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BETTER PLANTS



God's first gift to man was a Beautiful Garden

VOLUME I

AUGUST, 1923

NUMBER 5

The Masterpiece Collection



Japanesque

Sea Gull

Ceile
Minturn

Seminole

See article on page 2

Please note the shading of the falls on both Japanesque and Sea Gull is altogether too dark.
See description on page 2.

Masterpieces of Art in Floriculture

PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

From time to time the world has been enriched by discoveries, by inventions, by oratorios, and by writings that have marked epochs in science and mechanics, in music and literature.

In no less degree—though possibly not so well known—have the advances in floriculture been marked. France and England, Japan and America have contributed to the beauty and wealth of the world by the introduction of new shrubs and plants.

Here in America the perennials, and especially Irises, have received more than a passing notice. Some of the finest varieties known are "American made," and the list is growing each year. Professional growers and amateurs vie with each other in the search for worthy novelties.

For many years my associates and I have carefully hybridized the old varieties striving to bring forth some seedlings that would be of value to the world of Irises. These efforts have produced such varieties as Anna Farr, Quaker Lady, Wyomissing, and almost a score of others.

THE MASTERPIECE COLLECTION

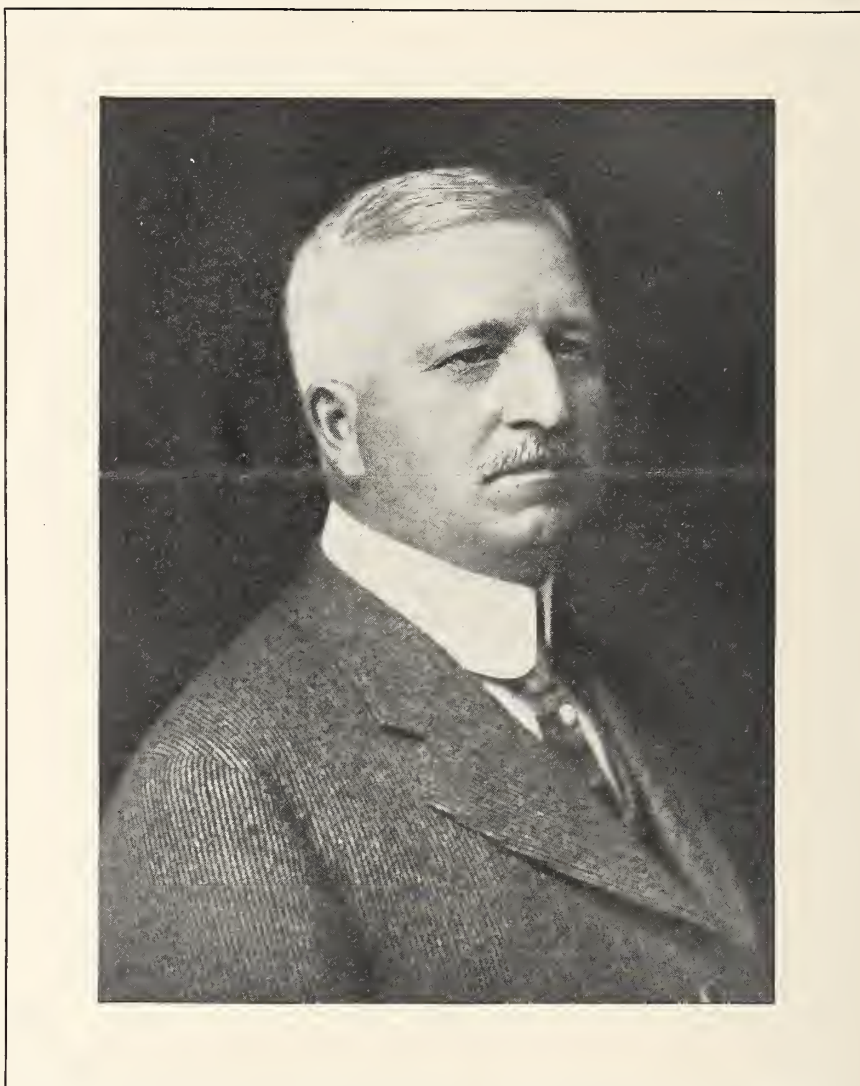
In 1920 Seminole was exhibited and given honorable mention by the American Iris Society. After sales and distribution the Society rated Seminole at 8.3.

Last year I introduced Cecile Minturn, Japanesque and Sea Gull which experts have pronounced of the highest merit. Rating votes have not yet been taken on these varieties, but I consider them on a par with Seminole.

ILLUSTRATION OF MASTERPIECE COLLECTION

The illustration on the first page of BETTER PLANTS was made in June of this year directly from the blooms, and shows to a limited degree the loveliness of the form and color—for no picture can possibly do justice to such flowers.

