

Mutual Stimulation

~by Suzy Wert

Helen Link wrote a scientific article for hybridizers on “Mutual Stimulation” in the June 1996 [Daffodil Journal](#), in which she advocated planting daffodil seeds very close together so they could mutually stimulate one another*. Not many of us grow daffodils from seed, however the last paragraph had an interesting tidbit of interest:

When colonizing daffodils it is good practice to plant bulbs in clumps with bulbs about five or six inches apart. Single bulbs by themselves seem to disintegrate over a short period of time.

Extrapolating this for growing miniature bulbs, I have always found it to be a good practice to plant several bulbs in a punnet (bulb basket), but what about those bulbs that are prohibitively expensive? I have been putting a surrogate sister, namely ‘Indian Maid’, 70-R in the punnet along with the expensive bulb to keep it company, or as the scientists say, for “Mutual Stimulation”. ‘Indian Maid’ has a small bulb with a very dark-skinned tunic and is easy to recognize and remove after the original mini has made some offsets.

* To see the original article, look at page 227 http://dafflibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/1996_June_ADS_Journal.pdf