

The story behind the Daffodil

Narcissus is the botanical name for a genus of mainly hardy, mostly spring-flowering, bulbs in the Amaryllis family native to Europe, North Africa, and Asia. Through taxonomic and genetic research, it is speculated that over time this number will likely continue to be refined. Most commonly known as Daffodil it is the chief common name of horticultural prevalence used by the American Daffodil Society.

There are two derivations of the name. One is that of the youth of Greek mythology called Narcissus, who became so obsessed with his own reflection as he kneeled and gazed into a pool of water that he fell into the water and drowned. In other variations, he died of starvation and thirst from just sitting by the edge of the pool gazing at his reflection until

he died. In both versions, the Narcissus plant first sprang from where he died. The other derivation is that the plant is named after its narcotic.

The name Daffodil is derived from an earlier "Affodell", a variant of Asphodel. The reason for the introduction of the initial "d" is not known, although a probable source is an etymological merging from the Dutch article "de," as in "De affodil." From at least the sixteenth century "Daffadown Dilly", "daffadown dilly", and "daffydowdilly" have appeared as playful synonyms of the name.

The name jonquill is sometimes used in North America, particularly in the southeastern United States, but strictly speaking that name belongs only to the rush-leaved Narcissus jonquilla and cultivars derived from it. In the southern United States, narcissus are sometimes referred to as buttercups. Flowers of the tazetta-group species Narcissus papyraceus are commonly called paperwhites.

All Narcissus species have a central trumpet-, bowl-, or disc-shaped corona surrounded by a ring of six floral leaves called the perianth which is united into a tube at the forward edge of the 3-locular ovary. The seeds are black, round and swollen with hard coat. The three outer segments are sepals, and the three inner segments are petals.

Though the traditional daffodil of folklore, poetry, and field may have a yellow to golden-yellow color all over, both in the wild species and due to breeding, the perianth and corona may be variously colored. Breeders have developed some daffodils with double, triple, or ambiguously multiple rows and layers of segments, and several wild species also have known double variants.

In kampo (traditional Japanese medicine), wounds were treated with narcissus



A Field of Daffodils



Yellow Daffodils



White Yellow Daffodil

the water, they built a mythology around it regarding a vain man looking at himself in the mirror. In ancient China, when the Chinese saw this beautiful white flower with a golden cup in the center, they built a mythology about a poor but good man, who was brought many cups of gold and wealth by the flower. Since the flower blooms around this time of year, it has also become a symbol of Chinese New Year.

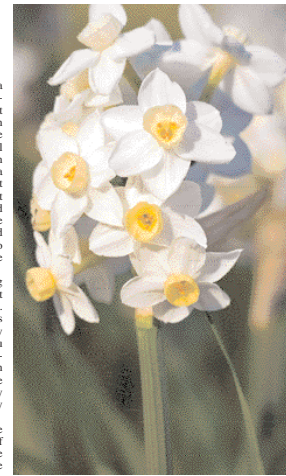
Narcissus bulb carving and cultivation is even an art akin to Japanese Bonsai. And if your Narcissus blooms on Chinese New Year, it is said to bring you extra wealth and good fortune throughout the year. On top of that, it has one of the sweetest fragrances of any flower. So it is highly revered in Chinese culture.

In Hawaii, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii sponsors a Chinese cultural festival, called the Narcissus Festival, culminating with a beauty pageant whose winner is called the Narcissus Queen.

The daffodil is the national flower of Wales. One species, Narcissus obvallaris, grows only in a small area around Tenby. In Wales it is traditional to wear a daffodil or a leek on Saint David's Day (March 1). This has led to suggestions that the word "daffodil" may have been influenced by the name "Dafydd," a Welsh form of "David".

The American Daffodil Society divides all Narcissus into 13 horticultural divisions, based partly upon flower form and partly upon genetic background.

Since the ADS Web site is written for general consumption, the text of the descriptions contained there is relatively broad. Horticulturist Robert F. Gabella of



Narcissus Poeticus-Amaryllidaceae

GardenOpus has further clarified herein these definitions by replacement of the words "cup" with "corona", "petals" with "perianth segments", and clarified corona length and corona radius for cases where the corona does not protrude outward.

Gabella has further emphasized the prevalence of species phenotype comparable to the genetic lineage of ADS Divisions 5 through 10, and has also called out garden and/or wild origin.

Daffodils may be self-colored that is both perianth and corona are identical in color and shade or the colors between the perianth and corona may differ widely. Some perianths and some coronas also may contain more than one color or shade. Prevalent colors are

all shades and tones of yellow, white, orange, pink, red and green. Pinks vary from apricot to rose in shades from pale to deep, and some more recent cultivars have hints of lavender or lilac. Reds vary from orange-red to salmon red to near scarlet. Pink, red, orange and green tones are mainly confined to the corona.

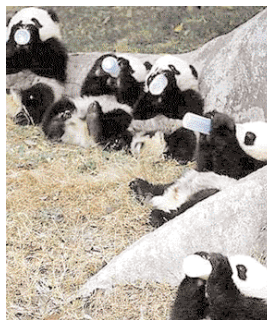
However, breeders are currently working against the genera's natural pigmentation and genetic barriers to create cultivars in which pink, rose, red, orange and green tones suffuse or "bleed" from the more highly colored coronas onto the perianth segments of white or yellow. There are an increasing number of commercially available varieties which display this enhanced coloration. Source [Wikipedia](#)

The funny side

These baby pandas were rescued after their homes were destroyed due to the Earthquake that took place sometime back in China.



Feeding time



Drinking to the last drop



Glug glug



This milk is so delicious



Look of cheekiness



Home sweet home



In the arms of angels



The White Peacock is frequently mistaken for an albino, but it is a colour variety of Indian Blue Peacock. Its white colour makes it look really magnificent and elegant. White Peacock is said to be very lucky.

Animal quotes and jokes

"A dog maybe a man's best friend but a horse made history..." - **Anonymous**

"If a dog jumps in your lap, it is because he is fond of you; but if a cat does the same thing, it is because you lap is warmer." - **Alfred North Whitehead**

"Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods. Cats have never forgotten this." - **Anonymous**

He is a very smart dog

I went to the cinema the other day and in the front row was an old man and with him was his dog. It was a sad funny kind of film, you know the type. In the sad part, the dog cried his eyes out, and in the funny part, the dog laughed its head off. This happened all the way through the film. After the film had ended, I decided to go and speak to the man.

"That's the most amazing thing I've seen," I said. "That dog really seemed to enjoy the film."

The man turned to me and said, "Yeah, it is. He hated the book."

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