

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



# Russell Gardens

NINE SOLID ACRES HEMEROCALLIS

Spring, Texas

November 12, 1943.

Reference Librarian  
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

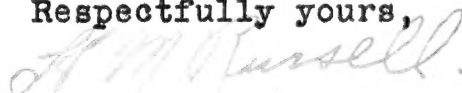
I have set aside for distribution next spring twelve new daylilies in twelve new color patterns; reds, purples, rose and bicolors, all in named varieties of my own originations and, I am sure, like none you may already possess. These were selected from more than 100,000 hybrids, the result of many years' selective breeding. Of course, their blooming habits, foliage and hardiness were taken into the most careful consideration.

We now have these in sufficient quantities to distribute in several sections of the country that you might better acquaint yourself with some of our newer originations and at a price you can surely not afford to overlook.

None of these varieties will appear in my 1944 catalogue, due to their scarcity. Therefore under no circumstances can I release more than one complete collection to a single client. If you wish to avail yourself of twelve of the loveliest daylilies you have ever seen, place your order now so that we might put it on file for spring delivery beginning in April.

Please state plainly the date you wish shipment made. None of these twelve will be shipped before April, but all others listed in our present catalogue can be sent now or any time you wish. I anticipate your order with pride and assure you personally the plants will come to you well packed and correctly labeled and all of vigorous, blooming size stock. Your order will be acknowledged immediately upon receipt.

Respectfully yours,



H. M. Russell

P.S. I am sending you an excerpt from our newspaper so that you might better know just who we are and what we are doing. We are proud of what others say about us and our daylilies. - H.M.R.

*Plant Hemerocallis Daylilies once and have them always*

Russell B. ...

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

November 10, 1947

Reference Librarian  
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I have not until now ...  
now ...  
and ...  
I am ...  
located ...  
collective ...  
and ...

We now have ...  
use in ...  
against ...  
price you can ...

None of these ...  
logos, due to ...  
can I ...  
clients. I ...  
daylies you ...  
might put ...

Please state ...  
None of these ...  
listed in our ...  
wish. I ...  
specially the ...  
labeled and ...  
will be ...

Respectfully yours,

H. M. Russell

P.S. I am sending you an excerpt from our ...  
might better know just who we are and what ...  
proud of what others say about us and our ...

Plant ...

## 1944 INTRODUCTIONS

You will find listed here twelve new Daylilies we are offering now, placed in groups of 3's according to their color. It was not our intention to release these varieties yet, but due to the heavy demand on all our other stock we have decided to offer them now, prior to introduction in our future catalogue. These twelve varieties have not even been named yet; they are still in our fields under a number after more than seven years' observation. They were selected from more than 100,000 choicest hybrids as among the very best, taking into consideration the intensity of color, excellent foliage and good blooming habits. All of them will come to you in the spring after we have named them and they will be of vigorous blooming size stock. Shipment on these will not begin until April. You are urged to make reservation early and from this list, as these varieties positively will not appear in our 1944 catalogue. All other varieties offered here, with the exception of the unnamed hybrids listed on Page 1, which will also be sent beginning in April, will be sent now or any time you wish, depending on when you best like to plant. Order now and we will reserve the plants for you until you wish delivery made.

RED GROUP: This consists of three distinct reds; a deep mahogany, a brilliant cherry and a real rosy red. I believe these will answer your requirements for reds.

BICOLOR GROUP: There are in this group three bicolors in patterns such as three petals rose and three petals lemon, and combinations of rose and brown, and red and yellow. Authorities visiting our nurseries say they have never seen colors in such combinations as are in these lovely plants.

ROSE GROUP: The three varieties here are in shades from light rose (called "pink" by many growers) to the deepest old rose. If you have never seen Daylilies in colors such as these, you have a treat coming to you.

PURPLE GROUP: These are the purple, or wine colored tones. Each of these is a decidedly different shade and all are simply "must-haves", I believe, in anybody's garden.

You may have one or more of these groups (three plants to a group) for three dollars a group, or a broken group consisting of any three plants from any group for \$3.50, or all four groups (twelve plants) for ten dollars. Each shipment will be sent prepaid.

