

The New University of Ulster



# The Guy L. Wilson Daffodil Garden





THE NEW UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

Coleraine

*THE GUY L. WILSON*

*Daffodil Garden*

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## THE GUY L. WILSON DAFFODIL GARDEN

### History

This Daffodil Garden, which is situated in the grounds of the New University of Ulster at Coleraine was established in memory of Guy L. Wilson of Broughshane, one of the leading daffodil hybridists of all time and the man who did most to develop daffodil breeding in Ireland. In 1922 he received his first award of merit from the Royal Horticultural Society for White Dame, one of the white varieties for which he is most famous. In the 1950's he received the Victoria Medal of Honour, the highest award of the R.H.S.. Wilson's great friend and rival in daffodil breeding was J. Lionel Richardson of Waterford, who died within a few weeks of him in 1961. In 1937 another Co. Antrim man, W.J. Dunlop started breeding daffodils and he was later followed by Major and Mrs. F.A.L. Harrison of Killinchy, Mrs. R.H. Reade also of Broughshane, Tom Bloomer of Ballymena and Brian Duncan of Omagh. Meanwhile Mrs. Richardson continued with her husband's business in Waterford.

The Guy L. Wilson Daffodil Garden resulted from the co-operation of these and other daffodil experts, led by Willie Dunlop, with the New University of Ulster and with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture. The initial proposals were made in 1970 and on the recommendation of the Grounds Committee the University made available the site around the Fortview quarry. Robin Currie of the Ministry of Agriculture drew up an imaginative design which was implemented under a U.R.I.C. (Urban and Rural Improvement Campaign) grant from the Ministry of Development. The first bulbs were planted in the autumn of 1971. Most of the planting took place in 1972 and the garden, now containing about 165 varieties of daffodil, is to be opened by Professor Fergus B. Wilson, C.B.E., a nephew of Guy Wilson in April 1974.

### Site and Layout

The lightly wooded site slopes down towards the River Bann where Londonderry County Council have established a marina. The soil is a medium loam, well drained and with a near neutral reaction. The Daffodil Garden links in with other features such as the Ecological Garden, now being formed in the disused quarry itself and the Botanic Garden on flatter ground to the east.



The layout of informal paths and irregular shaped beds is designed around the central drift of daffodils which provides a massive splash of colour. The beds are named after the glens and hills of Antrim, so beloved of Guy Wilson and the daffodil groups, mainly of 25 or 50, are displayed against a background of shrubs. Each group has an informative label, the interpretation of which is described at the end of this guide.

#### Other Plants in the Garden

The shrubs which act as a backcloth to the daffodils will take a few years to mature. Some of these are also Ulster bred, as for example several of those given by Leslie Slinger of Slieve Donard Nurseries.

The main tree theme in the garden is the genus *Sorbus*, a group which includes the well known Rowan or Mountain Ash. Included in the collection are several specimens of *Sorbus matsumurana* (Japanese Mountain Ash) perhaps the finest of the family for autumn tinted foliage. These were donated by the University Women's Association Gardening Group. *Sorbus cashmeriana* is a rare and unusual tree having pure white fruits. *S. pohuashanensis* is a striking tree bearing masses of orange-red fruit in late summer and autumn. *S. vilmorinii* a small semi-pendulous tree with beautiful fern-like foliage, has fruits which change from red in August to pale pink as autumn progresses. A fine mature specimen of *S. intermedia* (Swedish White beam) may also be seen just outside Fortview itself.

Also included in the garden is a selection of willows, including *Salix humilis* (Prarie Willow) *S. 'Caerulea'* (Cricket-bat willow), *S. x meyerana*, *S. purpurea 'Eugenei'* (Purple Osier), *S. alba* (White Willow) *S. viminalis* (Common Osier) and *S. 'Decipiens'* (Cardinal Willow) the young shoots of which are orange or rich red.

Amongst the outstanding shrubs which can be found in the garden are the following: *Cotinus coggyria* 'Royal Purple', a rich purple form of a Venetian Sumach; *Hypericum x inodorum* 'Elstead' an erect growing shrub which is resplendent in autumn when covered with masses of upright red fruits grouped in dense terminal cymes; *Caryopteris x clandonensis* 'Arthur Simmonds' is one of the most popular hybrid shrubs ever raised, being an ideal subject for mass effect producing its bright blue flowers in August and September.

