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# Peonies and Iris



1923

PETERSON NURSERY  
CHICAGO — ILL.



William A. Peterson

# Peterson's Greetings to Lovers of Flowers

**T**HE normal man likes to talk about beautiful things. My greeting to my friends who are lovers of flowers has reference to two of the most beautiful of flowers. In the production of them I have an unusual interest and the greatest satisfaction.

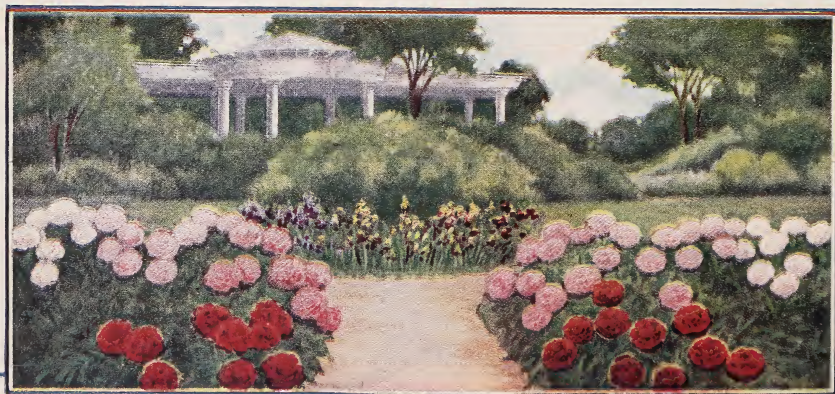
Universal in appeal are the Peony and the Iris. Of all the sweet strains that compose the symphony of the flowers, none is more charming and enchanting. Memory takes us back to grandmother's garden. Her love for the Peony and the Iris has prompted us to improve and develop these old-fashioned flowers. The newer and more charming varieties prompt us to continue the production of unique and choicer varieties. Imagine grandmother's amazement could she glimpse the magnificent beauty acquired by her modest favorite through two generations of skillful, intensive, scientific breeding and cultivation of the Peony and the Iris.

The perfection of the Peony and the Iris, as the Peterson product is known today, is due to a sincere desire to achieve the highest and best in Peony and Iris production, concentrated effort, sincere devotion, of advanced intelligence, urged by our grandmothers' brand of love for the beauties of Nature as typified in these wonderful flowers.

Recognizing the place the Peony and the Iris deservedly hold in the affections of their legion of admirers, I know of no more worthy ambition than this—earnestly to strive for the fulfillment of my father's aims in the culture of two flowers only—the Peony and the Iris.

I believe the profuse assortment of trustworthy varieties I have arranged for convenient selection in Peterson's Master Lists of both the Peony and the Iris provides for every requirement of the flower lover, as well as of the average devotee. Some of the unusually choice varieties are set forth in this book. Large supplies are not available. It will be a pleasure for me to serve my flower friends while the supply holds out.

WM. A. PETERSON



# The Peterson Brand of Satisfaction

That every person—novice as well as expert in the realm of flowers—shall know precisely where they stand in their relations to the Peterson Nursery, we insure each transaction with this plain, unreserved guarantee:

“We will replace with three every plant blooming untrue to description.”

This is safety thrice assured. After thirteen years of conscientious adherence to this policy, we find ourselves securely entrenched behind the invincible bulwark of public confidence and approval.

The reason why we prosper in the face of such apparently fearless liberality is because we confine our culture to the best leading standardized varieties known to Peony and Iris fanciers. We eliminate all but lively and vigorous, large flowering, sure-to-bloom plants with strong, hardy, well-developed roots and eyes. None is sold until it has proved its worthiness to uphold the Peterson standard.

Recent rating ballots of both the Peony and Iris Societies, which form a part of our descriptions, confirm the accuracy of our judgment of the most desirable and trustworthy varieties.

When Prof. L. H. Bailey was editing his *Cyclopedia of American Horticulture* in 1900, he divided the subject of Peonies into two sections, botanical and cultural, and selected Wm. A. Peterson as the authority to write up the cultural section. Each succeeding edition has in a like manner been revised.

On the strength of Mr. Peterson's reputed leadership as a Peony and Iris expert we do not confine this list to varieties already acted upon by the Peony and Iris societies, but include in addition a carefully selected list of Peterson-tested plants not as yet generally known, prominent among which are an interesting assortment of single and Japanese varieties—all under the protection of our unique guarantee.

We here tabulate the American Iris Society's rating of our Iris, beginning with the highest.