(See other side for General List)

GENERAL LIST - STANDARD VARIETIES

(Seasons of bloom are checked for our climate)

<u>BAGDAD</u> (Stout) Rich brown and red tone. 4 ft. May-June -----	75¢
<u>BELLS OF SAN ANTONE</u> (Russell 1941) A chrome self, reverse of sepals green. A perfect bell shape and keeps well under our sun. A fast grower. 3 ft. May-June -----	35¢
<u>BIJOU</u> (Stout) Orange background, overcast red. Borne in clusters on numerous branch stems. 2½ ft. May-June -----	75¢
<u>BOU-TONNIERE</u> (Stout) Similar to but lighter than Bijou, with recurving petals of rosy peach. 3 ft. July -----	35¢
<u>CHROME ORANGE</u> (Mead) Similar to Florham, but the flowers are deeper orange. Segments more narrow than Florham. A Beauty. 3 ft. May-June	50¢
<u>CINNABAR</u> (Stout) Recurving petals of cadmium yellow, sprinkled with rose-brown. 3 ft. May-June -----	50¢
<u>DAUNTLESS</u> (Stout) Cadmium yellow, having a green throat with fulvous touch in center of each petal. 2½ ft. May-June -----	75¢
<u>DUMORTIERII</u> (Species) Deep rich cadmium yellow. 2 ft. March-April --	25¢
<u>EMILY HUME</u> (Hume) Similar to Wau-Bun but deeper color and grows taller. Large yellow flowers with twisted petals. 3½ ft. May-June --	50¢
<u>FULVA ROSEA</u> (Species) The most beautiful of any known wild species of Hemerocallis. The flowers are rose pink with a graceful stalk. 3½ ft. June-July -----	\$5.00
<u>GEM</u> (Betscher) Flowers of light cadmium yellow. Robust with a 4 inch spread. 3 ft. June-July -----	35¢
<u>GOLDEN SHADOWS</u> (Russell 1938) Color and shape of Mrs. W. H. Wyman with distinct brown shadow. 3½ ft. May-June -----	50¢
<u>GYPSY</u> (Betscher) Deep orange, a shade in a class by itself. A good one. 3 inch flower. 3 ft. May-June -----	35¢
<u>HARVEST MOON</u> (Betscher) Flower of light orange, segments rather narrow. A beauty when established. 3 ft. May-June -----	50¢
<u>J.T. RUSSELL</u> (Russell 1938) Blooms are 6 inches across. Petals of lemon yellow with deep cinnamon red mark on each one. Sepals are clear lemon. 3 ft. May-June -----	\$1.00
<u>KWANSO FLORE PLENA VIRGINICA</u> (Species) This is really not a double, but a triple daylily. Its color is orange copper. Very scarce. 3½ ft. June-July -----	50¢
<u>LINDA</u> (Stout) Ruffled golden yellow petals, flecked with cinnamon, being a contrast to the bright yellow sepals. A rose zone, yellow throat. 3 ft. May-June -----	75¢
<u>LOVETT'S LEMON</u> (Lovett) Pale yellow flowers which curl and twist into an unusual effect. 3½ ft. May-June -----	35¢
<u>MIKADO</u> (Stout) Flowers of mellow orange, dark red-purple eye zone in each petal. 3 ft. May-June -----	25¢
<u>MINOR</u> (Species) A most pleasing yellow, with dainty flowers and foliage. 1 ft. April -----	25¢
<u>PATRICIA</u> (Stout) A clear tone of pale yellow with green throat. 3 ft. May-June -----	\$1.00
<u>RADIANT</u> (Yeld) A Pure orange flower. 3½ ft. June-July -----	35¢
<u>SOUDAN</u> (Stout) Clear empire-yellow, wavy petals. 3 ft. May-June ----	75¢
<u>THERON</u> (Stout) Deep red, curved and twisted petals. Pale yellow-orange throat, shaded green at base. 3 ft. June -----	\$3.00
<u>VESTA</u> (Stout) Deep orange with slight fulvous markings in mid-zone. 2½ ft. May-June -----	75¢
<u>VULCAN</u> (Stout) Deep red, orange throat. Medium size. 3 ft. May-June--	\$2.00
<u>WAU BUN</u> (Stout) Large, freely curving petals of cadmium-yellow with outer half overcast with fulvous red. 3 ft. May-June -----	75¢

(OVER)

RUSSELL INTRODUCTIONS 1942 AND 1943

The stock of all our introductions of 1942 and 1943 is about exhausted. While these are all glorious introductions and will remain among the best in Daylilies for many years to come, I can't say that I would rather have any of these than I would the 1944 introductions I am offering you here on Page 3 and at a much lower price, because we have a much larger stock. 1942 and 1943 varieties are priced higher simply because they are extremely scarce now.