Of all the blue flowered shrubs few equal the intensity of colour of *Ceratostigma willmottianum* which produces flowers from August through to the autumn when its foliage takes on red tints.

Two brooms of note are *Cytisus* 'Donard Gem' with its masses of dark red flowers and *Cytisus x praecox* a really spectacular plant which in May forms a tumbling mass of rich cream flowers.

The garden is open to the public without restriction. We ask only that you respect the flowers, keep children under control, dogs on leads and take your litter home with you. In this way both the University and the community will be able to enjoy this garden and its daffodils.

Coleraine  
March 1974



4.

**Slemish Bed**

Banbridge  
Passionale  
Binkie  
Sweetness  
Downpatrick  
Gilford

**Glenballyeamon Bed**

Ulster Prince  
Carnbeg  
Rathgar  
Templepatrick  
Blarney  
Glenwherry  
Sweetness  
Tittle Tattle  
Bastion  
Millisle  
Greenmount  
Saintfield  
Dunminning  
Woodvale  
Olderfleet  
Bessbrook

**Glendun Bed**

Gilford  
Echo  
Smyrna  
Longford

**Glenariff Bed**

Red Bay  
Moina  
Castlecoole  
Spanish Gold  
Roselight  
Whitehead  
Lemon Fancy

**Glencloy Bed**

Kingscourt  
Banbridge  
Crumlin  
Limelight  
Kanchenjunga  
Revelry  
Aldergrove  
Moylena  
Roseanna  
Rosario  
Snowdream  
Matapan  
Woodland Star

**Glenann Bed**

Arranmore  
Elmwood  
Revelry  
Irish Charm  
Dove Wings  
Titania  
Hillmount  
Hazelwood  
Charity May  
Auntie Gold  
Joybell  
Arctic Gold

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**Glencorp Bed**

Lochinvar  
Monterrico  
Rameses  
Orpheus  
Olympic Gold  
My Love  
Irani  
Hussar  
Gay Time  
Falstaff  
Takoradi (beside rock)  
Deodara  
Coppelia  
Ayala  
Parsifal  
Enchantress

**Glenarm Bed**

Arranmore  
Moonstruck  
Armada  
Ceylon  
Kindled  
Bizerta  
Irish Charm  
Irish Rose  
Passionale  
Rose of Tralee  
Cotterton  
Glenmanus  
Kibo  
Templepatrick  
Tornamona  
Wedding Bell  
Woodland Prince  
Silent Beauty  
Tittle Tattle

5.

**Glentaisie Bed**

Passionale  
Toreador  
Lorenzo  
Mikado  
Libya  
Lochinvar  
Parsifal  
Royal Regiment  
Irish Legend  
Rainbow  
Cathay  
Royal Charm  
Miralgo  
Monterrico  
Ocarino  
April Rose  
Salome  
Enchantress  
Rosedew  
Rossini  
Royal Porcelain

**Glenshesk Bed**

Kingscourt  
Moonstruck  
Trousseau  
Narvik  
Ballymarlow  
Ballintoy  
Ormeau  
Kibo  
Chungking  
Bravura  
Niveth  
Limerick  
Beirut  
Coolatin  
Buncrana  
Pixies Parlour



**Trostan Bed**

Break of Day  
Woodland Prince  
Silent Beauty  
Silent Morn  
SDG 7-36-52  
SDG 1-34-53  
SDG 1-24-58  
Silent Glow  
SDG 2-29-58  
SDG 4-12-57  
SDG 3-77-58  
Sun Fire  
Woodland Star

**Drift**

Kingscourt  
Kibo  
Ballymarlow  
Foresight

**Knovehead Bed**

Armagh  
Castlewellan  
Limelight  
Ballygarvey  
Cantatrice  
Hollyberry  
Moneymore  
Richill  
Craigwarren  
Ballintoy  
Ormeau  
Aldergrove  
Brookfield  
Wedding Bell  
Bushmills  
Irish Splendour  
Kildrum  
Pink Isle  
Newcastle  
Rose of Cuam  
Dalboyne  
Moon Goddess  
Foresight  
Dunseverick  
Diplomat

Getting the most out of the label.

The labels which are inserted beside all the varieties in the Garden contain all the relevant basic information concerning that variety. If the variety Zero is taken as a typical example it will be seen that the label reads as follows:—

2b	ZERO	AM (a) 1954
	G.L. WILSON	
♀ White Frost		♂ Naxos

The 2b indicates the class of daffodil to which Zero belongs e.g. Large-cupped Narcissi of Garden Origin with a white perianth and coloured corona.

