
Dorchester Garden Club – HORTICULTURE EDUCATION– March 2023 – by Jeanne Bernard

To help you prepare for our DGC Mini Flower Show in April 2023 and future shows

Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) #3: DAFFODILS

What do you mean by same or different cultivars?

As in the April 2023 Mini-Flower Show Schedule:

Division I. Horticulture

Class 1. Standard Daffodils – up to 3 entries per class, must be different cultivars

Class 3. A collection of 5 different cultivars of daffodils in the same or different divisions.

Division I. Horticulture

Class 1. Standard Daffodils – up to 3 entries per class, must be different cultivars

In the schedule, the listing below Class 1.—a. through m. or Divisions 1 – 13 are called sub-classes and describes the shape of the cup (corona) and the positioning of the petals (perianth). See page 129 in the Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging book for diagrams of each *Narcissus* in the various divisions.

In this class, conceivably, an exhibitor could enter one type (division) of daffodil for the class or as many as three different daffodils (from different divisions).

According to the American Daffodil Society which uses the Royal Horticulture Society (RHS) System of Classification, there are thirteen (13) sub-classes or descriptive divisions of daffodils (*Narcissus*) listed in Class I. Standard Daffodils. Each sub-class is a numbered division referencing a specific type of Standard Daffodil such as Trumpet, Large-Cupped, Double, Split Corona, etc.

If an exhibitor enters three daffodils which are all “b. Division 2 – Large Cup,” [One flower to a stem; corona (“cup”) more than one-third, but less than equal to the length of the perianth

segments (“petals”)], then the three daffodil entries would have to be three different *cultivars* of Division 2, Large Cup Daffodils.

What is a cultivar?

Cultivar is shorthand for *cultivated varieties*. They have been developed by plant breeders or discovered growing in nature and propagated by horticulturalists, usually vegetatively, as by root cuttings. A cultivar is a part of a plant that shows morphological differences from the rest of the plant, that is differences in form or structure.

For example—Here are three cultivars of Large-Cupped Daffodils (Division 2.)

Narcissus ‘Salome’

Narcissus ‘Altun Ha’

Narcissus ‘Ice Follies’

What is a collection?

Further along in the April Schedule, **Class 3. Calls for “A collection* of 5 different cultivars of daffodils in the same or different division.”** A cultivar is a *very specific* description of a flower. If the exhibitor wants to enter five Large-Cupped Daffodils in a single vase, then each one should be a different cultivar which is designated by the name listed after *Narcissus* in single quotations, non-italicized.

If the exhibitor chooses to enter five daffodils in different divisions, then the five blooms can be in any of the divisions, but again, the cultivar would need to be specified to demonstrated they are all different.

*Note—According to the Handbook for Flower Shows, a collection is “an exhibit of specimens judged for their cultural perfection. A minimum of five (5) different specimens must be exhibited in individual containers, or the appearance of being individually exhibited. The collection constitutes a single entry and only one entry card is used.”

What are those numbers and letters often listed next to a Narcissus name?

The number after the name refers to the Division (1. Trumpet, 2. Large Cup, 3. Small Cup, etc.). The letters, separated by a hyphen, refers to the colors of the narcissus. Both the perianth (petals) and the corona (cup) may be variously colored, including:

W – White or Whitish · G – Green · Y – Yellow · P – Pink · O – Orange · R – Red.

When describing a narcissus using these letters, the perianth is described first, then the corona. When you see multiple letters describing color it is based on dividing perianth segments into three zones: outer zone, mid-zone and base; and the corona into three zones: base, mid-zone and rim.



← ***Narcissus* 'Ice Follies' 2 W-Y** This daffodil is a Division 2.- Large Cup with a white perianth and a yellow corona.

***Narcissus* 'Salome' 2 W-PPY** This daffodil is also Division 2 with a white perianth and a corona that is pink (base), pink (mid-zone) and yellow (rim).→



← ***Narcissus* 'Altun Ha' 2 YYW-W** This daffodil is a soft yellow reverse bi-color. It is still Division 2 (large Cup). The perianth is yellow (outer zone), yellow (mid-zone) and white (base); the corona is white.

