



Narcissus 'Ice Follies'



Spring 2008

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Growin' Newz

Spring into Spring with... Daffodils by: Christopher A. Wilson

One of the few faults with daffodils is that E.C. Browns' Nursery doesn't sell them! They are simple to grow and prosper with good soil and just a little feeding. Blasting us with yellow and



Fortissimo

orange (also pink and white) is what we need when we are tired of snow and mud. Deer will not eat the flowers nor rodents the bulbs. They are the mainstay of my spring garden, lasting for at least a month in our cool springs.

Narcissi are well-suited to many landscape design uses, including in front of shrubbery, under large trees, and in rock or perennial gardens. They should not be planted too close to building foundations or under extended eaves, where it may be too dry.

They grow adequately in many soil types. A well-drained, deep, fertile soil containing abundant organic matter, however, results in the best performance.

A few of my favorite types of daffodils are:

'Pink Charm' small pink cup with off-

white perianth

'Ice Follies' Soft yellow aging to white with a frilly flat face, excellent grower

'Serola' -vibrant small orange cup with a bright yellow perianth. It grows like a weed with strong stems.

'White Plume' very prolific snow- white small narcissus

'Fortissimo' largest orange trumpet daffodil I know...actually a large cup narcissus.

Every year I buy at least \$300 worth of Narcissus- usually getting the cheapest as I figure those are the best growers and fastest spreaders. I attempt to keep track of where I plant them using maps, and I plant in groups of at least 25. I usually plant them in "clumps" of 3, 5 or 7 bulbs with the clumps randomly placed about one to three feet apart. I like digging a hole with a normal shovel- I find one healthy large shovel's depth hole about right for a small clump- maybe two for a bigger clump. Last year when I ordered my bulbs by phone (which can be a mistake as I've found it is very easy to order more than one originally meant to when talking to a very nice, polite salesperson), the lady on the other end of the phone



Serola

figured I was ordering so many to plant for customers. It was my birthday and people hadn't paid enough attention to me so... "Happy Birthday to Me"!

Once before I had a daffodil walk at my house and it worked so I'll try it again this year. On Sunday May 4th at 4:00 pm you are invited to come see my daffodils and other Narcissus. As we are having a "Lilac tea" later (Sunday, June 1st), I probably won't have refreshments and entertainment for this; I work full time at the nursery and help do chores at



Pink Charm

a farm before coming to work. I have been looking for some place I can go in our area to see plantings of Narcissus- so far I haven't found any, so I'm doing it myself. I would like to know other people's favorite types of Narcissus and see what different varieties look like planted "en-masse".

I have found that the Jonquilla Narcissus (Division VII of the American Daffodil Society classification), which I like a lot are just not quite hardy enough for this far north. They are small yellow Narcissus with small yellow cups, born 1, 2, or three blossoms on a stalk and are very fragrant. Farther south, they naturalize well. These derive from the species Narcissus jonquilla and are the true

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THE CARY AWARD

Distinctive Plants for New England



The Cary Award

The Cary Award is a program to promote outstanding plants for New England gardens. Named in honor of Shewsbury, MA plantsman Ed Cary, it highlights home landscape plants that have proven their performance in New England.

We have found that many of the past winners of this Award are among our favorites and are ones we recommend. They tend to be choice, underused plants that people are just recognizing. Among the past Cary Award Winners that would fall into this category would be: *Abies koreana*- Korean Fir, *Chionanthus virginicus*-Fringetree, *Fothergilla major*- Fothergilla, *Enkianthus campanulatus*- Redvein En-



Enkianthus campanulatus

kianthus and *Syringa patula* 'Miss Kim'- Miss Kim Lilac.

See www.caryaward.org/pastwinners.html for more past winners.

Born at the turn of the last century in central Massachusetts, Edward A. Cary experimented with plants throughout his life. Among friends and colleagues,

Cary and his family became known for an unusual collection that invariably contained plants that others assumed were too tender for the harsh New England winters.

