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PETERSON NURSERY

Iris AND Peonies



PETERSON NURSERY
CHICAGO



P E T E R S O N N U R S E R Y

Iris variegata Iris Koenig

Iris variegata
Iris Koenig

Twenty-four inches high. Standards $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, bronze yellow. Falls $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, very broad rich crimson with a distinct yellow margin. Midseason. An indispensable recent introduction, well named "King of the Iris."

IRIS

(*Fleur-de-lis*)



THE Greek word Iris means Rainbow, and no other flower has so many combinations of delicate and unusual shades. The name *Fleur-de-lis* comes from its close resemblance to the royal emblem of France. Legend has it that in answer to a vow of King Clovis, an angel brought from heaven this token of favor representing the Triune God, and it has been the Coat-of-Arms of France ever since.

It is needless to say that the modern Iris is well worthy of even a celestial messenger on account of its beautiful form, texture and coloring.

The millionaire may enjoy his hothouse orchids, but Dame Nature has placed within the reach of the humblest cottager an absolutely hardy substitute, growing in common soil, requiring but little care, and many rivaling the rose for fragrance.

As with the Peony, we began a similar careful study of the many species and varieties of the Iris family. After twenty years of testing, taking into consideration our climatic and soil conditions, we have concluded to grow only those of the germanica type.

Of these there are probably five hundred sorts to select from. The first variety begins to bloom about May 15, and there is a continuous succession from that time until the end of June. The life of each single Iris bloom varies from three to six days; and some stalks carry nineteen buds that unfold about one a day. For this reason they can be shipped long distances without injury if cut before opening.

A reasonably moist but well-drained soil, with sunshine for at least a part of the day, will bring excellent results.

In grouping, the tall varieties should naturally be located back of the shorter growing kinds. The best time for transplanting them is during the month of September, which allows the roots to become established before winter, though they can be moved any time except while in bloom or when the ground is frozen.

In planting, be sure and make a plan of the bed, so you will still retain names of varieties after the labels are gone.

THE HERBACEOUS PEONY



THE herbaceous Peony of today stands unchallenged as the most popular of hardy plants, and its friends who know its possibilities and its many good qualities are loud in its praises. Its popularity has increased by leaps and bounds in the United States during the last two decades, since the new improved varieties have been developed and become known. There are at present some 2,000 varieties of Japanese, French, Dutch, English and American origin; the public has been quick to appreciate the improved varieties, and demand the best; till now it holds full sway during June, which is becoming rather the month of Peonies than of roses.

Peonies range in color from cream and purest white through the various shades of pink, lilac, rose and red to the deepest carmine, purple and maroon, in every possible combination of shade and form. Size of bloom varies from four to eight inches in diameter. Most of them have a delightful fragrance.

CULTURE

This is one of the strong points. No flower is easier to grow. As contrasted with the rose, chrysanthemum, and carnation, which can be perfected only under the skillful care of the expert florist, the Peony needs but to be put into good, rich soil and left alone, where for eight, ten or even twenty years it will increase in size and beauty each year. If given a mulch of manure in the late fall, leaving it on all winter, the added enrichment of the soil will perhaps yield more and better blooms, but it is not needed as a protection. They are remarkably free from disease.

When dormant in early fall they can be shipped long distances without injury. It is possible to transplant and ship them in the spring, but we do not recommend it, as they then undergo a severe setback, and do not bloom as freely for several years. The very best time is September, and that is when we begin filling orders.

They should be planted with eyes two to three inches below the surface and the ground pressed firmly about the roots. They can be divided as small as desired, so long as each piece has at least one good strong eye on a piece of tuber.

VARIETIES

In the beginning we carried a limited number of Peonies, but as early as 1888 we had in cultivation over three hundred varieties personally selected from the best stock to be had in Europe. From that day to this we have made a special study of this interesting plant and have accumulated all there is to be had in literature, as well as tested every kind offered anywhere.

We make no pretense of carrying or offering for sale a complete collection of every known Peony, but after passing through a thorough test of several years, those of decided merit and difference are retained.

The points of excellence taken into consideration in making this selection are: Free blooming, strong stems, shape, fullness, keeping qualities, and freedom from blight, also shade and fragrance, with attention given to extending the period of blooming.

P E T E R S O N N U R S E R Y



Iris germanica Purple King

Iris germanica
Purple King

Twenty-eight inches high. Standards and falls an intense claret purple. An improved and enlarged form of the *germanica* type. Among the first to bloom.

P E T E R S O N N U R S E R Y

Iris variegata **Darius**

Iris variegata
Darius

Standards rich yellow. Falls lilac with broad primrose margin reticulated purple and white. Most pleasing and striking combination of colors. Midseason.

P E T E R S O N N U R S E R Y



Iris pallida Lohengrin

Iris pallida
Lohengrin

Thirty-three inches
high. Standards and
falls violet mauve.
A very large free
blooming improved
pallida. Late.

Our Unique Guarantee on Iris and Peonies

WE will replace
with three
every plant blooming
untrue to description

When you buy of US you
can be sure you will get
exactly what you order