ANNIS VICTORIA RUSSELL (Russell 1942) One of the most beautiful Daylilies in my entire field. Blooms are 7 to 9 inches across, as many as 30 buds to a stem. Dark green crinkled foliage, evergreen. Color exactly canary yellow. This is my choice of all the yellow Daylilies. 4 ft. Blooms in mid-April and again in June ----- \$2.00

BELL OF GEORGIA (Russell 1943) This is a lovely rounded 4 to 5 inch pale yellow bloom, overcast with the color and markings exactly like that of a ripe peach. I've never seen any Daylily with such color pattern as this. 3 ft. April-May ----- \$3.00

BLACK PRINCE (Russell 1942) Looking for a real dark red? Here's one that is almost black and one that will stand the hottest sun. Keeps well in evenings. The petals and sepals are an even color with a slightly darker eye zone. The throat has a smaller yellow cup. The petals and sepals are wide and open full, slightly reflexed. Velvet finish. Real life in this. 3½ ft. April-May and again in mid-summer ----- \$10.00

CRYSTAL FAIRY (Russell 1943) A light salmon-pink. Medium size blooms, but one of the most beautiful crystal pinks I've ever seen. A most profuse bloomer. 3 ft. April-May ----- \$3.00

EVANGELINE (Russell 1943) Petals rosy red, almost wine color, with a deep purple eye. The sepals just a bit lighter in color and decidedly twisted. The throat is absolutely green. This Daylily looks quite a bit like an orchid in color and shape, and unlike any I have seen. 6 inches. 2½ ft. May-June ----- \$1.00

INDIANOLA (Russell 1943) A deep red Daylily with a yellow throat. Blooms for three solid months here. I'd surely want this one in my garden. A fast grower. 3½ inch blooms. 4 ft. May-June-July ----- \$2.00

JUAREZ (Russell 1943) A vivid, most brilliant Daylily. The petals are red; sepals yellow slightly overcast cardinal. While the flowers are not so large, the profusion of its blooms more than makes up for that. Increases fast. 3 ft. April-May-June ----- \$2.00

MRS. B. F. BONNER (Russell 1942) Many times when Hyperian was produced experts said we may as well quit working to get a better pale yellow, but in this Daylily we have produced one that is far superior in general respects. Its color is that exact shade of palest yellow. The bloom holds well, long after Hyperian has closed, and the size is much larger. It also blooms quite a bit earlier than Hyperian. The foliage is beautiful. Blooms profusely. May-June ----- \$10.00

NOSIESTA (Russell 1943) This Hemerocallis is aptly named since it seems never to quit blooming in our fields. It really has two distinct blooming seasons here; March and April and again in mid-summer. The color is a light chrome. This plant is a very fast grower and a most unusual flower in every respect. Blooms 6 inches and opens full. 3½ ft. ----- \$1.00

OLD PAINT (Russell 1942) This is a fine Daylily; blooms are not so large but many of them. The petals are mahogany red with an almost black eye zone. Sepals are deep yellow overcast mahogany. Throat is yellow. Grows very fast. 3 ft. April-May ----- \$2.00

RUSSELL INTRODUCTIONS 1942 AND 1943 (Continued)

OLD VINTAGE (Russell 1942) This is a tall wine-purple with a small yellow throat. Blooms not so large but most profuse bloomer. Keeps well on the hottest days. 4 ft. April-May ----- \$3.00

ON TOUR (Russell 1942) A giant 7 inch bloom of the palest yellow, with wide open petals. Another "must have".  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ft. May-June ----- \$3.00

OVERTURE (Russell 1943) A small, light red, multiflora type with deep red eye zone and green throat. Of all the many hybrids we've gotten from this wild species, this one is, to me, surely the loveliest because it has a shape unlike any of the others. Sepals and petals twist as do only the larger types, such as Wau Bun and Emily Hume. Blooms 3 inches. 3 ft. May-June-July ----- \$1.00