He lived a simple life with his brother and sister in a modest home next to a tiny nursery on Route 9 in Shrewsbury,



Ed Cary in front of the Cary Brothers Nursery on Route 9, Shrewsbury MA, 1960

Mass. When Edward became the last of the Carys to pass away in 1987, at age 86, he left his estate to the Worcester County Horticultural Society. An endowment fund, for horticultural gifts and awards, was created in Edward Cary's name. A decade after his death, the Society created a prestigious horticultural honor – The Cary Award for Distinctive Plants for New England.

Aimed at drawing attention to the types of unusual and underused plants that Edward Cary held so dear to his heart, the Cary Award has become a name synonymous with New England hardiness. Gardeners can purchase Cary Award winners at local nurseries, confident the plants will thrive in New England's unique climate. To Cary's friends, this is a distinction worthy of

the man whose name it bears.

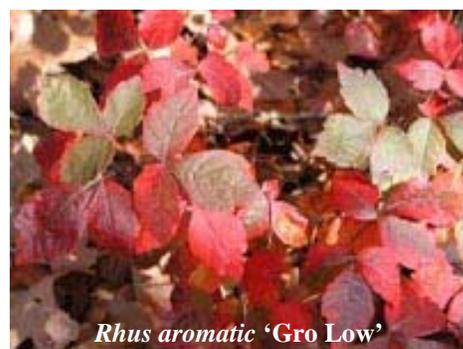
"Ed was a true plantsman, who lived year by year to grow plants, to experiment with new plants, and to share his plants with others," said Richard Bemis, Cary's friend and fellow nurseryman. "I think you probably have to be a plantsman yourself to appreciate Ed's true passion for horticulture."

Now in its tenth year, the Cary Award program has thus far selected fifteen woody shrubs, trees or vines for distinction. Remaining true to the spirit of the Cary family, winners are chosen for their hardiness, uniqueness, and ability to extend the New England growing season. Plants can be nominated by anyone. Winners are selected by a panel of regional experts, along with members of the Worcester County Horticultural Society.

This year's winners are:

***Rhus aromatic* 'Gro Low'**- Fragrant Sumac (large scale groundcover, up to 24". Brilliant fall color, red berries.)

Acer triflorum - Three Flowered Maple



Rhus aromatic 'Gro Low'

(Small tree, up to 20-30' Outstanding bark. Disease and pest resistant. Intense fall color.)

***Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Crippsii'** - Golden Hinoki Falsecypress (Evergreen tree reaching 15'h x 5'w. Frond-like sprays of foliage bright gold at the tips.)

above plant is not reliably hardy here

Best of the Best... Some New Plants for 2008



Campanula 'Summertime Blues' PPAF PVR

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9
Size (W/HT)- 17"/10" Soil: Well drained, average

Comments: The longest blooming Campanula from Terra Nova Nurseries. Masses of large, silver blue bells on 2', upright stems...all spring, summer and fall!!!. Doesn't spread or reseed.

Apple 'SnappyMac'

Plant Type: Fruit Tree USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8
Size (W/HT)- 15'/18" Soil: Well drained, average

Comments: Deep red fruit with a spicy-sweet taste. Tree is more open and spreading allowing more sun and air to reach the branches. Ripens late Sept. Fresh eating and cooking. Delicious!!



Scabiosa caucasica 'Ultra Violet' PP14038

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9
Size (W/HT)- 24"/10" Soil: Very well drained, average

Comments: 'Ultra Violet' has extremely dark electric violet flower color making in stand out in any garden setting. One of the longest blooming of all perennials. Nice grey-green foliage.



Viburnum dilatatum 'Cardinal Candy'

Plant Type: Shrub USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9
Size (W/HT)- 6'/10" Soil: Well drained, average

Comments: 'Cardinal Candy' has improved hardiness to all other V. dilatatum varieties, so northern gardeners can finally enjoy the impressive fruit set of this viburnum. Bright red fruit, white flow-



Asparagus 'Purple Passion'

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9
Size (W/HT)- 12"/48" Soil: Very well drained, average

Comments: The very mild, sweet, nutty flavored spear of 'Purple Passion' is a delight to eat. Sugar content of the spear is 20% higher than green asparagus. Also tends to be wider in girth.