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 9.6 Lent A. Williamson..... Purple      | 8.3 Ben Bow..... Blue           |
| 9.5 Princess Beatrice..... Blue         | 8.3 Prosper Laugier..... Bronze |
| 9.4 Ambassadeur..... Bronze             | 8.3 Dejaset..... Bronze         |
| 9.4 Ballerine..... Blue                 | 8.3 White Knight..... White     |
| 9.3 Souv. de Mme. Gaudichau..... Purple | 8.3 La Neige..... White         |
| 9.2 Asia..... Pink                      | 8.3 Dimity..... Filled          |
| 9.1 Lord of June..... Blue              | 8.2 Lohengrin..... Pink         |
| 9.1 Magnifica..... Pink                 | 8.2 Tristram..... White         |
| 9.0 Queen Caterina..... Pink            | 8.1 Parc de Neuilly..... Purple |
| 9.0 Leverrier..... Pink                 | 8.1 Neptune..... Blue           |
| 8.9 Alcazar..... Blue                   | 8.1 Raffet..... Blue            |
| 8.8 Shekinah..... Yellow                | 8.1 Ma Mic..... Filled          |
| 8.8 Halo..... Blue                      | 8.0 Sarpedon..... Blue          |
| 8.7 Crusader..... Blue                  | 8.0 Fairy..... White            |
| 8.7 Opera..... Purple                   | 8.0 Tom Tit..... Purple         |
| 8.6 Edouard Michel..... Purple          | 7.9 Iris King..... Bronze       |
| 8.6 Isoline..... Pink                   | 7.9 Loreley..... Yellow         |
| 8.6 Afterglow..... Yellow               | 7.9 Mrs. Fryer..... White       |
| 8.6 Cluny..... Blue                     | 7.9 Parisiana..... Filled       |
| 8.5 Medrano..... Purple                 | 7.9 Mady Carriere..... Blue     |
| 8.5 Moliere..... Pink                   | 7.8 Kochi..... Purple           |
| 8.5 Sweet Lavender..... Pink            | 7.8 Clematis..... Pink          |
| 8.5 Grevin..... Pink                    | 7.8 Eldorado..... Bronze        |
| 8.5 Dream..... Pink                     | 7.8 Knysna..... Yellow          |
| 8.5 Prospero..... Blue                  | 7.8 Mary Garden..... Filled     |
| 8.4 Arsace..... Bronze                  | 7.6 Sherwin Wright..... Yellow  |
| 8.4 Troost..... Pink                    | 7.5 Caprice..... Purple         |
| 8.4 Monsignor..... Purple               | 7.5 Queen Alexandra..... Pink   |
| 8.4 Quaker Lady..... Bronze             | 7.4 Madame Chereau..... Filled  |
| 8.4 W. J. Fryer..... Bronze             | 6.5 Gertrude..... Blue          |
| 8.4 Rhein Nixe..... White               | ... The Inca..... Yellow        |
| 8.4 Anna Farr..... Filled               | ... Turco..... Pink             |
| 8.3 Archeveque..... Purple              | ... Trianon..... Yellow         |
| 8.3 Seminole..... Purple                |                                 |



# Peony Culture



The Peony is a hardy plant—sure to grow when properly planted and is easily cared for.

September planting gives best assurance of blooming and adds at least twenty percent to the strength of the plants, owing to the formation of new rootlets before freezing down. Deep, rich, well drained soil and abundant sunshine are effective aids to Peony culture.

Before planting, a large quantity of well rotted manure (preferably pigeon, sheep or cow manure) should be worked in, and in the fall apply a mulch without covering the tops of the crowns or touching the stems.

For permanent planting, set the plants from three to four feet apart with only two inches of ground above the eyes.

Water freely during the blooming season and also toward the end of August to make large eyes for the following year.

To obtain large flowers for exhibition purposes remove all lateral buds when as large as a pea, leaving only the terminal bud to develop. Remember that typical blooms are sometimes not produced for a year or two after planting.

An inconspicuous wire support is desirable during the blooming period, to prevent heavy rains from beating down the flowers.

Avoid injury to plants when picking the blooms by leaving at least one or two lateral leaves below the cutting, as the leaves are the lungs of the plant, very essential to its future health.

To force blooms on an old plant that produces stalks instead of buds, in September scratch back the soil and cut off half the eyes. In November remove the faded foliage so that it will not interfere with next year's shoots.

## PEONY FRAGRANCE

One of the most delightful things about the peony is its delicate fragrance, and this combined with its exquisite beauty makes it one of the grandest flowers to be found in any garden. We have always appreciated the value of fragrance in peonies, and have kept this in mind in building up our collection. In the description we have noted the relative degree of fragrance, which varies with different varieties, running from that of cinnamon to the rose and hyacinth. Single peonies and those with some stamens have the pollen fragrance.

## PEONY COLLECTIONS

### DOUBLE

- A—10 3-eye plants our selection of a comprehensive collection from this list for . . . \$ 6.50
- B—10 5-eye plants our selection of a comprehensive collection from this list for . . . 11.00

### JAPANESE AND SINGLE

- C—15 3-eye plants our selection from this list amounting to at least \$33.70 for . . . 25.00
- D—15 plants not listed, as we have only a small quantity on trial, for . . . 20.00

In our large Japanese importations we often receive some very fine peonies which are not true to the name under which we bought them, and while they are very good peonies we do not care to keep them without knowing their true names. So we offer them at the following very attractive prices.