PURPLE FLASH (Russell 1942) Petals solid purple, sepals yellow, overcast purple and a deeper eye zone. It has a shape unlike any I have ever seen in that the not-so-wide petals open about three-fourths and have a decidedly pinched effect at the ends. Sepals somewhat twisted. Admired by every visitor to our fields. Defies the hottest sun. 3 ft. April-May-June ----- \$6.00

PURPLE SAGE (Russell 1942) A deep wine color, one of the darkest purples. Petals are ruffled. Slight yellow midrib. This is a real purple for you. It keeps well in our hottest sun. 3 ft. April-May ----- \$6.00

PURPLE WATERS (Russell 1942) This is my favorite of all the purples. The flower opens full, slightly reflexed. The petals and sepals are a deep, rich purple and the petals are somewhat ruffled. This flower is perfect in the evening. The throat is yellow. 3 ft. April-May-June ----- \$10.00

QUEEN OF GONZALES (Russell 1942) This is a solid self - the flower is about the color of an orange, and the wide overlapping petals open full. The petals are reflexed. This is another almost constant bloomer and one of the earliest of the large flowering kinds. Perfect in the hot sun. 3 ft. April-May and again in mid-summer. Does not close at night. -- \$2.00

SEVEN SEAS (Russell 1942) Petals are a rosy brown with deeper brown veins and a yellow midrib with a golden throat. The sepals are lighter in color than the petals. Huge blooms. This is a most unusual color and a wonderful Daylily in every way. 4 ft. April-May ----- \$2.00

SPITFIRE (Russell 1942) This Hemerocallis never seems to quit blooming here. One set of bloom stems appears as fast as the old set has bloomed out. The petals and sepals are fiery red with yellow midrib. Yellow throat. Small blooms but the plant is ablaze with a profusion of blooms in early spring and mid-summer. Wide petals; open full. Keeps well.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft. April-May-June ----- \$3.00

STAMPEDE (Russell 1943) A deep mahogany red giant. Wide petals with somewhat deeper eye zone. One of my best reds. 6 inch blooms. 3 ft. April-May ----- \$3.00

TOMESHA (Russell 1943) This brownish-red Daylily is one of the showiest semi-dwarfs. Petals and sepals an even color with yellow midrib and a deep red eye zone.  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches. 20 inches. May-June ----- \$1.00

TWINKLE (Russell 1943) A velvet, brilliant red. Blooms not so large, but a distinct color and profuse bloomer.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft. May-June ----- \$5.00

WAR PATH (Russell 1942) (Formerly called "Forest Fires" until I learned another nurseryman had beat me to this name.) Petals and sepals even, dark mahogany red. Wide, open full, reflexed. Throat yellow. Twice bloomer. Satin sheen. This is a "must-have". Defies our hottest sun. 3 ft. April-May and again in mid-summer. ----- \$4.00



# Six-Year-Old Lily Farm at Spring Proves Worth To Houston Area; Many New Varieties Developed

## Mrs. Meysenburg Enthusiastic Over Russell Hybrids

Nearly six years ago there was an article in the Garden Page of The Houston Press telling of the arrival of a hybridizer of hemo-calls, H. M. Russell from South Carolina. The Chamber of Commerce announced that Mr. Russell would start a day-lily farm in Houston, due to the excellence of the soil and climatic conditions of the Houston area. An extensive research and hybridization were planned for the lily farm.

Today, there is a nine-acre lily farm established at Spring, 23 miles from Houston with more than a half million plants.

Many lilies are in full bloom on each clump, with vivid colorings ranging from yellow to orange and many new varieties showing reds to purple. Our two ordinary day lilies, the *flava* and the *fulva*, have been used in gardens in this country for more than 100 years and were taken into Europe from the Orient about 300 years ago. Sitting in the corners, these two Cinderellas in their yellow and orange dresses had to be content with blooming only for a day and closing up at night, with only a few variations in their attire. Their Greek botanical name, "Hemocallis," means "Beauty for a Day," and in the language of flowers, they have been called "Co-quettes."

The *fulva* doesn't make seeds, so the *flava* has been worked overtime in the hybridization with the *fulva*, and other species furnishing pollen to diversify the colorings. Thirteen other species found in Europe have been used by Mr. Russell to obtain new varieties. Many of the new lilies have been crossed and hybridized for 15 generations and Mr. Russell with his patience and skill has developed lilies which will remain open for the night, have many new colorings, different textures, a larger expanse in the opening of the throat and have been climatalized to withstand heat, extreme cold and to defy the floods and heavy rains.

