

RHS Advisory Sub-Committee on Narcissus Classification  
**INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE DEFINITION OF DIV. 9**

#### THE DEBATE

The current debate on Div. 9 is between two different ways of adapting it for change. These are expressed in Options 1 and 2 below. Supporters of both options stress the need to prevent confusion with Div. 3.

Following an international poll of daffodil groups and societies in 2007, three out of 8 votes were for the principles of Option 1, two for Option 2, and three for no change at all. Because the return was small and because there was no clear consensus, the new Register, which was just about to go to press (2008), retained the existing definition.

However, the RHS Advisory Sub-Committee on Narcissus Classification accepts the possible desirability of change and has decided to seek further opinion, this time on an individual rather than a group basis.

#### THE EXISTING DEFINITION OF DIVISION 9

Characteristics of the *N. poeticus* group: usually one flower to a stem; perianth segments pure white; corona very short or disc-shaped, usually with a green and/or yellow centre and a red rim, but sometimes of a single colour; flowers usually fragrant

#### OPTIONS FOR CHANGE

##### Option 1

Characteristics of the *N. poeticus* group clearly evident: usually one flower to a stem; perianth segments pure white; corona very short or disc-shaped, usually with a green and/or yellow centre and a red or orange rim, but sometimes entirely red or orange; flowers usually fragrant

Supporters of Option 1 wish to limit the division to the exact characteristics of the species in order to avoid confusion with Div. 3, including a cup colour of red or orange. (Underlined are their three amendments to the existing definition)

See attached notes by Malcolm Bradbury in independent support of this Option

##### Option 2

Characteristics of the *N. poeticus* group clearly evident: usually one flower to a stem; perianth segments pure white; corona very short or disc-shaped, not more than one-fifth the length of the perianth segments; usually with a green and/or yellow centre and a red rim, but sometimes of other colours; anthers usually set at two distinct levels; flowers usually fragrant.

Supporters of Option 2 wish to allow acceptance of some new hybrid characteristics into the division, including different colours, and yet still protect and maintain a clear distinction from Div. 3. (Underlined are their four amendments to the existing definition)

See attached notes by Brian Duncan in independent support of this Option

#### OPINION

All those with an interest in division 9 daffodils are invited to give their opinion on which of the two options for change they would support, contacting the International Daffodil Registrar by 30 April 2012.

**Email to [sharonmcdonald@rhs.org.uk](mailto:sharonmcdonald@rhs.org.uk) (with 'Div. 9' as the subject)**

**Post to Sharon McDonald, RHS Garden Wisley, Woking GU23 6QB, UK (with 'Div. 9' marked on the envelope)**

**Note** Whatever the outcome of this consultation, the RHS will later debate three other changes – to replace the word 'group' with the phrase 'and related species', in order to avoid confusion with the special meaning of the word 'group' in another context (as 'cultivar group') – to remove the phrase 'usually one flower to a stem', because multi-headed plants exist – to remove the word 'usually' from 'flowers usually fragrant', because *N. poeticus* and related species are consistently fragrant.