- E—12 Japanese peonies, mixed for . . . \$ 15.00
- F—100 Japanese peonies, mixed for . . . 100.00

Of the varieties rated by the Peony Society at 8.8 and up, we offer and here list forty-eight, beginning with the highest ballot.

|                                   |            |                                    |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| 9.9 Le Cygne . . . . .            | Mid. W.    | 9.0 Longfellow . . . . .           | Mid. R.    |
| 9.9 Mrs. Edward Harding . . . . . | Lat. W.    | 9.0 Raoul Dessert . . . . .        | Mid. D. P. |
| 9.8 Therese . . . . .             | Ear. L. P. | 8.9 Mme. Emile Lemoine . . . . .   | Mid. W.    |
| 9.8 Kelway's Glorious . . . . .   | Mid. W.    | 8.9 Marie Crousse . . . . .        | Mid. L. P. |
| 9.7 Solange . . . . .             | Lat. W.    | 8.9 Pleas' Jubilee . . . . .       | Ear. W.    |
| 9.4 Tourangelle . . . . .         | Lat. W.    | 8.9 Georgiana Shaylor . . . . .    | Mid. L. P. |
| 9.4 Edwin C. Shaw . . . . .       | Mid. D. P. | 8.9 Pride of Langport . . . . .    | Sem. P.    |
| 9.4 Mme. Jules Dessert . . . . .  | Mid. W.    | 8.9 Rosette . . . . .              | Ear. L. P. |
| 9.4 Mary W. Shaylor . . . . .     | Lat. L. P. | 8.9 Jeannot . . . . .              | Lat. L. P. |
| 9.4 President Wilson . . . . .    | Lat. L. P. | 8.8 Souv. de Louis Bigot . . . . . | Mid. L. P. |
| 9.3 Festiva Maxima . . . . .      | Ear. W.    | 8.8 Grandiflora . . . . .          | Lat. L. P. |
| 9.3 Walter Faxon . . . . .        | Mid. D. P. | 8.8 M. Martin Cahuzac . . . . .    | Ear. R.    |
| 9.2 M. Jules Elie . . . . .       | Ear. D. P. | 8.8 Karl Rosenfield . . . . .      | Mid. R.    |
| 9.2 E. B. Browning . . . . .      | Lat. W.    | 8.8 Alsace Lorraine . . . . .      | Lat. W.    |
| 9.2 Philippe Rivoire . . . . .    | Lat. R.    | 8.8 Enchantresse . . . . .         | Lat. W.    |
| 9.2 La Fee . . . . .              | Ear. D. P. | 8.8 Richard Carvel . . . . .       | Ear. R.    |
| 9.1 Lady A. Duff . . . . .        | Ear. W.    | 8.8 Kelway's Queen . . . . .       | Mid. L. P. |
| 9.1 Martha Bulloch . . . . .      | Lat. D. P. | 8.8 Laura Dessert . . . . .        | Mid. W.    |
| 9.1 Frances Willard . . . . .     | Lat. W.    | 8.8 Phoebe Carey . . . . .         | Lat. L. P. |
| 9.1 Nymphaea . . . . .            | Sem. W.    | 8.8 Ginette . . . . .              | Ear. L. P. |
| 9.1 Secretary Fewkes . . . . .    | Lat. W.    | 8.8 Standard Bearer . . . . .      | Ear. D. P. |
| 9.0 Baroness Schroeder . . . . .  | Lat. W.    | 8.8 Phyllis Kelway . . . . .       | Lat. L. P. |
| 9.0 Sarah Bernhardt . . . . .     | Mid. D. P. | 8.8 Madame Gaudichau . . . . .     | Mid. R.    |
| 9.0 La France . . . . .           | Lat. D. P. | 8.8 Pride of Essex . . . . .       | Mid. L. P. |



# Iris Culture



Fortunate are the devotees of the Flora whose hobby is the stately, rainbow hued Iris; for their favorite is not only beautiful beyond description, but it is also one of the hardiest and easiest flowers to cultivate.

The surpassing charm of its blooms may be enjoyed with the least expenditure of time and effort. A moderately moist but well drained soil, with sunshine at least part of the day, will yield excellent results.

September is the best time for transplanting them, as this gives the roots time to develop before winter sets in. They may, however, be moved any time except while they are in bloom or the ground is frozen.

Avoid the use of fresh manure which is destructive to the roots when brought into contact with them. If a fertilizer is necessary, use bone meal, sparingly. Occasional cultivation will reward you with a greater number of larger, finer blooms.

Plant about two feet apart with the bulbs or crowns not more than two inches below the top of the ground.

In grouping Iris, the tall growing varieties should naturally be banked behind the shorter ones.

For lining shrubbery no other flower can compare with the short growing Iris. It is also greatly esteemed as a border for walks, driveways, lawns and pools.

Mass formations in effective color combinations, with proper regard for harmony in color and form, fairly dazzle the beholder with their gorgeous brilliance.

A rough diagram of your plantings, drawn at planting time and designating the several varieties, will identify them by name after the labels have disappeared. You must know them individually if you would appreciate them at their full value.