The lily farm was visited after severe rain and the blossom of the well known Hyperion couldn't compare with the new hybrid, Mrs. B. F. Bonner. This new lily, a clear pale yellow color with the size much larger than the Hyperion and the bloom much earlier, held its bloom erect and open after the rain.

**BROWNISH-RED**  
The Marguerite Palmer, named for the garden editor of The Press, has a bloom with petals fully reflex and four and half inches in diameter in the rounded bloom. This new variety is brownish red in color with a salmon sheen. It is a twice bloomer, appearing in both spring and fall. The Mary Rice Fuller, named for the mother of Mr. Palmer, is a 1943 Russell hybrid, with a distinct deep rose yellow with a distinct deep rose eye zone. The sepals are lemon colored, giving the softest and most pleasing effect. It blooms in April and May and again in late summer. The Pride of Houston, a Rus-

sell 1942, has a brilliant flower with dark mahogany red petals with almost black eye zone. The sepals are a lighter shade with the throat a deep orange. This variety with its velvety satin sheen defies our hottest sun and blooms in May and June.

Mr. Russell pointed out the following varieties as favorites: Quote Me (the name given by Pat Fleming of the park system when Mr. Russell was describing it in extravagant terms), On Tour, Emily Brown, War Path, Lo, the Wind, Fiesta, Tejas, Ruth Zant, Betty and Slick, Painted Lady, Santa Fe, Seven Seas, Joy Russell, Juarez, Old Vintage, Queen of Dallas, Margaret Slaughter, Annis Victoria, Russell, Pure Waters and Purple Sage.

**BECOMES ENTHUSIAST**  
Mrs. R. C. Meysenburg, 5401 Caroline, who has been horticultural advisor for the Southwest region of the Garden Club of America, has become an enthusiast in planting the Russell hybrids and one garden bed is filled with the choicest varieties. She is proud of her "Red Emperor," so appropriately named, "for the blossoms are very large with reddish

brown colorings." One clump of the Marguerite Palmer has been in profuse bloom and by its side, the Mary Rice Fuller has been producing blooms. The Santa Fe is one of her favorites and also the Seven Seas, Spit Fire, Sylvia, San Jacinto. Her Purple Sage is a deep wine color, almost purple with the petals ruffled, having a slight yellow mid-rib. The Belle of Georgia is a pale yellow, overcast with color and markings similar to a ripe peach. The Crystal Fairy is a light salmon pink with medium size blooms.

**COLORINGS VARIED**  
"There is no reason for any one to tire of the colorings of day lilies," said Mr. Russell, "for they are so varied. Too, they do not usurp the garden for the hybrids do not send out runners and they remain in compact clumps. The division can be left alone from year to year, making larger clumps and producing more blooms each season. With selecting different varieties, day lilies can be in bloom in the garden for four or five months of the year. The varieties also differ in height."

Another interesting feature of the day lilies is their hardiness, flourishing under a varied range of soil and climatic conditions. Wet or dry, acid or lime, sand or clay, sun or shade, they pursue their habits of giving charm to the garden and strange to say, they have no attractions for insects.

When Mr. Russell hybridizes to bring in new varieties, each seed from the flower crossed with other pollen is planted and not one of the many is discarded for it is never known which seed will produce the choice flower. These are marked and watched for several generations. The culls are discarded.

"See that field," said Mr. Russell, "the pigs will be turned in there to feed on the roots. To the casual observer, the lilies seemed to be the best varieties but to Mr. Russell there were faults in them."

"There is a difference for a true variety has life, sheen, color, vigor—it is alive," he said. "These others do not come up to standard and will not be allowed to grow in any one's garden."

Shipments have been made to every state in the Union, Canada and Mexico and the industry has grown until it has become an asset to industrial Houston.

This is an article by the Garden editor of a daily newspaper of Houston, Texas

1866  
The first of the year was a very dry one, and the crops were much injured. The weather was very hot, and the ground was very dry. The crops were much injured, and the people were very poor. The first of the year was a very dry one, and the crops were much injured. The weather was very hot, and the ground was very dry. The crops were much injured, and the people were very poor.