AM(a) 1954 indicates that the variety received an Award of Merit from The Royal Horticultural Society in 1954. The small letter in brackets indicates the qualification for which the award was made by e.g. as a show flower; for cutting etc.

The varietal name is shown next and below this the breeder. On the bottom line the parent varieties are shown first the female or seed parent and secondly the male or pollen parent.

*Royal Horticultural Society Awards.*

The awards are listed from the highest downwards:

<i>F.C.C.</i>	=	<i>First Class Certificate</i>
<i>A.M.</i>	=	<i>Award of Merit</i>
<i>P.C.</i>	=	<i>Preliminary Commendation</i>

The letter in brackets after the award indicates the particular qualification for which it was made

<i>(e)</i>	=	<i>as a show flower</i>
<i>(c)</i>	=	<i>for cutting</i>
<i>(p)</i>	=	<i>for cultivation in pots</i>
<i>(f)</i>	=	<i>as a market variety for forcing</i>
<i>(m)</i>	=	<i>as a market variety for cutting from the Open</i>
<i>(g)</i>	=	<i>for garden decoration</i>
<i>(x)</i>	=	<i>for the rock garden</i>
<i>(a)</i>	=	<i>for the Alpine house</i>
<i>(s)</i>	=	<i>as a species or variety of a species</i>
*	=	<i>award made after trial</i>



*Classification of Daffodils*

DIVISION I  
TRUMPET NARCISSI  
of Garden Origin

One flower to a stem, trumpet or corona as long as or longer than the perianth segments.

- (a) Perianth coloured; corona coloured, not paler than the perianth.
- (b) Perianth white; corona coloured.
- (c) Perianth white; corona white, not paler than the perianth.
- (d) Any colour combination not falling into (a), (b) or (c).

DIVISION II  
LARGE-CUPPED NARCISSI  
of Garden Origin

Distinguishing characters: One flower to a stem; cup or corona more than one-third, but less than equal to the length of the perianth segments.

- (a) Perianth coloured; corona coloured, not paler than the perianth.
- (b) Perianth white; corona coloured.
- (c) Perianth white; corona white, not paler than the perianth.
- (d) Any colour combination not falling into (a), (b) or (c).

DIVISION III  
SMALL-CUPPED NARCISSI  
of Garden Origin

Distinguishing characters: One flower to a stem; cup or corona not more than one-third the length of the perianth segments.

- (a) Perianth coloured; corona coloured, not paler than the perianth.
- (b) Perianth white; corona coloured.
- (c) Perianth white; corona white, not paler than the perianth.
- (d) Any colour combination not falling into (a), (b) or (c).

DIVISION IV  
DOUBLE NARCISSI  
of Garden Origin

Distinguishing character: Double flowers.

DIVISION V  
TRIANDRUS NARCISSI  
of Garden Origin

Distinguishing characters: Characteristics of *Narcissus triandrus* clearly evident.

- (a) Cup or corona not less than two-thirds the length of the perianth segments.
- (b) Cup or corona less than two-thirds the length of the perianth segments.

DIVISION VI  
CYCLAMINEUS NARCISSI  
of Garden Origin

Distinguishing characters: Characteristics of *Narcissus cyclamineus* clearly evident.

- (a) Cup or corona not less than two-thirds the length of the perianth segments.
- (b) Cup or corona less than two-thirds the length of the perianth segments.



DIVISION VII  
JONQUILLA NARCISSI  
of Garden Origin

Distinguishing characters: Characteristics of any of the *Narcissus jonquilla* group clearly evident.

- (a) Cup or corona not less than two-thirds the length of the perianth segments.
- (b) Cup or corona less than two-thirds the length of the perianth segments.

DIVISION VIII  
TAZETTA NARCISSI  
of Garden Origin

Distinguishing characters: Characteristics of any of the *Narcissus tazetta* group clearly evident.

DIVISION IX  
POETICUS NARCISSI  
of Garden Origin

Distinguishing characters: Characteristics of the *Narcissus poeticus* group without admixture of any other.

DIVISION X  
SPECIES AND WILD FORMS AND  
WILD HYBRIDS

All species and wild, or reputedly wild forms and hybrids.

DIVISION XI  
SPLIT-CORONA NARCISSI

Distinguishing character: Corona split for at least one-third of its length.