## IRIS COLLECTIONS

No. 1—One strong blooming root each of fifteen varieties selected from this list by us, amounting to at least \$4.55, for.....\$3.75

No. 2—One strong blooming root each of twenty-five varieties selected from this list by us, amounting to at least \$10.20, for.....\$8.50

Make your selections from Peterson's Master List of Iris, most beautiful combination effects may be had in Iris selections. See page 4 for suggestions as to the easiest and best way of doing it.



*Read  
This Booklet  
Thru and  
You Will  
Become a  
Peony  
and Iris  
Enthusiast*



# Peterson's Master List of Peonies

Season 1922

*Selections are Easily and Intelligently Made*

By the use of PETERSON'S MASTER LISTS of both Peonies and Iris. This illustration indicates a simple and safe method by the use of pennies, kernels of corn or any small article put upon the selection you make. The hand shown is in the act of putting on the twelfth selection, making a splendid combination for all practical purposes.

PETERSON'S MASTER LISTS of both Peonies and Iris, shown herein — first, the peony, and on the reverse side the Iris. It is intended to easily unfold upon a table, where the entire schedule representing the four general divisions of color, each with its three periods of blooming, and arranging the different varieties according to the purchase price, beginning with the lowest.

The Peterson Nursery has not only made it possible for you to secure dependable stock, but has made it easy for you to make your selection. When advice is needed, write us.

