

beginners. There are one or two points in bulb culture that all the big growers agree in:—

"(1) Plant early so as to have your bulbs well rooted before winter.

"(2) Cultivate, and cultivate, before the 'grass' shows and afterwards, so that your flowers will not only last longer, but the blooming period will be extended.

"(3) More cultivation.

"(4) Begin to pick your blooms for show a fortnight beforehand, and place them in jars of water with a piece of charcoal in each jar. A piece about the size of a walnut is enough for a quart preserving jar. Flowers treated this way will often keep good for a month."—*"Levin Chronicle."*

#### RAISING DAFFODILS FROM SEED.

Daffodils have this season seeded well in some localities, and we anticipate several more amateurs will enter the ranks as raisers of seedlings, and why not? It is intensely interesting work, but, of course, requires patience. Alice Knights and Florence, two dainty white trumpets, have both set seed. King Alfred and Weardale are generally good seeders, and these, though not crossed, will give good blooms from seed. Gloria Mundi is not a free seeder, but some have set. Commodore sets well. We strongly advise raising seedlings, hybrids if you can, but grow some seedlings.

Daffodil seed must be carefully watched, for if allowed to get over-ripe the pods will burst, and the seed is lost. Watch for the slightest opening of the seed pod, and gather the seed at once. When gathered, put in a paper bag, pul and all; the seed will fall out when fully ripe.

Daffodil seed should not be kept long; eight or ten days after gathering it should be sown either in seed pans or boxes. We prefer this plan, as they are much easier attended to. Any good soil will answer, but if it is heavy add some sharp sand. Manure is not necessary. When the seeds germinate they should be kept growing in the pans or boxes for one or even two seasons, and then transferred to the open border or beds.

#### TASMANIAN DAFFODIL SEEDLINGS.

Mr J. H. Hinsky, of Taroona, Tasmania, writes: "I am posting you a photo of a few seedling daffodils I had in the show of the Hobart Amateur Horticultural Society. Three blooms in the group are especially worthy of description. Starting at the extreme left, the *Parvo coronatii* is a very perfect little flower, about the size of *P. ornatus*, with white perianth and flat citron eye. The next flower above is one I have named 'Taroona,' a medio of merit and quite distinct. It is a seedling from *Commander* x *C. J. Backhouse*. The perianth, four inches across, is a maize yellow; trumpet 1 1/2 inches, is salmon orange throughout. The left-hand flower of the three *Magno coronatii*, immediately under the former, is another flower of quite a distinct character, and is a seedling from *Ocularis* x *Corpularia*. It is a very lovely flower, being a most intense buttercup yellow of uniform colour throughout, and a flower of great substance, being like wax. King Alfred is dull beside this bloom, which is christened *Elorado*. The next flower, the centre bloom of the group, is a very nice thing, and is a seedling from *Madame de Graff* x *Princess Ida*, but is very much larger and whiter than the first-named parent. The right-hand bloom is a pretty sulphur-coloured *Magnus*, and a great improvement on *Sulphur King*. The one lying on the table is a very fine, tall *Leedsii*, from *Duchess of Westminster*, shorter in the cup and with the perianth 5 inches across. The two on the right are seedlings from *Beatrice Hazeltine* x *Ornatus*, and a *Commander* x *Frank Miles* seedling."

We shall be pleased to receive any further photos our correspondent may send. Information of this kind is always of interest.

VERONICA.

#### NATIONAL SWEET PEA SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND.

"Everything comes to the man who waits." We have waited patiently, and at last this so-called "National" Society has issued its schedule for the third exhibition, which is to take place at Palmerston North on December 11 and 12. So far as we can see, the schedule is practically a duplicate of last year's, the principal competitions centring round the valuable trophies which the Society received from several generous donors. More than one donor of these trophies, we have heard, is dissatisfied with the locale of the Society's events. We are informed that these trophies were given on the distinct understanding that the Society's exhibitions were to eventuate in the chief North Island centres, but so far all the events have been held in Palmerston. Now, if it is a fact, and we certainly believe such to be the case, the Society has broken faith with these donors, and the honourable thing to do would be either to ask the donors' permission for the change or to return the trophies. The "Graphic" is the recognised official organ for the Society, but absolutely no news has been given to us regarding the Society's doings. No information is vouchsafed by the schedule regarding any meeting of the executive, nor are

we enlightened regarding the finances. A circular accompanies the schedule, however, reminding members that their subscriptions are due, but members outside of Palmerston are asking what advantages they derive by belonging to the Society, and we confess that, so far as we can see, all they get is a copy of the schedule, without any information whatever as to the doings of the executive, or how their money has been spent. There is not even a list of members given.

It appears to us most unfortunate that the executive, in fixing the dates, should have clashed with the Wellington Society's date. A good measure of support has hitherto been accorded the National from Wellington province, and this clashing will prevent these exhibitors from entering. We hope it may yet be possible for either the National or Wellington Society to alter their date a day or two ahead, or, if more convenient, later.

We certainly desire to see the National make progress. So far none has been made. If it is a National Society, and the intention be to continue it as such, then the members certainly want to know what it is doing, and what their subscriptions are for, but if the intention be to make the show a purely local affair, why, then, the donors of trophies should be consulted. Should they agree,

then there is nothing more to do but drop the present high-sounding title.

#### PAEROA ROSE AND SWEET PEA SHOW.

A most interesting schedule of competitions in roses and sweet peas has just been issued by this go-ahead society. The various classes are exceedingly well arranged, and give evidence of careful study. We congratulate Paeroa on having such a society, and trust the public will see to it that the society does not suffer from lack of support.

#### MASTERTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The secretary of above society writes us to say the Rose and Sweet Pea Show has been fixed for November 20th, and that the following judges have been appointed, viz.: For roses, pot plants and cut flowers, Mr F. Cooper, seedsman, Wellington; Sweet Pea, Mr G. C. Holder of Porirua; Decorations, Miss Murray of Wellington; Fruit and Vegetables, Messrs Hale and Kemp, of Masterton. With such competent judges satisfaction should be assured to all competitors.



AN INTERESTING GROUP OF SEEDLING DAFFODILS RAISED BY A TASMANIAN AMATEUR.

See letterpress.