

Dear Friends—

For many years now I have been trying to breed small irises in new and clear colors that would be somewhat taller and bloom a little later than the dwarfs. Here in Tennessee the commonly grown dwarf bearded varieties bloom when it is too cold and wet to enjoy flowers in the garden and their stalks are so short that the flowers become mud-splattered from our hard spring rains.

Poor germination and sterility were the great stumbling blocks as I seemed to be stymied at every turn. Finally, however, the "break" has come.

From the pollen of true pumila, crossed on to various tall bearded varieties I now have a series of seedlings which are obviously different from anything we have had in the past. To distinguish them from other miscellaneous small bearded irises, I call them my "Lilliput Hybrids."

Some are fertile, some have pollen. The plant, the height of the stalk and the size of the flower are in good proportion. They have good substance, closed standards and flaring falls.

There are selfs, bitones and new color patterns of velvety spots and deep overlays on the falls. The beards are usually conspicuous and vary greatly in color.

The plants are floriferous and very hardy. They grow fast and soon make a clump literally covered with blooms. They bloom in the period between the early dwarfs and the early tall bearded, roughly a period of about thirty to forty days. In this "intermediate" period some will be early, others will be midseason and still others will come almost with the tall. Thus, I have marked the several varieties Early, Midseason and Late, referring only to this "intermediate" season.

Try them for the rock garden. They will make compact, round clumps which bloom in tulip-time. Try them for edgings. They will make a solid ribbon of color around a bed. Try them, especially the taller ones, as specimen plants for the front of the perennial border. They bloom in that difficult period after the daffodils have passed and when the border needs color.

I am pricing these things very low so that everyone may enjoy them. Also, I plan to introduce a rather large number of varieties so that their great variety may be the sooner appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Geddes Douglas

Try . . .

THE AMAZING *Lilliput Hybrids*

They are . . .

- Hardy
- Free Blooming
- Bright in Color
- Small in Size
- Dwarf in Statue

Use them as . . .

- Border Plants
- Edgings for Formal Beds
- Specimen Clumps in Spring Border
- Rock Garden Perennials
- Plants for Steep Slopes

Especially good in . . .

- THE PATIO GARDEN!
- The Doorstep Garden!
- The Rockery!
- That Sunny Spot, where the grass will not grow!

Don't forget — they are

The New and Exciting *Lilliput Hybrids*

BRENTWOOD Gardens
HILL ROAD
BRENTWOOD, TENN.

The
Lilliput Hybrids

for 1953

Mr. Anson W. Peckham
Eagle Valley Road
Sloatsburg, New York

Introductions for 1953

Announcing . . . The Lilliput Hybrids

Garnet Treasure

(Minnie Colquitt X pumila violet)

This little flower makes a carpet of blooms slightly above the foliage. It is a bitone. The standards are light wine red and the flaring falls are deep garnet. There is a wide border around the falls the color of the standards. Three flowers. Beard tipped white. Very showy. Midseason to Late. Fragrant. 8-10 inches.

Happy Thought

((Mme Louis Aureau X Virgin) X Hall yellow X Sonny Boy) X pumila yellow)

A soft sulphur yellow self. No markings mar this little gem. The falls flare. The stalk has a bi-lateral terminal and one adjacent branch. Happy Thought is somewhat similar to Baria in color, but has a much earlier season of bloom. It is very floriferous and the color effect is pleasing. Midseason. Fragrant. 10-12 inches.

Lilliput

(Helen McGregor X pumila blue)

The tall bearded parent has given to these intermediates a purity of color never before seen in small irises. The flowers are nicely ruffled and flared. The falls are light Lobelia blue overlaid with a prominent spot of deep Lobelia blue. The standards are light Lobelia blue. Two terminal flowers, Midseason to Late. Lilliput has a very long season of bloom. White Beard. Fragrant. 15 inches.

Our Eastern customers may also order from our associate introducer

FAIRMOUNT GARDENS

Mrs. Thomas Nesmith

166 Fairmount St.

Lowell, Mass.

Little Shadow

(Gulf Stream X pumila violet)

This is a deep blue-purple self with a beard to match. The flower and stalk are in perfect proportion. There are usually three flowers, two at the terminal and one on a lower branch, though sometimes a second branch produces a fourth flower. The falls flare horizontally and the petal tip curls downward. The terminal flowers are at the top of the foliage. Very Early through Midseason. Fragrant. 12 inches.

Pagan Midget

(Gulf Stream X pumila violet)

This is a stunning red-purple self with an almost black overlay of velvet around the haft. The conspicuous beard is light blue. The two terminal flowers are carried at the top of the foliage and the third flower is rather hidden by the leaves. This variety is very floriferous and is the latest to bloom of these introductions. It begins Midseason and lasts to the first of the tall bearded. Fragrant. 12 inches.

Pigmy Gold

(Orange Glow X pumila yellow)

This is a very brilliant yellow self with good form and habit. The color is a bright chrome, and the flaring falls are very velvety. In Tennessee it is most unusual beginning to bloom with the first of the dwarfs and lasting until the tall bearded open. The first stalks are scarcely five inches tall; later as the weather begins to warm up more and more stalks are made. These last stalks will reach a height of 10 to 12 inches. Beard chrome yellow. Very fragrant.

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Brentwood, Tenn.

\$4.00 PER YEAR



PIGMY GOLD — Douglas 1953

BRENTWOOD GARDENS

Hill Road

Brentwood, Tennessee

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- Happy Thought 2.50
- Lilliput 2.50
- Little Shadow 2.50
- Pagan Midget 2.50
- Pigmy Gold 2:50
- Collection of ALL-SIX
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