|  |  |   |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Early Blue</b><br>1. <i>Blue Wonder</i> (1902) ...<br>2. <i>Blue Bird</i> (1903) ...<br>3. <i>Blue Bell</i> (1904) ...<br>4. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1905) ...<br>5. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1906) ...<br>6. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1907) ...<br>7. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1908) ...<br>8. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1909) ...<br>9. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1910) ...<br>10. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1911) ...<br>11. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1912) ...<br>12. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1913) ...<br>13. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1914) ...<br>14. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1915) ...<br>15. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1916) ...<br>16. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1917) ...<br>17. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1918) ...<br>18. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1919) ...<br>19. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1920) ...<br>20. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1921) ...<br>21. <i>Blue Boy</i> (1922) ...  | <b>Early Light Pink</b><br>1. <i>Pink Wonder</i> (1902) ...<br>2. <i>Pink Bird</i> (1903) ...<br>3. <i>Pink Bell</i> (1904) ...<br>4. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1905) ...<br>5. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1906) ...<br>6. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1907) ...<br>7. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1908) ...<br>8. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1909) ...<br>9. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1910) ...<br>10. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1911) ...<br>11. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1912) ...<br>12. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1913) ...<br>13. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1914) ...<br>14. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1915) ...<br>15. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1916) ...<br>16. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1917) ...<br>17. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1918) ...<br>18. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1919) ...<br>19. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1920) ...<br>20. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1921) ...<br>21. <i>Pink Boy</i> (1922) ...  | <b>Early Dark Pink</b><br>1. <i>Dark Wonder</i> (1902) ...<br>2. <i>Dark Bird</i> (1903) ...<br>3. <i>Dark Bell</i> (1904) ...<br>4. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1905) ...<br>5. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1906) ...<br>6. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1907) ...<br>7. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1908) ...<br>8. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1909) ...<br>9. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1910) ...<br>10. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1911) ...<br>11. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1912) ...<br>12. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1913) ...<br>13. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1914) ...<br>14. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1915) ...<br>15. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1916) ...<br>16. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1917) ...<br>17. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1918) ...<br>18. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1919) ...<br>19. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1920) ...<br>20. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1921) ...<br>21. <i>Dark Boy</i> (1922) ...  | <b>Early Red</b><br>1. <i>Red Wonder</i> (1902) ...<br>2. <i>Red Bird</i> (1903) ...<br>3. <i>Red Bell</i> (1904) ...<br>4. <i>Red Boy</i> (1905) ...<br>5. <i>Red Boy</i> (1906) ...<br>6. <i>Red Boy</i> (1907) ...<br>7. <i>Red Boy</i> (1908) ...<br>8. <i>Red Boy</i> (1909) ...<br>9. <i>Red Boy</i> (1910) ...<br>10. <i>Red Boy</i> (1911) ...<br>11. <i>Red Boy</i> (1912) ...<br>12. <i>Red Boy</i> (1913) ...<br>13. <i>Red Boy</i> (1914) ...<br>14. <i>Red Boy</i> (1915) ...<br>15. <i>Red Boy</i> (1916) ...<br>16. <i>Red Boy</i> (1917) ...<br>17. <i>Red Boy</i> (1918) ...<br>18. <i>Red Boy</i> (1919) ...<br>19. <i>Red Boy</i> (1920) ...<br>20. <i>Red Boy</i> (1921) ...<br>21. <i>Red Boy</i> (1922) ...  | <b>Single, Semi-Double and Japanese Peonies</b><br>1. <i>Single Wonder</i> (1902) ...<br>2. <i>Single Bird</i> (1903) ...<br>3. <i>Single Bell</i> (1904) ...<br>4. <i>Single Boy</i> (1905) ...<br>5. <i>Single Boy</i> (1906) ...<br>6. <i>Single Boy</i> (1907) ...<br>7. <i>Single Boy</i> (1908) ...<br>8. <i>Single Boy</i> (1909) ...<br>9. <i>Single Boy</i> (1910) ...<br>10. <i>Single Boy</i> (1911) ...<br>11. <i>Single Boy</i> (1912) ...<br>12. <i>Single Boy</i> (1913) ...<br>13. <i>Single Boy</i> (1914) ...<br>14. <i>Single Boy</i> (1915) ...<br>15. <i>Single Boy</i> (1916) ...<br>16. <i>Single Boy</i> (1917) ...<br>17. <i>Single Boy</i> (1918) ...<br>18. <i>Single Boy</i> (1919) ...<br>19. <i>Single Boy</i> (1920) ...<br>20. <i>Single Boy</i> (1921) ...<br>21. <i>Single Boy</i> (1922) ...  |   |
| <b>Free Blooming Strain Developed</b><br>Using the following method you can develop a free blooming strain of peonies for propagation from the best of the best. It is a simple and safe method. The same treatment for three years will give you a strain of free blooming peonies.   |  |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Mid-Season Light Pink</b><br>1. <i>Mid-Season Wonder</i> (1902) ...<br>2. <i>Mid-Season Bird</i> (1903) ...<br>3. <i>Mid-Season Bell</i> (1904) ...<br>4. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1905) ...<br>5. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1906) ...<br>6. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1907) ...<br>7. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1908) ...<br>8. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1909) ...<br>9. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1910) ...<br>10. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1911) ...<br>11. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1912) ...<br>12. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1913) ...<br>13. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1914) ...<br>14. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1915) ...<br>15. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1916) ...<br>16. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1917) ...<br>17. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1918) ...<br>18. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1919) ...<br>19. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1920) ...<br>20. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1921) ...<br>21. <i>Mid-Season Boy</i> (1922) ... | <b>Mid-Season Dark Pink</b><br>1. <i>Dark Mid-Season Wonder</i> (1902) ...<br>2. <i>Dark Mid-Season Bird</i> (1903) ...<br>3. <i>Dark Mid-Season Bell</i> (1904) ...<br>4. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1905) ...<br>5. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1906) ...<br>6. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1907) ...<br>7. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1908) ...<br>8. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1909) ...<br>9. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1910) ...<br>10. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1911) ...<br>11. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1912) ...<br>12. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1913) ...<br>13. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1914) ...<br>14. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1915) ...<br>15. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1916) ...<br>16. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1917) ...<br>17. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1918) ...<br>18. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1919) ...<br>19. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1920) ...<br>20. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1921) ...<br>21. <i>Dark Mid-Season Boy</i> (1922) ... | <b>Mid-Season Red</b><br>1. <i>Red Mid-Season Wonder</i> (1902) ...<br>2. <i>Red Mid-Season Bird</i> (1903) ...<br>3. <i>Red Mid-Season Bell</i> (1904) ...<br>4. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1905) ...<br>5. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1906) ...<br>6. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1907) ...<br>7. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1908) ...<br>8. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1909) ...<br>9. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1910) ...<br>10. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1911) ...<br>11. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1912) ...<br>12. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1913) ...<br>13. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1914) ...<br>14. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1915) ...<br>15. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1916) ...<br>16. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1917) ...<br>17. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1918) ...<br>18. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1919) ...<br>19. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1920) ...<br>20. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1921) ...<br>21. <i>Red Mid-Season Boy</i> (1922) ... | <b>Early Light Pink</b><br>1. <i>Early Light Wonder</i> (1902) ...<br>2. <i>Early Light Bird</i> (1903) ...<br>3. <i>Early Light Bell</i> (1904) ...<br>4. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1905) ...<br>5. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1906) ...<br>6. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1907) ...<br>7. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1908) ...<br>8. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1909) ...<br>9. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1910) ...<br>10. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1911) ...<br>11. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1912) ...<br>12. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1913) ...<br>13. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1914) ...<br>14. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1915) ...<br>15. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1916) ...<br>16. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1917) ...<br>17. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1918) ...<br>18. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1919) ...<br>19. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1920) ...<br>20. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1921) ...<br>21. <i>Early Light Boy</i> (1922) ... | <b>Early Dark Pink</b><br>1. <i>Dark Early Wonder</i> (1902) ...<br>2. <i>Dark Early Bird</i> (1903) ...<br>3. <i>Dark Early Bell</i> (1904) ...<br>4. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1905) ...<br>5. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1906) ...<br>6. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1907) ...<br>7. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1908) ...<br>8. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1909) ...<br>9. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1910) ...<br>10. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1911) ...<br>11. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1912) ...<br>12. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1913) ...<br>13. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1914) ...<br>14. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1915) ...<br>15. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1916) ...<br>16. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1917) ...<br>17. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1918) ...<br>18. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1919) ...<br>19. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1920) ...<br>20. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1921) ...<br>21. <i>Dark Early Boy</i> (1922) ... | <b>Early Red</b><br>1. <i>Red Early Wonder</i> (1902) ...<br>2. <i>Red Early Bird</i> (1903) ...<br>3. <i>Red Early Bell</i> (1904) ...<br>4. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1905) ...<br>5. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1906) ...<br>6. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1907) ...<br>7. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1908) ...<br>8. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1909) ...<br>9. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1910) ...<br>10. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1911) ...<br>11. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1912) ...<br>12. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1913) ...<br>13. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1914) ...<br>14. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1915) ...<br>15. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1916) ...<br>16. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1917) ...<br>17. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1918) ...<br>18. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1919) ...<br>19. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1920) ...<br>20. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1921) ...<br>21. <i>Red Early Boy</i> (1922) ... |
| <b>OUR UNIQUE GUARANTEE</b><br>We guarantee the quality of our stock and the accuracy of our descriptions. If you are not satisfied, we will refund your money.  |  |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Size of Peony Roots</b> <b>Descriptions</b>   |  |   |  |  |   |
| The illustration shows the size of the roots of the various varieties of peonies. The roots are shown in their natural state, and are of various sizes and shapes. The roots are shown in their natural state, and are of various sizes and shapes.  |  |   |  |  |   |
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# ~Terms and Shipping Season~



