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Narcissus poeticus

[Synonyms : *Autogenes angustifolius*, *Autogenes poeticus*, *Helena croceorincta*, *Helena purpureorincta*, *Hermione purpureocincta*, *Narcissus hellenicus*, *Narcissus majalis*, *Narcissus majalis* var. *plenus*, *Narcissus obliquus*, *Narcissus ornatus*, *Narcissus patellaris*, *Narcissus poeticus* subsp. *hellenicus*, *Narcissus poeticus* subsp. *majalis*, *Narcissus poeticus* subsp. *poeticus*, *Narcissus poeticus* subsp. *recurvus*, *Narcissus purpureocinctus*, *Narcissus recurvus*, *Narcissus tripedalis*, *Narcissus tripodalis*, *Stephanophorum purpuraceum*]

POET'S NARCISSUS is a bulbous perennial. Native from France to Greece, it has fragrant yellow or white flowers with a red-edged, yellow trumpet.

It is also known as *Dichternarzisse* (German), *Fior-maggi* (Italian), *Gant de Notre-Dame* (French), *Gartennarzisse* (German), *Goute dé sang* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), *Gylfinog Farddol* (Welsh), *Narcis biely* (Slovak), *Narcis bílý* (Czech), *Narciso de lechuguilla* (Spanish), *Narciso poeta* (Esperanto), *Narcisse-des-poètes* (French), Pheasant's eye, Pheasant's eye daffodil, Pheasant's eye narcissus, *Pingstlilja* (Swedish), Poeticus daffodil, Poet's daffodil, *Weisse Gartennarzisse* (German), *Weisse Narzisse* (German), Whitsun lily, and *Zerrinkadeh* (Turkish).

Warning – SEE *Narcissus* GENUS entry.

Poeticus means 'of poets'.

Poet's narcissus was familiar over 2200 years ago as it is referred to by the ancient Greek philosopher, Theophrastus (c.372-c.287 BC) in his writings.

Christened 'poet's narcissus' it does not seem to be easy to trace poetry specifically written for this species although authorities do believe that the English writer and lyric poet, Shelley (1792-1822) was directing his thoughts to this plant particularly when he wrote

The pied windflowers and the tulip tall,
And Narcissi, the fairest among them all,
Who gaze on their eyes in the stream's recess,
Till they die at their own dear loveliness.

It is used by the perfumery industry - and is also cultivated as an ornamental plant.

Medicinally, the bulb is used today in homoeopathic treatments.