

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE DEFINITION OF DIV. 9
Independent support by Brian Duncan for Option 2

The definition of Division 9 (*N. poeticus* and related species) has been the subject of long, protracted and inconclusive debate between those who want to allow the development of additional colours in the corona of flowers in the Division and those who wish to restrict it to the exact colour characteristics of the species as found in the wild.

The main stumbling block has always been the fear that relaxation of the definition would result in the registration of Div. 9 flowers that would be almost indistinguishable from Div.3. flowers that have white petals. This potential difficulty is recognised by those on both sides of the debate and both are keen to ensure such confusion is avoided. The measurement of corona length as a fraction of perianth length is proposed in an effort to break the deadlock and to ensure that any confusion with Div. 3 is avoided.

Accordingly in Option 2 this potential problem is addressed by proposing to add to the definition the words “**not more than 1/5 the length of the perianth segments**” after “**corona very short or disc- shaped**”. This proposed fraction is based on significant and accepted evidence of measurements taken from randomly selected Div.9 Registration forms and from measurements of Poeticus flowers in the garden and *N. poeticus* species in the wild. A range of Div. 3 flowers were also measured to illustrate the contrast.

The average corona length of a selection of Div.9 cultivars so measured was 4.7mm (range 2.5mm – 6mm) and of *N. poeticus* species in the wild was 3.28mm (range 2mm – 5mm) and all were less than 1/5 the length of the length of the perianth segments. The average length of corona of a selection of Div. 3 flowers was 11.1mm (range 8mm –13mm), with one marginal exception all were more than 1/5 the length of the perianth segments.

The use of measurements to define a Division is surely justified by precedent – Divs. 1,2 & 3 are defined by corona length relative to perianth length and the measurement examples show that there is a clear and measurable distinction between 1/3 cup length of Division 3 and the proposed 1/5 cup length for div. 9 cultivars. Inevitably there may be occasional borderline cases but the figures indicate that this seems less likely than between Divs. 1-3, and the proposed strengthening of the definition of *N. poeticus* characteristics will avoid confusion between Divisions 3 and 9. Trust must also be placed in the Registrants, it is most unlikely than any will want to flagrantly breach the definition and the Registrar is there to police and approve registrations. Having personally carried out many measurements I am satisfied that this approach will be effective in providing a clear distinction between Divs. 9 and 3.

Option 1 definition is inconsistent with definitions of the other species Divisions 5, 6, 7 and 10 where form and shape are the criteria and colour is not a consideration - and hybridisers have been free to raise and register an amazing array of flowers of many colours not seen in the wild species. Many such flowers are universally admired and we should be consistent and allow breeders to create new colours in Division 9.

Option 2 definition is consistent with definitions of the other species divisions in allowing development provided “**Characteristics of N. clearly evident**” except that it is more restrictive in requiring the perianth to be “**pure white**” whereas the colour of perianth and/or cup can be of any colour in Divs. 5,6,7,8 &10.

To date daffodil breeders wishing to work with Div. 9 flowers have found themselves in a legislative straight-jacket and several have given up because of the frustration of being unable to breed anything but a range of ‘Look-alikes’. This is perhaps best illustrated by the fact that the cultivar ‘Cantabile’ registered from the 1930’s is still a most regular winner in British Isles shows despite many newer 9W-GYR flowers having been named.

Option 2 represents a proposal for a relaxation of the rules so that we may allow for the development of a range of flowers with the characteristics of *N. poeticus* but in a much wider range of cup colours including combinations of green, white, yellow and pink as well as the traditional red or orange. As for the other species divisions trust must be placed in the hands of the Registrar and breeders to avoid stretching the limits of the definition, and should this happen there is always the review process for re-classification by the APNC that can be prompted by any complaint or suggestion.

I propose acceptance of the revised definition detailed under Option 2.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian S Duncan