## TERMS

Prompt attention is given to orders from both old and new customers. It is our purpose to give the largest measure of satisfaction in every transaction. New customers are requested to accompany orders with satisfactory references. To avoid delay send cash with order.

Owing to the reduced prices we are making this year, in both high grade Peonies and Iris, no additional discounts are allowed. Former discounts are taken off in the prices we are now quoting. We always allow a generous interpretation of size of roots.

Prices in this retail list include packing and transportation charges PREPAID on all orders for \$2.00 or more. On smaller orders please add postage unless you wish the goods sent by express, charges collect.

Great care is exercised in packing for shipment, to insure safest delivery.

When shipping instructions are not given we are careful to use our own best judgment.

TO THE TRADE: Ask for wholesale list.

## SHIPPING SEASON

Iris can be moved any time except when the ground is frozen or while blooming, but the most favorable time is from July first to the end of September. If set late in the fall, protect with a mulch to prevent heaving by the frost.

We begin filling Peony orders about the first of September. Any Peony is much surer to bloom and will be twenty percent stronger if moved in September, so that new rootlets may form before freezing down.

We do not ship Peony roots in the spring.

To preserve the names make a diagram on our bill with each item numbered as planted.

Mr. William A. Peterson will gladly give any sincere lover of Peonies and Iris the benefit of his years of rich experience in answer to any inquiry for information desired when explained in detail. This service is intended to help our customers produce best results.

## ALL UNCERTAINTY REMOVED

We now give you five different sizes of peony roots to choose from, and specify the MINIMUM NUMBER of EYES each size must have. You do not buy, for instance, a two year plant with an uncertain number of eyes, but know in advance just what you are getting.

## MORE ABOUT THE IRIS

The Iris species are generally divided into three groups: First, the bearded Iris, by far the most important. Though formerly called German Iris, they are not from Germany, but from the dry highlands of Southern Europe and Asia Minor. Second, Beardless Iris or grassy leaved Iris, which flourish in moist situations, include the Japanese Iris. Third, the Bulbous Iris mostly native to Northern Africa and Persia. Our collection is confined to the tall bearded Iris.

Two enemies to be on the lookout for are the Iris borer and Iris root rot. The borer is a larva of one of the night flying moths that bites the leaf about the blooming season, and if not killed by pinching the leaf will soon work down into the root. Here it must be dug out and destroyed.

Mr. W. R. Dykes, the great English authority on Iris, writes of the Iris root rot: "It is generally at its worst during the flowering season, when tufts of leaves will be found turning prematurely yellow at the tips, or stems will be discovered rotten at the base. The disease is bacterial. The rhizomes become rapidly soft and rotten and emit an offensive smell.

When a plant is found attacked it should be lifted without delay. The soft portion of the rhizome should be carefully cut away and burned, but the sound remainder, including the roots and leaves, dipped into a bright pink solution of potassium permanganate."

The tall bearded Iris are as beautiful in form, texture and color as orchids and many are delightfully fragrant.

## FRAGRANCE OF THE IRIS

The fragrance of certain Iris is very pronounced—Caprice has a very strong and decidedly grape juice fragrance, while Fairy is as heavily scented as a hyacinth or a tuberose.



# ~Suggestions for Planting~



No one knows the enthralling fascination of devising original effects in the planting of Peonies and Iris except those who have experienced the joy of beholding their dreams of a new Eden all their own actually come true.

There is practically no limit in the number of attractive combinations the unfettered imagination will suggest. Color and form are yours to arrange as your fancy directs. Remember, your garden is an expression of your individuality—"Say it with Flowers" is more than an empty phrase.

For the beginner conventional precedent is the best guide. It will keep him from error and assure him of gratifying results from the start. Safety in originality comes only from experience.

Reasonable acquaintance with the outstanding characteristics of the Peony and the Iris are essential. Study the description of the several varieties printed elsewhere in this book. Note especially their color and size. Be content with the more simple but good formations and color combinations the first season.