To describe these four Masterpieces would tax the ability of the most skillful word-painter, and so we must be content



The \$25,000 Iris, Anna Farr

with giving only an outline of the chief points. When you have these Masterpieces in your own garden you will see them in their glory and each year will give you more of them.

PRINTED DESCRIPTIONS

Cecile Minturn. Standards and falls a uniform shade of cattleya-rose; light beard. A large dome-shaped flower and a distinct improvement in the pink Irises. Height 2 feet. \$5.00 each.

Sea Gull. Standards white, dome-shaped; falls white faintly shaded blue and netted with narrow blue lines or veins. A large and unusual flower which is appropriately named. Height 2 feet. \$3.00 each.

Seminole. One of the richest colored varieties. Standards soft violet-rose; falls rich velvety crimson; brilliant orange beard. Blooms exceptionally large, dome-shaped; equally effective variety for specimen or mass planting because of its free-blooming character; medium height and strong grower. Honorable mention by the American Iris Society, June, 1920, and rates 8.3. \$2.50 each.

Japanesque. A distinct departure from the German type. Six petals spread horizontally in the form of a Japanese Iris, giving the flower the effect of having six falls without standards. The standards are lavender-white flecked lilac; falls deep violet edged with pale lavender; coppery yellow beard. In many blooms the standards are marked like the falls. \$3.00 each.

MASTERPIECE COLLECTION

IRIS	Each
Cecile Minturn.....	\$5 00
Sea Gull.....	3 00
Seminole.....	2 50
Japanesque.....	3 00

Complete set (amounting to \$13.50)
for \$12.00.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Iris—Cecile Minturn

Iris Cecil Minturn created a great deal of enthusiastic comment this season. Planted next to a large clump of garnet Sweet William, the contrast was most pleasing and was a picture to behold when

(Continued on page 7)

IRIS THROUGH THE EYES OF THE OFFICE

What we have learned through (a) association with Mr. Farr, (b) observation in the fields, (c) inquiries from customers.

At this writing, June 6, it is our peony- and iris-time. Mr. Farr's desk is sadly but justly neglected, for who would expect to find him anywhere but among the peonies and iris which he loves and which have made him famous? One day he is hybridizing for new marvels; the next searching the seedling beds for the one of a thousand new irises that may be worthy of transplanting for another two years of observation; then searching our commercial plantings for strays or mixtures; in between, a flock of enthusiastic visitors or a quick hop to an iris or peony show. Fortunate, indeed is anyone besides wife or sister to receive prompt personal attention or correspondence when peony- and iris-time invades the private office.

However, Mr. Farr is not the kind of genius who does everything himself, even if it would not be of volition, then of necessity, for 10,000 orders yearly, and many more inquiries, demand a supporting organization of some kind, and, without ego, we believe that Mr. Farr's influence has rounded us into a fairly creditable setting.

It's up to us to edit the August issue of BETTER PLANTS. Printer must have copy by June 15, and we must carry on without the master-hand.

This is not so difficult nor disheartening, however, for we have learned many things which we believe our friends will be interested to read about.

Because they say we have America's largest collection of irises, because irises are our hobby and specialty, and because August and September are iris-planting time the main feature of this issue is naturally devoted to IRIS.

We feel like a spaniel imitating a Great Dane, but at that will confine ourselves to what has been learned, without reference to articles or textbooks.

Iris History

We remember that irises are named after a god or goddess; received their color from the rainbow; at one time possessed medicinal properties and were ground into face-powder by Japanese maidens. We know them as "The Poor Man's Orchid," "Flower of Chivalry," "Rainbow Flower," "Lily of the Field," "Flower of Light," "Fleur-de-Lis" and "Eye of Heaven." We knew them as "flags" but one blooming season of intermingled, interveined, shaded, blended, mixed, ruffled, variegated and pure white, yellow, pink, bronze, red, purple, gold, lavender, violet, brown and gray—such as we saw in no other variety we handle—dispelled the thought of being New York plasterers at \$5 an hour. Apart from sentiment—or sarcasm—we decided that with such a product our sales would continue while building boomed or dwindled.

We know there were irises in the Garden of Eden. We believe they are the original "Lily of the Field," and we see iris history being made every time Mr. Farr stops to place a label on a promising seedling.

Iris Poetry

(We rest the case with Longfellow.)

Beautiful lily, dwelling by still rivers,
Or solitary mere,
Or where the sluggish meadow-brook
delivers
Its waters to the weir!

Thou laughest at the mill, the whir and
worry
Of spindle and of loom,
And the great wheel that toils amid the
hurry
And rushing of the flume.

Born to the purple, born to joy and pleas-
ance.
Thou dost not toil nor spin,
But makest glad and radiant with thy
presence
The meadow and the lin.

The wind blows, and uplifts thy drooping
banner,
And round thee throng and run
And rushes, the green yeoman of thy
manor,
The outlaws of the sun.

The burnished dragon-fly is attendant,
And tilts against the field,
And down the listed sunbeam rides re-
splendent
With steel-blue mail and shield.

