspring; the constitution of the Hawera plant seems excellent, and the bloom quite free from the coarseness usually associated with the spurious type. In the vinery were many hundreds of two and three-year-old bulbets, mostly from *Incomparabilis X red cups* such as *Abstrax*, *Lacifer*, and *red coat*, and a healthy batch of fifteen little plants from a seedling of *Duke of Bedford X Victoria*, which may give a good account of themselves some day. Mr. Goodson is a versatile gardener, and grows the finest roses in Taranaki.

Of the tactics adopted in daffodil culture by Mr Robert Gibson, of Riverlea, it may be at once said: That they give one furiously to think! They may be summed up as the cultural methods most suited to the production of a prize cauliflower. The conception is original, and the results amazing. The beds are



A MARKET BUNCH OF THE POETS' NARCISSUS.

for their fine shape and size and marvellous colouring. There is a nice collection in this orchard garden, and most of the best things are represented. Not, of course, your *Phantasy's Carnaris* or *Bedouins*, they will come some day, but all the good things that go to fill a decent show stand, the majority of which are, at present, unobtainable in the Dominion at reasonable prices.

By collating the accumulated experiences of local growers, we arrive at the following formula, applicable to light volcanic soil: Beds to be four feet in width, and trenched very deeply, say 18 inches; if drainage is excessive, use the deep layer of stable manure; humus to be supplied by turf or clover cover-crop dry in; the main soil to be that in which a leguminous crop has flourished the previous season; phosphates, lime, and potash are necessary adjuncts; Basic slag and kaimit will fulfil these indications; pumice should be eliminated by sieving; lift and transplant the same day, do it early; bulbs to be in rows across the bed, 6 inches between bulbs, and 12 to 14 inches between rows; hand



A SEEDLING TRUMPET DAFFODIL. Raised by Professor Thomas.

Some of the Newer Daffodils.

A number of the newer daffodils, which are obtainable at moderate prices, are (approximately) noted in the following list:—

YELLOW TRUMPETS.

Admiral Makaroff, large bold flower of Emperor type, perianth primrose, trumpet straight, soft yellow, height 20 in; 5.

Golden Bell, one of Rev. G. H. Engleheart's raising; large deep yellow, a graceful drooping flower and very effective; does well in the Dominion; first class certificate; 1/6.

King Alfred, raised by Kendall; a giant golden trumpet, and one of the finest; of moderate price; a great prize-winner; first-class certificate; 8.

Mrs. H. J. Veitch, raised by Van Waveren; a giant Emperor, perianth pale yellow, large open trumpet of golden yellow; a flower of great substance and refinement; 5.

Monarch, raised by Barr; perianth and trumpet of rich golden yellow of perfect form and good substance; sturdy grower; 4.



LORD ROBERTS.

The Cult of the Daffodil.

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seedlings raised by the intelligent and painstaking efforts of Professor Thomas only require to be better known to be appreciated. In the South Island several growers are doing excellent work, but they also are very quiet about what they have done, and we should advise them to let us know what they are doing.

Daffodil growing is a fascinating study, and the fact that they are so easily grown, and require very little in the way of attention beyond keeping them free from weeds, should induce everyone with a garden to grow them. The naturalisation of daffodils in grass land has not received much attention in New Zealand. Many of the older varieties lend themselves to this method, and they are so inexpensive and require so little attention that they should be planted in thousands. Any old piece of grass land near a dwelling will suit them, and when in flower there is no more charming sight.