Perhaps the easiest and most promising use of either flower is in the form of a border for walk or driveway. A blending of different shades of the same color, gradually merging the lighter shades into the darker, is always correct and beautiful.

Plant the short ones and bank them up with the tall ones in the rear to form a background. Or they may be tapered off to both walk and lawn with the tall ones between, avoiding, however, any appearance of mechanical symmetry. Let one side be shorter with a longer taper to the crest. You will be surprised and delighted with the result.

Mass formations, involving more intricate color combinations, provide an enticing subject for next year's study.

It will be a pleasure for us to aid you in your selections of either Peony or Iris. Peterson's Master Lists are arranged for easy and intelligent selection. See how it may be done by the use of pennies on another page.



## From the Customers' Viewpoint



We receive testimonials by the thousands. The few following may be duplicated many times over. Our enthusiasm is justified by the testimony of many others. We receive them in large numbers daily. Many scores more might be published if space would permit. The few herewith ought to be sufficient. They satisfy. It is well to read what the other side says. That makes it unanimous:

### PEONY

### IRIS

Mrs. Z. D. Scott, Duluth, Minn., says: "The peonies have arrived in fine condition. If the don't live it will be my own fault."

A. S. Howland, Cambridge, Mass., says: "My small order of peonies arrived duly and in good condition. I consider the roots excellent."

Andrew Christensen, Stoneham, Mass., says: "I wish to acknowledge receipt of peonies in due time. I wish to thank you for the way the order was executed. Good count, good quality. Everything more than satisfactory."

A customer in Canada says: "My peony order arrived promptly and in splendid order. I am very much pleased with them and thank you for your generosity in the matter of counting."

Louis H. Frechtling, Hamilton, Ohio, says: "The Iris which I ordered from your company came yesterday. I wish to thank you for the quality of the plants sent. I have purchased Iris from many growers, but at no time have I received such uniformly high grade plants. I wish again most heartily to thank you."

R. C. Petrie, Johnstown, N. Y., says: "Iris O. K. and growing. I am well satisfied with same. What have you in the Japanese Iris?"

Nelly A.M. Cooke, Garwood, N. J., says: "The Iris arrived in excellent condition. I am more than satisfied."



# A Bit of Peony History



WHILE P. S. Peterson and his son, the present proprietor, were visiting European nurseries in 1886, they were impressed with the beauty of the herbaceous peony and decided to add to the six kinds they were then growing.

In two years' time three hundred and fifty varieties had been acquired. Wm. A. Peterson again visited most of the peony specialists in England and on the continent in 1889. In looking over the card indexes of the names now carried that were bought that year we find Couronne d'Or, and Octavie Demay. In 1900 Marie Crousse, Claire Dubois and Felix Crousse were also acquired and have not been superseded by any of the modern introductions.

A subsequent visit in 1906, when three thousand dollars worth was purchased, while in bloom, from the growers, laid the foundation for the large stock of fine varieties now grown at Peterson Nursery.

With the founding of the American Peony Society in 1902 and the subsequent interest developed, many new and desirable varieties have since been produced in our own country. While all these new sorts were pouring in, the older kinds were being tested out. All synonyms and easily distinguished undesirable sorts were eliminated.

The greatest number of varieties being tested at one time was six hundred. Owing to the present fad for single, semi-double and Japanese varieties, there are now fifty-nine of these in the test garden. A classification by color was devised with four distinct divisions, white, light pink, dark pink and red. There is such a variance in time of blooming that each color division was subdivided into early, mid-season and late, making all peonies eligible to a place in one of these twelve distinct sections.

The "Master List" is an outgrowth of all this painstaking research. The varieties offered have vigorous constitutions, strong, straight stems, are free blooming with attractive



buds, have large flowers which continue in bloom for a long time and hold their color well. Fragrant varieties are always given a preference. To aid in making selections in each section the plants are listed in the order of price, beginning with the cheapest. To pool the experiences and observations of all the expert members of the American Peony Society, a Symposium of over seven hundred varieties was balloted on, rating perfection on a scale of 10. Some eighty-five growers voted and the figures in front of each description is from the Bulletins of 1921.

Membership in the American Peony Society is open to anyone who sends five dollars to cover initiation and annual dues.

Of the ninety-six double peonies listed herewith, twenty-seven were given a ballot of 9.0 or more, the next twenty-nine run between 8.7 and 8.9 inclusive, and the remaining thirty rated are 8.6 or below.

Two-thirds of the entire list have been introduced since 1900 and thirty-two of these since 1910. This Master List aids in making a representative selection. If only four varieties are wanted, pick out one from each of the four color columns. To cover the whole period of blooming a minimum of twelve is required to start with. Upon looking over one of these twelve sections, for example the mid-season white, you find nine sorts listed from 95 cents to \$80.00 each. This does not mean that one is eighty times finer than the other.

Festiva Maxima, with a ballot of 9.3 has been in commerce since 1851, while Kelway's Glorious introduced in 1909 with a ballot of 9.8 is rare. Probably there are not five hundred plants of it available in this country. As LeCygne with a ballot of 9.9, the highest given any peony, is in this section, the would-be connoisseur, if not barred by the price, should put a check before it.