DIVISION XII  
MISCELLANEOUS NARCISSI

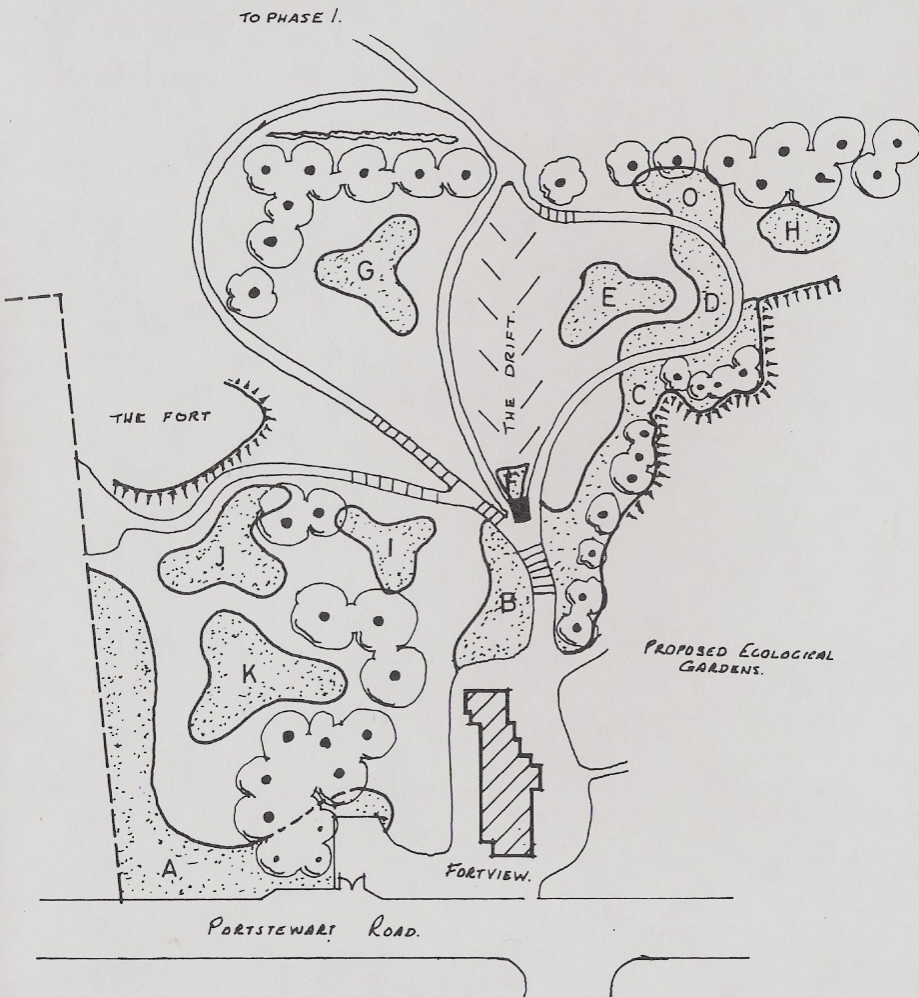
All narcissi not falling into any of the foregoing Divisions.

**List of Growers**

Mr. T. Bloomer, Rathowen Daffodils, Ballymena.  
Mr. W.J. Dunlop, Dunrobin Bulb Farm, Broughshane, Co. Antrim.  
Major and Mrs. F.A.L. Harrison, Ballydown Bulb Farm, Killinchy.  
Major and Mrs. R.H. Reade, Carncairn Daffodils Ltd., Broughshane.  
Mrs. J.L. Richardson, Prospect House, Waterford, Eire.

All the daffodils on display in the garden were donated by the above.





- O Glenarm
- H Glencorp
- G Glenarm
- E Glencloy
- D Glenariff
- C Glenballyeamon
- F Glendun
- J Glenshesk
- I Glentaisie
- B Slemish
- K Trostan
- A Knowehead

#### HOW TO GET THERE

The garden is approximately one mile out of Coleraine on the main Portstewart Road (A2), and on the opposite side of the road from Coleraine Marina, where the Coleraine-Portstewart bus stops.

Those coming by car may park in one of the University car parks and follow the signposts for Fortview.

Visitors coming by train should change at Coleraine and alight at the University Halt.

The flowering dates of the daffodils vary from year to year but generally the second half of April is the best time.