

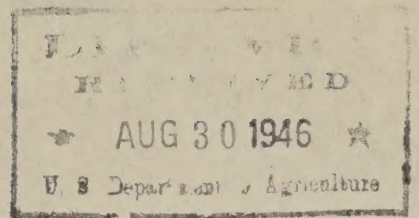
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Russell Gardens

NINE SOLID ACRES HEMEROCALLIS

Spring, Texas



LIRIOPE MUSCARI--THE RUSSELL STRAIN

"Majestic"

STOCK IS LIMITED THIS SEASON—ORDER EARLY

12 PLANTS POSTPAID **\$5.00** **25** PLANTS POSTPAID **\$8.00** **100** PLANTS POSTPAID **\$27.50**

100 PLANTS MAKE A BORDER 100 FEET LONG

On a separate sheet you will find enclosed in this letter a color photograph of a new splendid border plant. You will find this also listed in our new fall catalogue, but plainly stated in big letters that it will not be offered to the general public until 1947. Only a few of you will be privileged to obtain this splendid plant now, as our stock for this season, is extremely limited. Place your order immediately if interested. Read the excerpt on the enclosed color photograph, what the Horticultural Advisor of the Southwest Region of the Garden Club of America has to say about this superbly beautiful new "find".

JUST WHAT IS LIRIOPE MUSCARI?—This is a very fine evergreen herbaceous perennial forming a compact plant that does not send out runners or otherwise spread beyond its allotted place in the garden. It grows 12 to 15 inches high, and has disease-proof foliage of the darkest green, grass-like in shape and about ½ inch in width. The whole plant presents a very graceful appearance. The very double blooms of the variety Majestic are produced in spikes that stand up well above the foliage. In color they are lilac-pink—a soft, lovely shade that contrasts beautifully with the rich dark green leaves. Each plant makes a sturdy clump, and when used for edging, as shown in the photograph on the front of this folder, the row of plants makes a most pleasing effect.

There are several other species of Liriope—some of them called Ophiopogon—but in our opinion Muscari is by far the most desirable. No doubt the name Muscari was given it because the flower resembles the Muscari or Grape Hyacinth. Liriope, of course, is a much larger plant, however, with more profuse bloom, and is a perennial instead of a bulbous plant. This species is absolutely first-rate when used as edging for a garden walk or bed. It does not send out runners and usurp the whole garden, as some other species do, nor does it become straggly and untidy-looking. The clumps grow quickly and are always neat and pleasing.

A particular variety of Liriope muscari has lately become much sought after in the South. It has been found in many old Southern gardens, where it was called simply "Border Plant." Nurserymen have bought up many of these old plantings for further propagation, and the result is that this superb plant is finding its way from secluded old gardens of the past into the newest plantings of today. It has proved hardy both in the North and in the South. The illustrations here show the variety which we grow exclusively. We have named it Majestic, because we truly feel that it is the best one of all.

THE ANSWER TO A GARDENER'S PRAYER, LIRIOPE "MAJESTIC"—A permanent edging plant is much to be preferred to either bricks or a trench as an edging for flower beds and borders. But next comes the question of finding exactly the right plant. Our long rambling borders may be in the sun, but sometimes they run into shady places. Generally speaking, plants that like sun refuse to grow well in the shade. Borders near large trees present another problem, for they often get ragged-looking in such a location.

Here is where Liriope Majestic comes in, for I believe it is the answer to the gardener's quest for an ideal edging plant. After growing stocks of it for many years I find it can be used practically anywhere for edging. It has been successfully planted as close to trees as 6 inches, and either sun or shade suits it. After the plants are once established they prevent lawn grass from pushing into the flower beds beyond. And in mowing the grass, all you have to do is run the mower up close to the plants, and the job is done.

A SUPERB CUT-FLOWER—Either alone or combined with other blooms, Liriope Majestic makes lovely floral arrangements. Its long stiff stems, which made the plant so distinctive outdoors and raise the blooms well above the foliage, are just as useful when the flowers are arranged indoors. The stems may be pulled out from the crown of the plant without being cut. They slip out very easily and are several inches longer when picked in this way. The stems are covered with flowers for 6 or more inches of their length; the flat, full florets sometimes spread out at the top like a miniature cockscomb. Plants grown in the shade bloom just as freely as those in the sun, and what is more—the flowers last ten days or more in the house. Here in Texas the blooming season begins in May and lasts about two months. In the North later bloom is to be expected.

