

Christmas Scented Narcissi

Winter 2017



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ORDER NOW
FOR CHRISTMAS

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WIN A BOX
OF FLOWERS

VISIT SCILLYFLOWERS.CO.UK CALL 01720 422169
Churchtown Farm, St Martin's, Isles of Scilly TR25 0QL

Hello from Churchtown Farm...

A recent tea-break chat led us all to believe that the people we work with (and their families) are, in some little ways, rather odd. The meaningful question that sparked such debate...?

'What does your family do at Christmas?'

After the obvious – excess food, snoring relatives and Brussel sprouts – yea or nay? – we uncovered some odd traditions...

Ham and piccalilli for breakfast

The Christmas twig – decorating a tamarisk branch (quite normal behaviour on Scilly!)

New pyjamas and toothpaste on Christmas Eve

Fairy topping the Christmas tree sporting a cowboy hat

A Christmas Day poker tournament with the neighbours

You might have created your own tradition – for many, Christmas wouldn't be the same without a delivery of Scilly scented narcissi.

By Christmas the narcissi season is well underway. We don't 'force' the flowers with heat and light, but we do have a few tricks so that we can start picking in October. Turn to page 10-11 to learn more.



WIN A BOX OF FLOWERS



If you have a Christmas tradition that would raise a smile or at least a perplexed sideways glance, please share – pictorial evidence welcome. The five traditions that appeal to us the most will each win a jumbo box of 80 narcissi.

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Email your entry to info@scillyflowers.co.uk, post it on our **Facebook** page – scillyflowers – or just **mail it** to us.

Please make sure your entry reaches us by 7/12/17.



NARCISSI – FACT OR FICTION?



Just for fun, test your knowledge of scented narcissi. Which of the following statements are true and which are total balderdash?

1. There is a variety of narcissi called Winston Churchill.
2. Narcissi buds are protected by a brown papery sheath called a spathe.
3. On the Isles of Scilly it is an island tradition at New Year to throw a narcissi bulb over the roof of your house to bring good luck.
4. The first narcissi ever to be picked on Scilly was in 1687.
5. All daffodils are narcissi but not all narcissi are daffodils.
6. According to the Guinness Book of Records the tallest daffodil grown on record was 1.55m high.
7. The machine we use to sterilise our narcissi bulbs is called a Jonquiliser.
8. If the narcissi bloom on Chinese New Year, it is said to bring extra wealth and good fortune throughout the year.
9. Narcissi petals are used to make yellow fabric dye.

You'll find quick answers at the bottom of page eleven. For the full answers visit:

scillyflowers.co.uk/fact-or-fiction

Christmas gift ideas

Beautifully simple boxes of scented Scilly flowers make perfect Christmas presents, but we have a few other Christmas gift ideas to tempt you...

'For once we are on the receiving end of your beautiful flowers. The perfume is filling the house and the quality of the blooms is perfect. Thank you to the team. I have also emailed the 'sender' to thank her as I know how nice it is to know one's gift is so successful.'

Sylvia Hanks



GIFT VOUCHER CARDS

Perfect if you aren't sure whether your friend will be at home. You can slip them in with another present, maybe a lovely vase. Or you could just keep a few at home to use as emergency gifts. The card doesn't show the value of the flowers, it just has a code so that we know what size gift box to post.

 scillyflowers.co.uk/giftvouchers

'Many thanks for the prompt delivery of the flowers. They are absolutely beautiful and smell gorgeous.'

Margaret Williams



BESPOKE GIFT SUBSCRIPTION

For a really special gift, set up a regular order of flowers. Our Office Manager Ruth will personally oversee your order so that it is just right for you, whether it's a series of three boxes or a box every week of the year. You choose when and where you want the flowers sent and we'll do the rest. Start the ball rolling by filling in your details online.

 scillyflowers.co.uk/bespoke-gift-subscription or simply call 01720 422169.

'It was like opening a box of loveliness, golden sunshine, hope and joy - what a wonderful gift!'

John Murray and Shelagh Brooke



CHRISTMAS BOUQUETS

Three gloriously festive bouquets, starting from just £25.00.

To make our bouquets we choose other beautiful flowers that complement our Scilly grown narcissi. These other flowers are not grown on Scilly but we hope you agree they make lovely arrangements.

The number of bouquets our small team can make and pack is limited, so if these take your fancy make sure you order in good time to reserve yours.

 scillyflowers.co.uk/christmas-bouquets



It just got even easier to order...

Our new website makes ordering flowers from any device much easier.

📱 Pick up your tablet, laptop or phone and go to scillyflowers.co.uk

☎ Phone us on **01720 422169**

✉ Email info@scillyflowers.co.uk

📄 Or use our new simple postal address – **FREEPOST SCILLYFLOWERS** – with the order form 

We're staying open for longer in the run-up to Christmas: **Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat-Sun 9am-5pm**. Order in good time so you don't miss the boat.



Pack D 50 flowers



GREAT VALUE FOR CHRISTMAS

All our flowers are sent from the Isles of Scilly by 1st Class post.