Among the early light pink Therese at 9.8 sells at a price that makes it an irresistible representative of this section.





## A Bit of Peony History



With pardonable pride we were glad to find our judgment in the selection of choice varieties confirmed each time the Peony Society has sent out an official rating. The sorts that have proven worthy of a place in our Master List, with but few exceptions, are among those of the highest ballot. Where we have continued to have the courage of our convictions is in a section like the reds, where there is such a meager stock to select from, we have been compelled to retain the available ones until better sorts are produced. In fact of the seven we carry with a ballot below 8.0, we do so for reasons like good storage qualities and other considerations that do not appeal to the average member whose ballot helped decide the low rating.

The remarkable feature of our list is to find all the best sorts offered and practically none of the mediocre kinds to wade through in making a selection. We have also a well balanced price list to meet the requirements of purchasers of every size pocket book.

In the beginning we carried only a limited number of Peonies. Our keen interest grew and as early as 1888 we had in cultivation over three hundred varieties, personally selected from the best stock put out in Europe. Our trips abroad and our direct contact with the

growers in European countries where Peonies abound in all their glory gave us an insight into methods and means very helpful to us in the development of our own Peony business. We have made a special study of this interesting plant from every viewpoint and have accumulated all there is to be had in literature, as well as tested every kind of which we have knowledge offered anywhere.

We make no pretense of carrying or offering for sale a complete collection of every known Peony. We have devoted our attention to the newer and better qualities and after passing through a thorough test of several years those of decided merit and difference are retained and the more common have been eliminated. We refer to these better varieties in connection with our bit of Peony history to show something about our achievement and the part that the Peterson Nursery has played in Peony development.

The points of excellence taken into consideration in making selections are Free Blooming, Strong Stems, Shade, Fullness, Keeping Qualities, and Freedom from Blythe. We have also given due regard to shade and fragrance and the extension of the blooming period. In all of our work we have tried to add dignity and service to Peony history. We are here to serve. Address us:



*A Field of Peony Bloom in the Peterson Nursery*

# The Home Beautiful



Home knows no warmer welcome than the flower border approach to its doorway. What is there that is more important in home beautification and decoration than the Peony and the Iris? Flowers are the smiles of nature in its happiest mood, greeting the dweller, the guest and the stranger alike with their friendly radiance.

Where flowers are there is love, for love feeds on flowers and the happy thoughts conceived in flowers.

Chief among home flowers are the Peony and the Iris. Both may be had in almost endless variety. Being hardy perennials, requiring very little care after planting, they are especially desirable for home and garden ornamentation. The surpassing beauty of the Peony is most effectively displayed when planted to form a border for lawn, fountain, walk or driveway. An appropriate background of thick shrubbery brings forth the utmost loveliness of their exquisite colorings. The Iris, too, lends itself splendidly to home approaches and decoration.

The home beautiful — can it be without flowers? The very thought suggests flowers. Human art enhanced with a divine artistry. No home is so modest, no mansion so complete, but that it may be made more beautiful and attractive with flowers — the Peony and the Iris.



# Color Classification



There is no limit to the variety of gorgeous color effects obtainable by the judicious selection from Peterson's Master Lists of Peonies or Iris. A combination of harmonious colors is what the real flower fancier is striving for.

Our simple directions printed elsewhere in this booklet furnish a well worked out plan enabling anyone to make intelligent selection in their true color relationship. All double Peonies admit of being divided into four dominant colors as shown in this illustration.

The lasting pleasure and satisfaction to be derived from proper selection will more than repay you for the few moments you spend in acquainting yourself with our carefully prepared selection suggestions.

We are very glad to give you in as few words as possible the sum total of our two generations of experimentation and study in the production of high quality Peonies and Iris. All tall bearded Iris naturally break into the seven color divisions as shown in this illustration.





# Peterson's Nursery

## What It Is

If we apply the old accepted saying about people to flowers, we say: "To know a flower you must live with it." Why not? It is as true in one case as in the other.

The Petersons, father and son, have lived with Peonies and Iris continuously for two generations. They have studied them, labored with them, loved them and watched them develop year after year with painstaking care. They have traveled to foreign shores to discover and bring back newer, better varieties. They are pioneers in the production of the two specialties to which Peterson's Nursery has been devoted for a third of a century.



This is a picture of what the Peterson Nursery has to offer the discriminating lover of flowers. It explains their assurance of perfect safety in making this unusual guarantee with every delivery: "We will replace with three, every plant blooming untrue to description." This is a three-to-one square deal; satisfied customers is the object.

In giving you this unique guarantee the Peterson Nursery removes every element of doubt from your purchases. Peterson's Peony and Iris farms are ideally situated for hardy production. Soil conditions are right, producing well developed root growth and eye system.



Peterson's customers have the further advantage of Chicago's central location and extensive shipping facilities, making all points in every direction easily accessible.

Peterson's Nursery is specialized to Peony and Iris service.