Thou art the Iris, fair among the fairest,
Whom armed with goldenrod
And winged with the celestial azure, bear-
est
The message of some god.

Thou art the Muse, who far from crowded
cities
Hauntest the sylvan streams,
Playing on pipes of reed the artless ditties,
That come to us as dreams.

O Flower-de-Luce, bloom on, and let the
river
Linger to kiss thy feet!
O flower of song, bloom on, and make for-
ever
The world more fair and sweet.

—Longfellow: "Flower-de-Luce"

Iris Beauty

"A sword for its leaf;
A lily for its heart."

We are told and believe that there is no surer manifestation of good taste than the presence of iris in a garden. A child admires the glaring comics; a student, the Raphael or Rembrandt. Anyone, including ourselves, can admire the poppy, the rose, the peony, the dahlia, but none of them hold the hidden beauty possessed by the iris. Almost carelessly in the Dream Garden, yesterday, we plucked a little blue Siberian iris and without thinking exclaimed to Mr. Farr and a visitor, "Why that intricate shading, lining, and design eclipse the finest frescoing, interior decorating, and painting we've ever seen" (including Bordeaux, Boston, New York, and Washington masterpieces). And up to only three years ago we'd never seen anything but "flags."

Someone says "Irises are like olives, you must learn to like them." We differ. One good, careful study of an iris bloom—its texture, design, fragrance and color—and you unfold to yourself a new source of garden enjoyment. The garden thoughts are from then on based on "last iris-time" or "next iris-time."

Iris Use

Almost a paradox, for who would expect such a delicate flower to be as hardy as a weed? But "plant iris where nothing else will grow"—if they don't survive then "Say it with bricks, asphalt or cement," for nothing else will.

Plant them in borders, in beds, in that dry and sunny location, along streams and pools; buy inexpensive varieties by the hundred for mass plantings. Our selected assortments have made many a garden the model or envy of the community. Use iris between shrubs and evergreens; in front of that unsightly coal window—the coal-man will have to go some to discourage them; along walks and stop worrying about vandal dogs or careless children. What if one root is destroyed, the next year the others will each throw three to five more divisions.

Use Irises to give you pride of ownership; beautiful surroundings; less garden labor; flowers for the vases; standing in the community; and hours of communion with the magic spell of hidden beauty.



Irises are peculiarly adapted for border planting

Iris Culture

Iris may safely be planted whenever the ground is open—August and September are perhaps the best months. Many people have bought and transplanted our iris while in bloom and repeat this method of buying yearly. Of course, they are planted within twenty-four hours in such cases.

Plant in any soil except marsh or cinders. For pools or marshes and other moist locations, use Kaempferi or Japanese varieties.

We believe that most of the few iris failures we hear of are due to deep planting. Plant the roots only one to two inches below the top of the ground. Unless freezing weather is not far off, we even suggest setting them like a duck in the pond so that the sun can bake the upper third of the bulb.

Any correct attention given to iris will bring rewards. Removal of weeds, stirring the ground, and mulching in fall will increase the quality of bloom. Bone-meal is a safe fertilizer.

Plant at least twelve inches apart and thus allow for future growth.

Iris Troubles

Irises should be taken up, divided, and replanted every four or five years. This process will soon swell a collection into thousand quantities.

Old plantings are likely to become affected with iris borers or iris rot.

Iris Borers

The iris borer is a gray worm about one inch long and one-quarter inch in diameter. It resembles somewhat the stump worm we used to collect for fishing trips. The borer if unmolested will soon develop into a colony of iris gluttons, eating into the heart of the root and leaving only empty shells.

To circumvent the borer divide the planting at four- to five-year intervals. Also cut the foliage down to two inches as soon as tips turn yellow in fall and burn it, to destroy borer larvae.

The best way to exterminate them is immediately to transplant the iris-beds, removing the borers with a knife as you go.

Iris Rot

Iris rot is found in old plantings or in moist locations. Take up the bulbs, scrape off the rotted portions, and dip the remainder into a solution of permanganate of potash. Use only enough potash to color the water a deep red. This will disinfect the bulbs for safe replanting.

Iris from Seed

This is the real fun for the amateur. Let the bees do the hybridizing and sow the seed in coldframes in fall. Transplant the seedlings in spring and keep free from weeds. In a few years you will have as many kinds of iris as you have plants, but don't lose your head over them and put them on the market until you have seen the thousand varieties already in commerce.

\$25,000 from one Iris

An iris multiplies itself from three to five times yearly.

In ten years, at the treble rate, one iris can easily be propagated into 59,049 plants.

One iris, Anna Farr, purchased in 1912 for \$1, divided and replanted yearly, would now have a retail value of \$147,622.50.

The 1912 edition of Farr's Hardy Plant Specialties lists iris Anna Farr at \$1 each. The present price—when we can supply it—is \$2.50.

