

Canaliculatus

by Steve Vinisky, Sherwood Oregon

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'Canaliculatus' is a miniature tazetta with a species-sounding name. It is very inexpensive from a Dutch Importer, i.e. BrentandBecky'sBulbs.com. It is sweetly scented and doesn't rot. Unfortunately, it usually doesn't bloom for us after the first year. I asked Steve how he got his to bloom year after year, and this was his reply. ~SW

'Canaliculatus' is considered by some to be a "shy" bloomer. In my experience, 'Canaliculatus' must have a baking hot and dry summer. I now remove all the mulch over the tops of the row and actually expose part of each bulb. They happily cook until the rains start in September or October and bloom quite regularly in the spring. I am not sure about your climate, but I would line them out in rich soil (with at least triple super phosphate under the bulbs; this to grow them as large as possible) and grow them for a season in full sun. Remove mulch or soil to expose the shoulders and let the sun "bake" the bulbs. I bet you will find they flower with abandon. Also, 'Canaliculatus' is one bulb that is superbly suited to pot culture in a cold greenhouse or cold frame.