

# Special plants *Pat Mansey*

## *Synthyrus missurica*



*Synthyrus missurica* is a little woodland treasure, emerging from humus rich soil, in semi- shade in early spring. It is clump forming, with dark green kidney shaped, toothed leaves. It has deep lavender blue flowers, slightly resembling those of *Muscari*, but much more attractive. They are on spikes composed of many tiny bell shapes forming a tight spiral around the stem.

This plant is fully hardy, emanating from Canada, and can be divided when the clump is large enough. It is a great companion to snowdrops, crocuses, and all the spring flowers, for its flowers appear in long succession.

## *Narcissus* ‘Cedric Morris’

This is a truly diminutive little gem of a daffodil, tiny in all its parts, and only reaching about 8 inches high. It is nearly always in flower by Christmas, if not soon after, as long as the weather is not too harsh. The flower stems lie on the ground in a frost, but soon recover. The flower is lemon yellow with twisting petals around the frilly edged trumpet, and green colouring round the base of the corolla.

The bulbs increase slowly and when the clump is large enough, can be divided. It is important to protect the bulbs from the narcissus fly by planting them under the cover of trees or shrubs as these little treasures are rare and expensive.

*Narcissus* ‘Cedric Morris’ was discovered in Spain by a friend who subsequently named it after him, and it has been propagated by Beth Chatto.