If you are fortunate enough to have developed and sold 59,049 roots of iris Anna Farr, you have made at least \$25,000 from one iris in ten years.

It is very seldom that we can accept an order for iris Anna Farr. Ever since its introduction the demand has exceeded the rate of production and our supply seldom has had a chance to multiply itself.

We are glad to offer from \$1 to 75 cents each for any amount of iris Anna Farr within our financial limits.

Conditions governing purchase of iris Anna Farr:

(a) Roots must be healthy, one year old, undivided or good strong divisions from older roots.

(b) Offers of less than 10 plants cannot be accepted.

(c) Payment after the plants have bloomed in our fields or otherwise been proved absolutely true to name.

(d) Price depends on the quantity and quality offered.

Iris Packing

We believe in dry packing for iris and use wood excelsior for this purpose. Occasionally, customers are alarmed at the dry appearance. Far better a soaking upon receipt than a soaking en route which would result in rotted iris by the time the package would arrive. We have planted thousands of irises, without failure, forty days after they were dug and packed in dry packing in England and France.



Iris Sibirica

Iris Cum Laude

The May issue of BETTER PLANTS presented a list of peonies including all varieties rating over 90 per cent. Here is a similar list rating 84 per cent and over.

8.6 . . .	Afterglow	\$3 00
8.9 . . .	Alcazar	1 00
9.4 . . .	Ambassadeur	10 00
8.4 . . .	Anna Farr	2 50
9.2 . . .	Asia (not for sale)	
9.4 . . .	Ballerine	10 00
9.1 . . .	Brandywine	10 00
8.8 . . .	B. Y. Morrison	5 00
8.9 . . .	Caterina	1 00
8.6 . . .	Cluny	7 50
8.4 . . .	Cretonne	10 00
8.7 . . .	Crusader	3 50
8.5 . . .	Deuil de Valery Mayet	10 00
9.4 . . .	Dominion	40 00
8.5 . . .	Dream	5 00
8.6 . . .	Edouard Michell	2 00
8.9 . . .	Georgia	5 00
8.8 . . .	Halo	5 00
8.6 . . .	Isoline	1 00
8.4 . . .	Kashmir White	5 00
8.5 . . .	Lady Foster	2 00
9.4 . . .	Lent A. Williamson	5 00
9.1 . . .	Lord of June	5 00
9.1 . . .	Magnifica (not for sale)	
8.7 . . .	Marsh Marigold	10 00
8.4 . . .	Merlin	5 00
8.7 . . .	Mlle. Schwartz (not for sale)	
9.0 . . .	Moa. (not for sale)	
8.5 . . .	Moliere (not for sale)	
8.7 . . .	Opera	5 00
8.8 . . .	Pallida Dalmatica	35
8.9 . . .	Phyllis Bliss	15 00
8.4 . . .	Quaker Lady	75
9.0 . . .	Queen Caterina	10 00
8.4 . . .	Rhein Nix	50
8.6 . . .	Romany	5 00
8.8 . . .	Shekinah	10 00
9.3 . . .	Souv. de Mme. Gaudichau	10 00
8.5 . . .	Sweet Lavender	7 50
8.5 . . .	Tartarin	7 50
8.4 . . .	Troost	4 00
8.5 . . .	Zwanenburg (not for sale)	



Fields of Farr's Irises

American Iris Society Ratings

We doubt whether many of our friends appreciate the significance of the figures preceding the name of iris varieties in our catalogue.

Do you know that the American Iris Society held a vote on all varieties of irises? That these votes were tabulated and credited by percentage to the respective varieties? That all varieties rating less than 60 per cent have been discarded by leading growers? Our discard list exceeds one hundred varieties.

Irises for Display and Cut-Flowers

(Approved by B. H. Farr, June 8, 1923)

These selections include the cream of moderate-priced irises in strong-stemmed, free-blooming, and proved varieties. All to be supplied in strong and healthy divisions, at prices quoted. Quality and safe arrival and trueness to name are guaranteed. Where clumps are desired and can be furnished the prices are double.

WHITE

8.0 . . . Fairy	35
7.6 . . . Florentina	25
8.4 . . . Kashmir White	5 00
8.3 . . . La Neige	2 00
6.8 . . . Mrs H. Darwin	25
8.3 . . . White Knight	1 00

BLUE

7.9 . . . Albert Victor	25
7.1 . . . Blue Jay	35
6.9 . . . Chester Hunt	50
7.7 . . . Glory of Hillegom	35
7.0 . . . James Boyd	50
8.1 . . . Juniata	50
7.4 . . . Massasoit	50
7.2 . . . Oriental	50
8.8 . . . Pallida Dalmatica	35
8.7 . . . Trojana Magnifica	50

RED AND BRONZE

7.8 . . . Arnols	25
7.8 . . . Eldorado	1 00
6.3 . . . Grand Bouquet	25
8.0 . . . Jacquesiana	50
7.5 . . . Pauline	50
8.3 . . . Prosper Laugier	50
7.8 . . . Red Cloud	75
8.3 . . . Seminole	2 50