PURPLE PASSION



PURPLE PASSION

Perennial Plant of the Year 2008: *Geranium 'Rozanne'*



There are many varieties of hardy geranium that thrive in the Northeast. One of the longest blooming and most prolific blue flowered cultivars has been selected as the Perennial Plant Association's 2008 Perennial Plant of the Year. *Geranium 'Rozanne'* is a patented sterile hybrid offering many great improvements over other cultivars (U. S. Plant Patent PP12175 issued October 30, 2001). It is hardy in zones 4 to 8.

The genus is native to Europe and Asia; this a natural hybrid of *G. wallichianum* 'Buxton's Variety' and *G. himalayense* found in 1989 in the Somerset, England garden of Donald and Rozanne Waterer. In 2000 it was introduced by Blooms of Bressingham at the Chelsea Flower Show. This clump-forming variety has better heat tolerance, larger flowers and longer bloom than similar cultivars. The large (to 2½ inches diameter) saucer-shaped flowers are violet blue with purple-violet veins, small white centers and black anthers. In some light they appear almost iridescent with pink undertones, and in warmer weather tends more to the purple than blue. They are produced profusely in late

spring and early summer.

Unlike many other varieties, 'Rozanne' has great heat tolerance and flowering can continue for weeks or months, particularly when the summer is cool. The plants grow in a mound about 18" tall and 24-36" wide, although younger plants tend to be low and spreading. The dark green leaves are generally round with 5 deeply cut lobes and appear slightly marbled. They turn reddish brown in fall.

Use geranium 'Rozanne' as individual specimen plants or in masses in the border. This cultivar looks at home in the rock garden and cottage garden as well. The blue flowers and attractive foliage combine well with a wide range of plants, and with its great weaving habit, 'Rozanne' fills in the gaps between plants perfectly. Try planting it in front of roses, as a groundcover, or as a filler between daylilies and taller perennials such as New England asters, purple coneflower, Siberian iris, garden phlox, or ornamental grasses. Combine with coreopsis for a nice purple and yellow combination with a long season of bloom. It makes a striking contrast in texture when combined with

large-leaved hostas. 'Rozanne' is a good choice for inter-planting with spring bulbs (to hide their yellowing foliage), and fall-blooming bulbs such as *Crocus speciosus* or colchicums will look great poking through the foliage.

Grow in full sun or partial shade. It does best in moist, organic soil but will tolerate drier conditions in soils ranging from normal to sandy to clay. Shear or trim to shape or control spread at any time. Cut back to 3-4" high after initial bloom to encourage additional bloom. It has no serious insect or disease problems and seldom needs dividing. Because it is a patented variety, self-propagation is prohibited at this time. Enjoy!





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“jonquils”. Another small very fragrant Narcissus is of the Tazetta division (Div. VIII of the ADS)- these are the paper white type and of them, I find only ‘Geranium’ is hardy up here.

‘Geranium’ has 5-7 blossoms on a stalk- they are white with an orange cup and late. ‘Cheerfulness’ and ‘Double Cheer-



fulness’ are double Tazetta type and make it up here. They are likewise exceedingly fragrant but I really don’t like double daffodils that much.

It is hard to believe that something so beautiful is not eaten by deer and mice or bothered by insects. Dogs, however can flatten them running through my daffodils in packs chasing the deer that come to feast on my tulips. Herbicide can kill them- I wiped out a few large areas of narcissus when eradicating that beautiful yet sinister *Heracleum mantagazzianum*, Russian Hogweed, which had taken over a lot of my property. I killed most of my ‘Christopher Columbus’ –huge, white with a yellow trumpet. I also accidentally “rounded up” a lot of a very lovely soft yellow double Narcissus with a orange and yellow

center which I got from Vivian Nemhauser (now deceased) from the West Newbury Congregational Church.

The year my mother died, 1995, I bought several different white varieties but I somehow didn’t keep track of which I planted where, so, now I can’t tell which are which. She was particularly fond of white ones which is why I planted them in her memorial garden.

Of course we will have our annual “Lilac Tea”- this year Sunday June 1st at 4:00 pm. I went to a lot of trouble to get things weeded- this year I should prune these lilacs before they get too tall to enjoy. I did not get as many new ones last year as usual but I have already ordered a dozen for 2008.

www.ecbrownsnursery.com

Daffodil Walk

May 4, 2008

4:00 pm

At Chris’ house in West Newbury, VT

Everyone welcome

call 802-785-2167 for details



Lilac Tea/Walk

June 1, 2008

4:00 pm

At Chris’ house in West Newbury, VT

Everyone welcome

call 802-785-2167 for details

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Answers:

1. true. The problem comes about when there are no other sources, your plants are more tasty to them, or there is not enough food to go around for all the deer in your area.

