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LIRIOPE MUSCARI --- THE RUSSELL STRAIN

Russell Gardens
Spring, Texas

"MAJESTIC"

STOCK IS LIMITED THIS SEASON—ORDER EARLY

On the back page of our 1947 catalogue, which you now have, you will find a color photograph of a new splendid border plant. You will find also plainly stated in big letters, that it will not be offered to the general public until 1947. We did not have one-tenth enough plants this season to supply the demand but we will have a limited number of excellent stock to offer for delivery in March for the South and April and May for the North—to be sure you get yours, without further delay, PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW! 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 what the Horticultural Advisor of the Southwest Region of the Garden Club of America has to say about this superbly beautiful new "find" on the reverse side of this page.

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.

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.

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.

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.

(OVER)

Excerpt from *The Houston Press*, August 6, 1944, By Mrs. R. C. Meysenburg,

Horticultural Advisor, Southwest Region of the Garden Club of America

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 liriope seems an answer. This plant is classified as a genus of stemless smooth evergreen perennial herbs of the lily family. The foliage is grasslike 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 of both blossoms and berrying 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 pref-

erence 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 liriope, 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.

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW TO ASSURE YOU GETTING YOUR PLANTS

Delivery: March for the South, April and May for the North

12 PLANTS POSTPAID \$5.00

25 PLANTS POSTPAID \$8.00

100 PLANTS POSTPAID \$27.50

(MINIMUM ORDER TWELVE PLANTS)

100 PLANTS MAKE A BORDER 100 FEET LONG

JACOB MURRAY SERIES

The Daylilies offered here are an entirely different mixture from that offered in the past in that there are more reds and wines of more intense colors. In this series there are nothing but reds, rose, purples, bi-colors, and the most indescribable color combinations. But since deciding many of these varieties are too much like some of the other more expensive varieties that are already on the market, we have decided to place them in this series, but in a mixture only.

If you want real beauty and care nothing for names, then by all means order these in quantities now. There will not be a solid yellow or common fulvous color in the entire lot. If orders are large or small, we will include a wide and varied selection and we will do our utmost to see that no two will be alike. Please do not ask us to pick special colors in this series because at this price it cannot be done.

These varieties have quite a varied blooming season and this mixture should give you at least three or four solid months bloom after they are established in your garden. Your order will be promptly acknowledged.

6 for \$3 12 for \$5 25 for \$10 100 for \$35

SUNSHINE SERIES

New Varieties in Yellow, Gold, and Lemons

So many people still prefer yellows, lemons, and golds and even paler tints that we have decided to offer this Sunshine Series in a mixture but the varieties we have placed in this offer are unlike any we have ever sent out before in that they range in colors from the very palest to deep chromes in an assortment well balanced as to the heights, seasons of blooms, and forms of the flowers.

Most of them are huge giant blooms that are simply too much like those varieties that have been named for us to put them on the market under a name. Those of you who want huge displays of golden yellow in your garden will find this a wonderful offer and at unheard-of low prices for this quality Daylilies. Regardless of how many yellows you have in your garden, you will find these quite unlike any of them.

6 for \$3 12 for \$5 25 for \$10 100 for \$35

MIXED DAYLILIES--LA GLORIA SERIES

This series consists of the loveliest soft shades in pastels and soft salmons to light rose and tints of pink and combinations of such. So many of my clients have asked for Daylilies in colors to get away from the old yellow and orange shade; yet they do not want bold reds, wines, and purples. Sold in a mixture only. These colors will satisfy the most discriminating as cut flowers in any drawing room or for the dinner table. Those of you who select this series are really in for a treat in Daylilies.

6 for \$4.00

12 for \$7.50

25 for \$13.00

(OVER)