If you are listing multiple *Narcissus* cultivars, the first one listed must be spelled out (*Narcissus* or Narcissus). The second one listed may be written as simply N. followed by the cultivar.

How to make an entry card for narcissus (daffodil) exhibition according to the April Schedule which states **“Up to three entries per class, must be different cultivars.”** Remember, the *Class* is Class 1. Standard Daffodils; the lettered divisions a – m are the *sub-classes* or divisions:

<p>Division I Horticulture</p> <p>Class 1. Standard Daffodils</p> <p>b. Division 2 – Large Cup</p> <p><i>Narcissus (or Narcissus) ‘Ice Follies’</i></p> <p>#19</p>
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You may exhibit one, two or three narcissus entries in the Class I Standard Daffodils. The name in quotes, non-italicized, is the cultivar. You can exhibit up to three cultivars in one sub-class a. – m. (e.g., Trumpet or Large Cup or Small Cup, etc.) **OR up to three cultivars in different sub-classes or divisions** (see below).

Example A.-- Same Sub-class, Division1—these are two more entries in addition to the one above:

<p>Division I Horticulture</p> <p>Class 1. Standard Daffodils</p> <p>b. Division 2 – Large Cup</p> <p><i>Narcissus (or Narcissus) ‘Salome’</i></p> <p>#19</p>

<p>Division I Horticulture</p> <p>Class 1. Standard Daffodils</p> <p>b. Division 2 – Large Cup</p> <p><i>Narcissus (or Narcissus) ‘Altun Ha’</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">#19</p>

Example B: Three entries in different sub-classes (divisions) of Class 1.:

<p>Division I Horticulture</p> <p>Class 1. Standard Daffodils</p> <p>b. Division 2 – Large Cup</p> <p><i>Narcissus (or Narcissus) ‘Salome’</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">#19</p>

<p>Division I Horticulture</p> <p>Class 1. Standard Daffodils</p> <p>e. Division 5 – Triandrus</p> <p><i>Narcissus (or Narcissus) ‘Thalia’</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">#19</p>

Division I Horticulture

Class 1. Standard Daffodils

h. Division 8 – Tazetta

Narcissus (or Narcissus) ‘Odoratus’

#19

Example C. Further along in the April Schedule, **Class 3. Calls for “A collection of 5 different cultivars of daffodils in the same or different divisions.”** According to the [Handbook for Flower Shows](#), “a *Collection* is an exhibit of specimens judged for their cultural perfection....A minimum of five(5) different specimens (cut and/or container grown) exhibited in individual containers, or the appearance of being individually exhibited.”

Your entry card would look like these:

Same Division, five different Cultivars--

Division I Horticulture

Class 3. Standard Daffodils

b. Division 2 – Large Cup

Narcissus (or Narcissus) ‘Odoratus’

N. ‘Chromacolor’

N. ‘Geranium’

N. Las Vegas’

N. Pink Charm’

#19

Different Divisions, five different Cultivars--

Division I Horticulture

Class 3. Standard Daffodils

b. Division 2 – Large Cup

Narcissus (or *Narcissus*) ‘Odoratus’

c. Division 3 - Small Cup

Narcissus ‘Barrett Browning’

d. Division 4 - Double

2. More than one bloom to a stem

Narcissus ‘Erlicheer’

e. Division 4 – Double

1. One bloom to a stem

Narcissus ‘Delnashaugh’

f. Division 7 – Jonquilla

Narcissus ‘Rikki’

#19

Please refer to the [Handbook for Flower Shows](#) (available for free on the NGC website) or to the reference book [Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging](#), pp. 128-131, for guidance on conditioning, grooming and exhibiting requirements for *Narcissus*. This section also provides diagrams of daffodils in the different divisions This book is available on Amazon or is sold in the Diggers Boutique at club meetings.