YELLOW

7.4 . . . Aurca	35
6.5 . . . Foster's Yellow	35
8.9 . . . Glitter	2 50
6.8 . . . Mrs. Neubronner	35
8.8 . . . Shekinah	10 00

PINK

7.4 . . . Aurora	1 00
8.1 . . . Cecil Minturn	5 00
7.3 . . . Her Majesty	35
8.6 . . . Isolene	1 00
6.5 . . . Kathleen	35
8.2 . . . Lohengrin	50
7.6 . . . Mrs. Alan Gray	50
7.4 . . . Queen of May	25
6.9 . . . Rose Unique	50
7.2 . . . Wyomissing	75

PURPLE

8.9 . . . Alcazar	50
6.8 . . . Glory of Reading	75
7.3 . . . Mandraliscæ	25
8.0 . . . Nine Wells	1 00
6.8 . . . Othello	25
8.1 . . . Parc de Neuilly	50
7.8 . . . Perfection	50
7.4 . . . Tamerlane	50
8.0 . . . Violaeca Grandiflora	35

BICOLOR (two colors)

7.5 . . . Fro. Yellow and brown	\$0 50
6.7 . . . Gagus. Yellow and crimson	35
7.4 . . . Hiawatha. Lavender and purple	75
7.9 . . . Iris King. Yellow and mauve	50
8.5 . . . Lady Foster. Blue and purple	2 00
7.5 . . . Mithras. Yellow and red	35
7.3 . . . Nibelungen. Fawn-yellow and violet-purple	35
7.6 . . . Nuée d'Orage. (Storm Cloud). Slaty gray and bronzy purple	1 00
7.6 . . . Princess Victoria Louise. Yellow and plum	50
8.4 . . . Rhein Nixe. White and blue	50
7.1 . . . Goliath. Yellow and purple	35
7.5 . . . Dalmarius. Blue and brown	25
8.5 . . . Lady Foster. Blue and purple	2 00
7.9 . . . Loreley. Blue and yellow	35
6.1 . . . Maori King. Gold and crimson	25

ODD AND UNUSUAL IRISES

(Sure to attract attention and comment)

8.3 . . . Archeveque. Unusual color —absolute purple	1 50
. Japanesque. Unusual form	3 00
7.8 . . . Mary Garden. Unusually mottled	50
8.4 . . . Monsignor. Unusual color and size	75
8.3 . . . Montezuma. Odd color and markings	1 50
7.1 . . . Paxatawny. Unusual color combination	75
. Seagull. Veins and color	3 00
7.7 . . . Black Prince. Darkest iris	2 00
7.5 . . . Zua. Ruffled crepe paper	2 50
7.4 . . . Navajo. Unusual color	1 00
8.4 . . . Quaker Lady. Lavender, yellow and blue	75
7.5 . . . Shrewsbury. Unusual beard	50

Iris by Height

(After *Garden Magazine*, August issue, 1922).

<i>Low:</i> Albatross	\$0 50
. Caprice	75
. Her Majesty	35
. Victorine	25
<i>Medium:</i> Anne Leslie	2 50
. Queen Alexandra	50
. E. L. Crandall	75
. Loreley	35
. Mithras	35
. Perfection	50
. Princess Victoria Louise	50
. Quaker Lady	75
. Mrs. Neubronner	35
. Windham	1 00
<i>Tall:</i> Albert Victor	25
. Innocenza	35
. Jacquesiana	50
. Juniata	50
. Ma-Mie	50
. Nine Wells	50
. Pallida Dalmatica	35
. Pocahontas	1 00
. Blue Jay	35
. Rhein Nixe	50

Special Discounts from Prices on This Page

5 or more plants of one variety, deduct one-sixth of each price; 10, of one variety, one-fourth of each price; 25, of one variety, one-third of each price.

When less than three plants each in an assortment of varieties are desired, THE ABOVE DISCOUNTS DO NOT APPLY, but we allow discounts as follows:

10 per cent from above prices on orders amounting to more than \$15; 12 per cent, on amount more than \$30; 15 per cent on amount more than \$50; 20 per cent, on amount more than \$125.

Years of experience and observation justify the presentation of these lists to the public and to the trade. Only the best of varieties, regardless of origin or price, are included.



The grand display of the Irises reaches its climax in June, when the German varieties flood the garden with color

WE DIDN'T HAVE TO WRITE THIS

Fairfield, Conn., May 22, 1913
MR. BERTRAND H. FARR,
WYOMISSING, PA.

Dear Sir: A word of appreciation. In a recent issue of your BETTER PLANTS we were much taken with the letter from "Jimmy Tree" to his boss.