2. false. If they are hungry enough, they will eat most any plant. Yet if they aren’t that hungry, or not too many deer around, this is a good strategy.

3. false. Repellents are a good place to start, but with this many you may need to resort to dogs and fencing. Repellents work best when fewer than five deer per square mile.

4. false. The sooner the better, but best is before they begin feeding, before planting, before the start of the season. Stop the habit before it begins! Start using deterrents before deer visit your landscape or find your choice plants, and hopefully they’ll pass it by.

5. true. Deer are adaptable, and have different tastes just as we do. Also some areas with more severe pressure may get more feeding, in spite of deterrents and plant type.

Oh Deer!

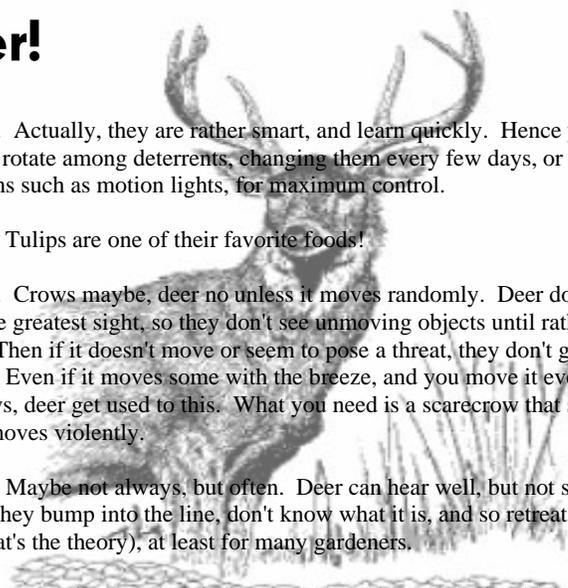
6. false. Actually, they are rather smart, and learn quickly. Hence you need to rotate among deterrents, changing them every few days, or moving items such as motion lights, for maximum control.

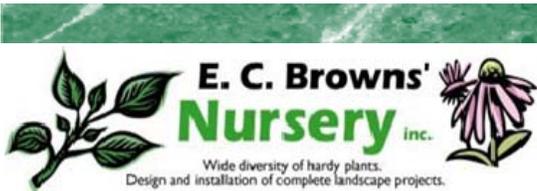
7. true. Tulips are one of their favorite foods!

8. false. Crows maybe, deer no unless it moves randomly. Deer don’t have the greatest sight, so they don’t see unmoving objects until rather close. Then if it doesn’t move or seem to pose a threat, they don’t get scared. Even if it moves some with the breeze, and you move it every few days, deer get used to this. What you need is a scarecrow that suddenly moves violently.

9. true. Maybe not always, but often. Deer can hear well, but not see well. They bump into the line, don’t know what it is, and so retreat (at least that’s the theory), at least for many gardeners.

10. false. An effective deer fence should be at least eight feet high. Many variations exist, such as electric fences, and slanted wire fences.





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Oh Deer!

Deer have become a major problem in gardens in many areas of the country. Which of the following control methods are true or false? See answers below.

1. Deer feeding is a function of alternative food sources. If they have other options than your garden, they may leave it alone. true false
2. Planting resistant plants will prevent deer feeding. true false
3. If there are about five to ten deer per square mile, with damage through the summer, including loitering and feeding during daytime, repellents should work. true false
4. Deer controls are best if implemented at once when you start getting deer feeding on your plants. true false
5. Effective deterrents or resistant plants in one garden may not be effective in another. true false
6. Deer are rather dumb, so once scared away from a repellent they generally don't return. true false
7. Daffodils, fritillaries, snowdrops, and squill are examples of some deer resistant bulbs. true false
8. Scarecrows can be used effectively to scare away deer. true false
9. Fishing line (monofilament plastic) can be used to deter deer. true false
10. Any fence that provides a physical barrier will generally keep out deer. true false

(Continued on page 5)