ORIGIN OF LIRIOPE "RUSSELL'S MAJESTIC" — A human-interest story lies behind the introduction of this special variety of Liriope muscari. Back in 1934 I was making one of my regular expeditions around the countryside in search of old plants that deserved to be brought again to the attention of modern gardeners. I was discussing the merits of Liriope with an old nurseryman whom I had known for years in Georgia. He told me that he knew of a variety growing in a certain old garden that he would like me to see. It was something different from anything he had seen before, and he felt sure it was a sport. Right away we drove over to look at his "find," and I knew immediately that it was something I simply had to have.

It's bloom was lighter in color and more profuse, and the stem longer than any I had seen. The old lady who owned the garden told me that she had found a single clump in her old border. It had been there for many years when she decided to lift it, separate it, and start a new bed. Well, I've seen plenty of people watch a new oil-well being drilled on their property here in Texas, but I doubt whether any of them got more of a thrill than I did when this good lady told me she wanted me to have her plants! She sold me the whole bed outright, saying she wanted this lovely Liriope to be grown for the market and hoped I would make some money from it. Well, I have. I have now grown this variety for several years; wherever the plants have been sent for trial—and this includes many different parts of the country—they have brought forth favorable reports. They have proved themselves hardy everywhere.

SUN OR SHADE, ACID OR LIME SOIL — Think of having an evergreen edging plant that reaches only 12 to 15 inches in height, resists all diseases, grows in either acid or lime soil, in full sun or very dense shade, and stays uniform in growth! Liriope Majestic is just such a plant; it grows into a beautiful compact clump that does not have to be transplanted for many years. I never saw a garden subject that could take so much punishment as the plants we have sent out for trial in many different parts of the country the past several years. They have held up perfectly through the droughts and hot winds of Oklahoma, the wet seasons of the Gulf coast, and the hard freezes of the northern and eastern states. Of course this plant, like any other, will repay you many times over for any extra care you may give it, but it will grow even when neglected. We positively guarantee that every plant we send out will do all we claim for it, and will thrive in your garden regardless of the soil and exposure.

WHEN AND HOW TO PLANT—Liriope can safely be planted at any time of the year, summer or winter, without any danger of losing the plants. Since they are herbaceous evergreen perennials, they have fleshy tuberous roots, and may even be dug and left out of the ground several days before being transplanted without being harmed.

Usually they bloom the first season but about a year's growth is needed before the plants bloom abundantly. From then on, you can expect more and more flowers every season. A good time to plant is through September.

In planting a border, space the plants about a foot apart. Heavy divisions of uniform size should be chosen, with about half the foliage trimmed off. Plants of varying size will, of course, produce an irregular border. Remember that it takes the plants a little while to become established. Sometimes several weeks are needed before you will notice new growth starting from the top.

After a few years I find it advisable to cut the entire plant back in early spring before the new foliage begins to grow. By trimming it back to a few inches from the ground, new evergreen leaves are encouraged to grow. Usually the plants will be in full foliage again in three or four weeks.

Russell Gardens

NINE SOLID ACRES HEMEROCALLIS

Spring, Texas

November 12, 1946

U. S. Department of Agriculture Library
Washington, D. C.

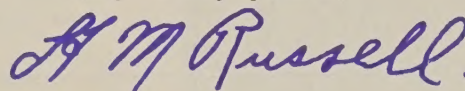
Dear Sirs:

Among the Daylilies I expect to introduce in the near future, I have selected nine of the most outstanding to offer to some of my clients in the several sections of our country prior to listing them in my catalogue. I have been asked so many times to pick what I think are six of the best Daylilies and, as I am growing over six hundred varieties, nine acres in all, this has not been an easy task. There are so many things to be taken into consideration in making such a selection. Nevertheless, I am at least offering nine varieties here that will be loved and remembered long after you and I are gone.