We would add, "make three or four crow-bar holes in the circle about two feet deep in order that the water can get well down to my roots." We do this and "Jimmy" repays us many fold in the coin of his realm. Very truly yours,

(Signed) M. WESLEY SHERWOOD

236 79th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

May 15, 1923

WYOMISSING NURSERIES COMPANY,
WYOMISSING, PA.

Gentlemen: The Iris bulbs reached me promptly and in good condition. I am greatly pleased with such nice bulbs and they have been carefully planted. I presume it would have been better to have waited for them until the fall, but hope they will grow all right now that I have them. I have a tiny garden and any orders I send would be small, but I assure you that you will have further orders from me.

Yours truly,
(Signed) EUGENIE C. BRICKER
(Mrs. G. W. Bricker)

R. D. 1, Plattsburgh, N. Y., March 12, '23
MR. H. G. SEYLER,
WYOMISSING, PA.

Dear Sir: Your kind note of last week arrived in my Saturday morning's mail. I was delighted with your expression of appreciation for my phlox article, which is to appear in *House & Garden* soon. I am wondering whether the cut-off copy contained the illustrative photographs also. If so you may be interested in knowing that all of my original purchases of phlox have been made from Mr. Farr. I was one of the fortunate individuals who had a copy of his first catalogue.

Please accept my thanks for the copy of your new magazine, BETTER PLANTS. I did receive the earlier issue and read it with much interest. I am sure all whose names are on the mailing-list will be interested in it. I see nothing to criticize in it and just now at least have no suggestions to offer. However, in case I should, I shall be glad to accept of your invitation and write you about them.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) JOHN L. REA

622 Holbrook Ave., Danville, Va.

May 22, 1923

Dear Sir: Your bulb catalogue received today and many thanks for it. You also sent me a letter with this catalogue asking whether I had felt that I had received my money's worth when I bought your Rainbow Collection of iris last summer. I feel greatly indebted to you for the beautiful sight which those iris presented when they bloomed this spring. I still have Mary Garden, Quaker Lady, Nokomis, and Iroquois in bloom—and so pretty. You do not know how I have enjoyed these Iris this spring and will still enjoy them springs to come. I also have that most wonderful iris, Blue Jay, in bloom.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) CHARLES V. CARRINGTON, Jr.

Whiting, Iowa, June 1, 1923

MR. B. H. FARR,
WYOMISSING, PA.
Dear Sir: Your Rainbow Collection of Iris is just beginning to bloom and is wonderful! However, I have lost the slip giving names of varieties. Will you send me the names at once so I can check up and send you quantity orders for certain kinds?

Yours truly,
(Signed) ARTHUR C. PIKE

36 Stuart Ave., Mamaroneck, N. Y.

November 9, 1922

BERTRAND H. FARR COMPANY,
WYOMISSING, PA.

Gentlemen: I wish to acknowledge the receipt of both the shipments of plants which you recently sent me and which arrived in excellent condition. The first shipment was to replace some plants which did not come true to name, and I wish to thank you for the courtesy of replacing them.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) (Miss) GENEVIEVE BUTLER

ORIENTAL POPPIES

(Flower of Mystery)

Right now, June 10, Oriental Poppies are at their best. Nursery visitors come to see the peonies and irises and are not disappointed, but the poppy-fields are an added treat. We have 40,000 ten-month old plants in stock—the ideal size for transplanting.

For dazzling, barbaric splendor, the great Oriental Poppies are absolutely unrivaled. Standing out in bold relief against a background of green, they command instant attention, and a mass of them in bloom is a sight never to be forgotten. The prevailing color is a vivid orange-scarlet, with large black blotches at the base of the petals, and a great mass of bluish black stamens in the heart of the large, cup-shaped flowers, which are sometimes 8 to 9 inches in diameter.

Recently many new hybrid varieties have been introduced in various colors, ranging from silvery white, soft pink and salmon, to dark blood-crimson and black-maroon.

They are very hardy and, once established, are one of the most permanent features of the garden. They seem to thrive in any good garden soil. The one important thing to observe is to transplant them during their dormant season, which is August and September, at which time they are easily handled and may be shipped long distances with perfect safety. After September they start into active growth again, preparatory to next season's bloom, and should not be disturbed.

If the flowers are cut in the early morning, or at evening, as the buds are about to open, and the outer green calyx removed, they will last a long time in water. This trait makes them

valuable in decorative work where strong color effects are desired.

Cerise Beauty. Large flowers of a beautiful shade of cerise-pink, with blood-crimson center and glittering black blotches at base of petals.

Grossfurst. Very large brilliant dark blood-red.

Jeannie Mawson. Handsome salmon-pink flowers of unusual size.

Joyce. A soft shade of cerise; quite distinct.

Mrs. Perry. A curious shade of orange-apricot; distinct.

Oriental King. Large crimson-scarlet flowers.

Dormant plants; fall delivery, 40 cts. each. 5 or more OF ONE VARIETY 30 cts. each.