Pack A	Posy Pack	£11.50
Pack B	30 flowers	£16.00
Pack C	40 flowers	£18.00
Pack D	50 flowers	£19.50
Pack E	60 flowers	£21.00
Pack F	Luxury Bouquet	£36.00
Pack H	Bouquet	£31.00
Pack V	Posy Bouquet	£25.00

Order Form

All prices include packaging and FREE 1st Class postage.

- 1 Fill in the form below.
- 2 Cut it out and pop it in an envelope.
- 3 Use our FREEPOST address: FREEPOST SCILLYFLOWERS.

YOUR DETAILS Please use block capitals.

Sender's name _____

Home address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone no. _____

Email address _____

Please send me another order form. **Pack A £11.50 / Pack B £16.00 / Pack C £18.00/ Pack D £19.50
Pack E £21.00 / Pack F £36.00 / Pack H £31.00 / Pack V £25.00**
Bigger packs and gift vouchers also available – please call or go online.

WHO ARE YOU SENDING TO?

1. Name:	Message:
Address:	
Postcode:	
Preferred delivery date:	Pack:

PTO for more space

2. Name:	Message:	
Address:		
Postcode:		
Preferred delivery date:		Pack:

3. Name:	Message:	
Address:		
Postcode:		
Preferred delivery date:		Pack:

PAYMENT DETAILS

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ (payable to 'Churchtown Farm'.)

I wish to pay by card



Card no.

Security no. (Last 3 digits on the signature strip on reverse of cards)

Valid from _____ Expiry date _____

Signature _____

Flowers of the same or greater value may be sourced from other growers to ensure supply and quality. Although your flowers will be sent by 1st Class post we cannot guarantee the exact date of delivery.



Farm milestones

Back in August we posted our one-and-a-half millionth box from Churchtown Farm since we started sending flowers just over 25 years ago. Doing a rough 'back of an envelope' estimation, that equals over 52 million stems of scented Scilly flowers!



MEET THE TEAM



This summer we had no new babies, no weddings and no outstanding achievements, but what we have got is a great farm team! As normal, a few came and went as the summer drew to a close but we currently have a cracking crew who are a pleasure to work with.

scillyflowers.co.uk/about-us/meet-the-team



THINKING OF AN ISLES OF SCILLY HOLIDAY?

Whether you're a regular visitor, an aspiring Scillyphile or just curious – if you're thinking of coming to Scilly, the best place to start planning is visitislesofscilly.com.

And with more people choosing to holiday in the UK, it's worth booking ahead.

A year (and a bit) in the life of narciss

Not every year is the same: every fourth year we lift our bulbs, process them and plant them in a different field. This prevents disease and keeps our bulb stock and soil healthy.

EASTER

The last narcissi flowers are picked. The rest of the crop is left in the field, as we don't have enough good-quality flowers left to send.



MAY

The bulbs are lifted and left on the ground to dry; fingers crossed for good weather.

EARLY JUNE

The bulbs are windrowed into neater rows which allows for further drying and starts the cleaning process.



JUNE

The 'bulb-picker-upper' is deployed and bulbs are stored in bins. Next bulbs go through the cleaning line and into net bags. Nets of bulbs are sterilised. Farmers on Scilly swap and trade bulbs to ensure they have the right mix for their farm.



JULY AND AUGUST

The bulbs are planted in ridged rows just like potatoes.



SEPTEMBER TO APRIL

Sit back and do nothing - often a first-year flower crop won't be of high enough quality so we don't pick them.

narcissi bulbs

MAY

We cover the field with polythene and blow smoke underneath to initiate the bulbs. This is done at different times to stagger the crop.



AUGUST

The first new leaves break the soil.

SEPTEMBER

The first buds become visible.



MID OCTOBER

The picking team starts picking scented narcissi.



Glossary

Bins – Wooden boxes holding three quarters of a tonne of bulbs.

Bulb – The underground part of a narcissus. A bit like an onion.

Bulb-picker-upper – A machine designed to quickly pick bulbs off the ground, clean them and put them into bins.

Lift – A process in which the bulbs are removed mechanically from their ridges.

Narcissus/narcissi – A group of flowering plants. This group includes daffodils.

Sterilise – This is the process of submerging dry and dormant bulbs in water at 44.4 °C for three hours.

Windrow – A neat row of lifted bulbs in a field, which allows the roots to dry up, the skins to crisp up and soil to be washed off by any rain.



NARCISSI – FACT OR FICTION ANSWERS

(FROM PAGE THREE)

True: 1,2,5,6,8

False: 3,4,7,9

AND DON'T FORGET

You can order all year round with confidence as our flowers are **fully guaranteed**.

If you ever have a problem with our flowers please just let us know straight away so we can put things right.

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

Mon-Fri 8am-8pm | Sat-Sun 9am-5pm
in the run-up to Christmas

Phone 01720 422169



*Seasons
greetings
and a peaceful
New Year...*

The Julian family and
the Churchtown team



VISIT SCILLYFLOWERS.CO.UK CALL 01720 422169

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK/SCILLYFLOWERS
OR TWEET US @SCILLYFLOWERS

**Churchtown Farm, St Martin's,
Isles of Scilly TR25 0QL**