

Gold Medal for 'Innovation' in Daffodil Breeding

*Presented by Brian and Betty Duncan to the American Daffodil Society on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary Convention, Washington DC
April 2004*

This Gold Medal, The Innovation Medal, is to be awarded for the most innovative new daffodil exhibited at the ADS National Show. The winning variety should demonstrate significant novelty, advance or break-through qualities which could be expected to influence future development of the genus for commercial or exhibition purposes.

The Gold Medal will be available for award at each National Show and Convention at the discretion and unanimous vote of the President's selected panel of expert judges.

The Gold Medal will be awarded to the hybridiser and raiser (or, if deceased to the principal stockholder or exhibitor) of the winning daffodil provided it fulfills the following conditions:

- 1) It must be exhibited at an ADS National Show and Convention, either in competitive classes or in Bulb Nursery or private displays.
- 2) It must be "new" in that its name has not been registered more than 5 years previously.
- 3) If an unregistered seedling is chosen for the award the breeder/stockholder must undertake to register it as a cultivar with The Royal Horticultural Society as soon as possible after the judges announce their decision. Ideally, a name would be chosen before the end of the Convention, perhaps from a suggestions box placed in front of the Award winning bloom on the honours table.

Judging Panel

The presenters of the Award would like to be given the opportunity to assist the President in the selection of the initial judging panel and to chair the assessment process on the first occasion the Medal is on offer, in order to explain fully and answer any questions regarding the objectives of the Award which might arise.

In the longer term it is suggested that:

- The Panel is selected by the President and the previous year's Chairman of the judges
- The Panel should consist of not less than three and not more than 5 members.
- For Award of the Medal the voting of the Panel should be unanimous.
- Panel members should be chosen from established and experienced daffodil breeders, growers or exhibitors who are well versed in current daffodil developments throughout the world and who happen to be present at the Convention.
- Panel members must not feel obliged or allow themselves to be pressured to vote for the Award of the Gold Medal if in their opinion candidate flowers do not meet the stated criteria.
- If a flower raised by a panel member has been selected as a candidate for the Award he/she must immediately declare an interest and stand aside. Likewise a close relation, employee or very close associate should volunteer to stand aside.
- The President should have the right to attend the assessment process, either as a voting or non-voting member at his/her choice.