3 each of above 6 varieties, 18 plants, for \$5.50; 6 each, 36 plants, \$10.

Guaranteed to arrive in live and healthy condition. Payment after receipt.

HAVE YOU A COPY OF
"BETTER BULBS—BY FARR"?

This year our bulb catalogue "Better Bulbs—By Farr" was issued only to those who asked for a copy or to those who previously purchased Farr's Quality Bulbs.

If you have not received a copy and are considering the purchase of Holland bulbs, you should write to us promptly.

Farr Collections of Holland Bulbs afford an opportunity to buy first-grade bulbs at second-grade prices.

The Sunrise Collection
of Bulbs is the bargain of the
1923 bulb market.

Oriental Poppies



HEZA WYZWON

says you can raise Farr Iris as easily as blisters.

AUGUST GARDEN ACTIVITIES

Nature never did betray
The heart that loves her: 'tis her privilege
Through all the scenes of this our life to lead
From joy to joy.—Wordsworth.

Now is the time to move evergreens, also herbaceous plants such as Madonna lilies, oriental poppies, irises, and even peonies. Evergreens need plenty of water. In order to have good, strong, healthy plants they should be watered daily after moving. Red spiders on the evergreens make them look weedy and dusty. Standard spraying preparations, including Niagara Dusts, are very effective, or even water applied under pressure from the hose.

In order to secure good results from newly-set-out plants that are not growing satisfactorily, apply bone-meal or sheep-manure according to maker's instructions.

Roses are in a critical period now and they should be encouraged by top dressing of bone-meal or a good fertilizer. Hot, muggy days, combined with cold, clammy nights, are a great strain upon the plants, often causing mildew. This can be checked by blowing a dust compound (Niagara Dust) over the plants.

High-grade dahlia blooms can be secured by properly disbudding the plants. This means a constant reducing of the number of buds by pinching off the young growth.

Boxwood, hydrangea, and other decorative plants used in window-boxes, hanging-baskets, vases, etc., are usually infested with various aphids and other insects. We advise Niagara Dust used regularly as a preventive of these pests. The plants will also be benefited by a top dressing of good loam and commercial fertilizer.

Lawns may now be top-dressed with bone-meal or wood-ashes, or both. Apply on a wet day or just before a rain, if possible. Weedy growth will be practically terminated for the season, and this is a good time to seed down new lawns. The one drawback to August sowing is drought. Sow grass thickly, as this will help to choke the weed-growth.

This is an excellent time to prune shade trees as it is easy to see how the work should be done. Make the cuts clean and paint the wounds. Hedges and evergreens should be gone over carefully and final clipping made as the growth is about to cease.

Climbing roses and vines should be looked over and tied to the trellis. It is necessary to prune them and remove all the old unproductive wood. Do not allow them to suffer for want of water. Bone-meal worked around them will show results next year.

Keep flower-beds neat and tidy. Do not allow them to run down. Keep the edges trimmed. Clean out the dead flowering stalks and stir the soil on the surface.

Continue to spray for brown rot on plums and peaches.

Bulb orders should be placed now and preparations for planting made. Early ordering insures getting just what is needed. Bulbs need good soil in well-dug beds. **POOR CONDITIONS GIVE POOR RESULTS.** We issue a bulb catalogue which may be obtained free of charge upon request. Our bulbs are the best that money can buy.

WHY PLANT IN FALL?

All experienced planters agree that, excepting for a few varieties, fall is the best planting-time.

Here are some reasons for planting this fall.

1. Plants set in fall when dormant will bloom the following spring. Late spring planting of many varieties sets them back until next spring. By planting in fall you do not lose a season of bloom.

2. By planting in fall the plants will be well established before they are subjected to next summer's dry spells. Many failures of spring planting are due to dry spell before the plants are established.

3. When plants are fighting to recover from the shock of transplanting they have no time for parasites. Give them a chance and plant in fall. Parasites will be absent until next summer and then your plants will already have new root-growth and extra strength.

4. In fall the ground is of more uniform temperature, thus encouraging the plants to establish themselves. Evergreens will brighten your lawn this very winter.

5. The planting season is longer in fall and you need not rush. There are no buds or young shoots to be ruined in handling. Summer memories of bloom are still fresh and planting plans are more easily made.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

(Continued from page 2)

the shadows of the evening flanked the lawn and cast the witching spell over the garden, for it was then at its best and was a most alluring sight.

For those unacquainted with this lovely variety, its color—a beautiful wistaria overlaid with a pinkish sheen—will be a revelation. Its graceful habit, being medium tall with stout, stiff stems and upright foliage, straight and unbending like a stack of bayonets, is further enhanced by the prolificacy of early blooms, which multiplying very rapidly, are of medium size, strong texture and look you frankly in the face.