First, I would want a continuation of blooms to give me the most flowers in my garden for the longest period of time. Second, I would want distinct colors, every lily to be different. Third, I would consider heights, forms of the individual flowers, and those that hold up well as cut flowers. These nine, I believe, will fill all these requirements. They were selected from more than one hundred thousand hybrids, the result of many years' crossbreeding. Our Daylilies have proven hardy from Maine to California. I have never introduced a Daylily in my catalogue for less than \$2.00 and, in many cases, up to \$20.00 per plant, but I am going to offer you any four that you may select from this list for \$5.00, or the entire collection of nine varieties for \$10.00. All will be vigorous plants, sent postpaid. Our reason for offering this collection at these prices now is that we want you to become better acquainted with the Russell Daylilies.

If these are planted now or as soon as your ground is in condition, they will give quick established color in your garden, and what a garden you will have for just a few dollars! This offer is good for thirty days only and in no case can we sell more than one collection to one single client. If you wish to take advantage of this offer but cannot plant yet on account of your particular planting season, you may send your order now, remittance or c.o.d., and the plants will be reserved for you until you want delivery, anytime between now and May 15, 1947, but you must place your order within thirty days to take advantage of these prices.

Very truly yours,



H. M. Russell

P. S. We are offering another page of collections here now that you will find listed in our current catalogue, but offered now at greatly reduced prices for this thirty-day period only. These will be reserved for you.

Plant Hemerocallis Daylilies once and have them always

THE NEW HARDY EVERGREEN WONDER PLANT
GROWS IN FULL SUN OR DEEP SHADE

LIRIOPE "MAJESTIC"

(RUSSELL STRAIN)



REPRODUCED FROM EASTMAN NATURAL COLOR PHOTOGRAPH

WE TAKE REAL PRIDE in introducing to our friends and customers a splendid new variety of *Liriope muscari* which we call Majestic. We have been testing it for several years in various parts of the country and now feel sure it is worthy of a prominent place in home gardens from coast to coast.

These natural-color photographs give you a good idea of this fine evergreen plant. They show you how it looks as an edging for a walk, and also give a close-up view of the flowers. One particular merit puts this variety far ahead of all other Liriopes—the blooms are carried on good stems that are long enough to hold them high above the foliage instead of buried down in it, as is the case with many varieties.

We warmly recommend this grand new plant for *your* garden. It will transform many a neglected place into a real beauty spot.

Russell Gardens • SPRING, TEXAS

LIRIOPE Seems Answer to Gardener's Quest for Colorful and Easily Raised Border Plant

Border plants are necessary to present a neat and tidy appearance in a garden. If annuals are used for this purpose, then there is a constant replanting, pulling out or trimming. What is pleasing for one reason will not be usable for the next.

With the increasing problem of garden maintenance, every gardener is searching for materials which require little care and which will grow and multiply year after year with profuse blooms and foliage.

The liriopse seems an answer. This plant is classified as a genus of stemless smooth evergreen perennial herbs of the lily family. The foliage is grass-like but a trifle broader than a grass leaf, and the clumps grow rapidly with a thickened basal effect. As a clump matures, root division will increase the number of plants. If one is not impatient, one clump will give in a few years a large number of plants for a border.

These plants flowering in late summer and fall with deep lilac or purple flowers, produce spikes similar to grape hyacinths. The flowers are very double on the spikes,

thus giving a pronounced color effect. Following the flowering season, small purplish berries are developed and are almost as attractive as the flowers. The color of both blossoms and berries is enhanced by the profuse foliage.

This plant will grow in sun or shade and is indifferent to the soil, with perhaps a preference for acid soil. Planted as a border for an azalea bed, the plants will show their approval with rapid growth and luscious foliage and flowers.

Liriope is closely related to the lily-turf or ophiopogon but the blossoms are far superior in both number of spikes and thickness of the florets on the spikes. When a gardener learns of the many good qualities of the liriopse, this plant will soon become a favorite and a "must" in every well-groomed garden. When a plant can be said to grow in sun or shade, indifferent to soil conditions, disregard drought or flood, and then be prolific with blooms and foliage—can there be any more good characteristics named? Liriope has a claim to all these.

The above is an excerpt from *The Houston Press*, August 6, 1944, by Mrs. R. C. Meysenburg, Horticultural Advisor Southwest Region of the Garden Club of America



REPRODUCED FROM EASTMAN NATURAL COLOR PHOTOGRAPH

