

## Favoritism in *Triandrus* Daffodils

~by Libby Frey, Bloomington, IN

*As published by Indiana Daffodil Society Ledger, Oct 1997, Editor Suzy Wert*

I have developed strong personal preferences toward certain cultivars over the years in all divisions of daffodils. One can call them favorites, defining the word "favorite" as a daffodil I could not live without!



Perhaps I should begin with the genus *triandrus* since my supreme favorite daffodil is '**Saberwing**', 5W-GWW whose blooming I anticipate with great joy each Spring. I have distributed it around the daffodil garden and this has proved wise for it has done better at one certain site than the others, increasing its number of blooms to almost the point of being floriferous and producing larger blooms, many with two blooms per stem. '**Saberwing**' is lyrical and supremely elegant in form, producing nearly all show quality blooms of heavy substance that makes them long-lasting and weather resistant! What more can one ask?

*Triandrus* '**Jingle Bells**', 5 W-Y is a late bloomer (5) with 2 to 3, and occasionally 4 blooms per stem. A true show flower in all respects, a prolific bloomer, and a heavenly sight as a clump in the garden or in a bowl to enjoy in the home.

**'Ringing Bells'**, 5W-W, is a close third - as Elise Havens says, it is "extremely floriferous" and deliciously fragrant with an ethereal quality in a vase of three where the many florets create a massed but graceful effect.

**'Sunday Chimes'**, 5 W-W, is a pinnacle of perfection of the hybridizers art, but has never bloomed well for me, while **'Ice Wings'**, 5 W-W, comparable in form, is also a show flower, a good bloomer, and can be naturalized. I particularly love these two cultivars for they are strongly reflexed like *N triandrus* which I have never been able to grow for more than one season.

Another all-white gem is **'Moonshine'**, 5W-W, which I received from Helen Link in 1979. If it is the 'Moonshine' I still have (I would like it confirmed) it is a DeGraaf hybrid registered in 1927 and quite as prolific as **'Thalia'** though much finer in form, substance, and texture.



Everyone must admire **'Akepa'**, 5 W-P, and I have seen it grown to perfection in Helen Link's garden, and shown by her in a vase of three with two perfect blooms per stem, but it has performed poorly for me. I dug the remnants of two Akepas up this Spring to find what was wrong and found both (at different sites) had been heavily damaged by mole tunneling and reduced to nubbins. More from Libby on moles.

There are many prolific-blooming *triandrus* cultivars that I grow both in the Trial Garden at Hilltop Garden-Nature Center and in my own home garden that produce sufficient show flowers to earn a plethora of blue ribbons. Among the all yellows, **'Piculet'**, 5Y-Y, smaller than average with a single bloom, has exceptional productivity of show blooms,

and **'Lemon Drops'**, 5Y-Y and **'Liberty Bells'**, 5Y-Y, much larger in size, always have their share and do well on the show table.

**'Honey Guide'**, 5Y-Y, is a pleasing shade of yellow with several blooms of good substance on a stem. It is especially valuable because it comes at the end of the daffodil season. **'Stint'**, 5Y-Y, is another prolific yellow, but does not have as high quality show flower.

**'Merry Bells'**, 5 W-W, will always be a favorite for its form with pinched petals is unique. It may need some grooming, but it's a charmer and can be a winner.

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