L. W. B. in "Wayside Ramblings,"
Flower Grower, December, 1922.

Iris—Seminole

I was speaking of the pity that so many of our modern Irises are so very similar. There is Seminole and Opera for instance; these two grow side by side in my gardens; of course, you have noticed how very similar they are in color; Opera does not grow nearly as tall with me as Seminole, and I think the latter is a very fine Iris with a wonderful color, that if planted in masses, makes a gorgeous showing, and there is the difference in price.

Very sincerely yours,
O. M. PUDOR, Puyallup, Wash.
June 5, 1923



Irises are peculiarly well adapted to the informal garden, and as border plants for lily pools





Farr's Irises Lovely as Orchids

When you know Irises as "June companions" they reveal their delicate, ethereal loveliness, and lead you into a wonderland of delight. Wouldn't you like to adopt them as a "hobby," just as I did many years ago?

My Wyomissing Seedlings have become so famous with Iris experts that my friends say I ought to talk more about them. But I would rather have you see them, so I have made this special group of

Second Rainbow Collection \$5

Experts who have seen these seedlings are enthusiastic in praise. Some varieties have taken prizes and all are exceedingly popular. Order this collection now and pay after the plants are received.

Blue Jay, light and dark blue . . .	\$0 35
Chester Hunt, light and dark blue .	50
Glory of Reading, blue and purple .	75
Hiawatha, lavender and royal purple	75
Juniata, clear blue; tall	50
Mary Garden, pale yellow and white	50
Mt. Penn, lavender-rose and crimson-maroon	1 00
Navajo, yellow and maroon	1 00
Nokomis, light lavender and violet .	35
Pauline, pale violet	50
Paxatawny, violet and yellow	75
Quaker Lady, lavender, blue and gold	75

\$7 70

One Plant of Each Variety for \$5

Order now and pay after you receive the plants.

OWNING IRIS AND PEONIES BY THE THOUSAND

Picture a thousand plants of irises or peonies blooming in a garden, an estate, a field or a meadow. Perhaps you think the cost of owning such a collection is out of proportion to the benefit derived. Look at these prices; if you have the planting space your pride of ownership and shrewd buying instinct will urge you to buy—now.

We will furnish a complete range of color, our selection of varieties, at the following prices.

	Peonies	Irises
1,000 in 10 varieties . . .	\$150 00	\$75 00
1,000 in 20 varieties . . .	175 00	87 50
1,000 in 40 varieties . . .	200 00	100 00
1,000 in 100 varieties . . .	225 00	112 50
100 in 10 varieties	25 00	12 50
100 in 20 varieties	35 00	17 50
100 in 50 varieties	45 00	22 50

These prices are possible only when the selection is left to us. Prices in miscellaneous quantities on request. We guarantee that the general landscape and blooming effect will be equal to that of the highest priced peonies and irises.

NIAGARA HAND-DUST GUN

The Niagara Hand-Dust Gun is a "machine gun" for plant enemies. Three to six times as fast as spraying. More economical in use and result.



For all garden vines, shrubbery and perennials. Price \$4, including 1 pound of All-In-One Dust and a copy of "Instructions for Exterminating Garden Pests," a 40 page book.

All-In-One Dust is effective for scales, sucking insects, mildew, blight and chewing insects.

Sounds like a "cure all" but money back if unsatisfactory at any time.

When Mistress Spring Comes to Your Garden

Her path should be lined with daffodils and tulips, those colorful blooms of May and June. For the gardener who wants an extra-choice assortment of spring flowers, I recommend

The Sunrise Collection No. 2

25 Narcissi, assorted varieties	\$2 75
75 Single Early Tulips, assorted . . .	2 50
75 Darwin Tulips, assorted	2 50
75 Breeder Tulips, assorted	2 50
25 Hyacinths, assorted	3 50
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	\$13 75

Any one collection at the price indicated. No discount applicable.

Complete Sunrise Collection No. 2, 275 bulbs, for only \$12.

Send your order now—you need not pay until you receive the bulbs.



Brighten up the corners with The Sunrise Collection No. 2

Bertrand H. Farr—Wyomissing Nurseries Company
1250 Garfield Avenue, Wyomissing, Penna.

No June and July Issues of Better Plants

June 10, 1923

One issue of BETTER PLANTS costs us from five hundred to seven hundred dollars.

Admittedly, our purpose is to create good will and, consequently, increased sales. In turn we try to give as much garden information as possible.

Our purpose has been highly successful and BETTER PLANTS is now not only interesting to us, but profitable.

Spring sales have materially reduced our supply of plants and we are investing all of our spare funds in propagating and weeding. We are preparing for fall business generally and financially.

June and July issues of BETTER PLANTS have been omitted because: (1) very little planting is done during these months; (2) we felt that it was more necessary for us to produce and propagate than advertise.

Beginning with August there will be uninterrupted issues until January.

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L C Corbett
Bureau of Plant Industry
U S Dept of Agriculture
Washington D C

BETTER PLANTS—AUGUST, 1923
A Magazine Devoted to the Hardy Garden