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IRISES and PEONIES

OFFERED FOR SALE

BY

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John Richardson

Foreword

For a number of years I have sold some Irises and Peonies as surplus stock from my garden, but for the first time in 1916 and again in 1917 I issued a price list of the same. The present list differs from those previously issued in that some plants are added or dropped, or in some cases the prices are changed. The prices here given supersede those of earlier lists.

I would call attention especially to the change of name of two of the Richardson seedling Peonies, *Alpheus Hyatt* and *Grandiflora* (p. 13, 14). This change was made last year after consultation with Peony experts and to conform with the current usage of the name *Grandiflora* in the trade. Another important change is that the Peony previously called *Francis B. Hayes* is treated as a synonym of *Humei* (p. 9, 13). A good many Irises or Peonies not included in these pages can be supplied but I have not a sufficient stock to warrant cataloguing them. The stock being limited, I am not prepared to fill extensive orders, but six plants are sold at the list price of five, or twelve plants at the list price of ten. The Peonies offered are good stocky plants, with several eyes. Where large plants for immediate effect are desired, they can usually be supplied at 50% or 100% advance on the list price, according to size.

The accompanying portrait of Mr. John Richardson, who originated so many choice seedling Peonies and the other figures showing his house and garden and one of his choicest Peonies are similar to those given in my paper "John Richardson: His House and Garden," published in the Transactions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for the year 1904. The cuts are used by the courtesy of the Secretary of the Society.

HERBACEOUS PEONIES.

Plant in rich well prepared soil, in full sun, or at least with a fair amount of sun. For permanent planting set three or even four feet apart each way. In planting, the crowns should be about two to three inches below the surface. Peonies are best

planted in September or October. They can be planted in early spring, in April, before any growth has taken place, but it is less desirable than fall planting. Peonies like lime which should be dug liberally into the soil, using thoroughly slaked lime or some of the commercial forms of carbonate of lime. Manure used should be thoroughly rotted, or bone meal and potato fertilizer are good as a substitute for manure.

Cut off the Peony foliage in late autumn and burn it as a precaution against Peony blight, the spores of which may winter in the foliage. If side buds are removed much larger flowers are produced than if all the flower buds are allowed to develop. For details of cultivation and other information on Peonies it will be well to consult Mrs. Edward Harding's admirable work "The Book of the Peony."

For convenience, the Peonies listed are divided under three heads. First, varieties of *Paeonia officinalis* and *P. Wittmanniana*. These bloom early, thus extending the Peony season, also the colors differ from those of the *Paeonia albiflora* varieties. Second are listed the *Paeonia albiflora* varieties all of which here given have double flowers. Finally are listed the varieties of Peonies that were raised by the late Mr. John Richardson of Dorchester.

***Paeonia officinalis* varieties, and *P. Wittmanniana*.**

***P. officinalis* var. *Charmer*.** Single, bright rose pink with yellow stamens. \$1.00

***P. officinalis* var. *Lucida*.** Single crimson with yellow stamens. \$1.00.

***P. officinalis* var. *Mutabilis plena*.** Double, delicate pink on opening, but turns white before fading. 75 cts.

***P. officinalis* var. *Rosea plena*.** Double bright rose pink. 50 cts.

***P. officinalis* var. *Rosea Superba*.** Double, soft clear pink, fine form, beautiful. \$1.00.

***P. officinalis* var. *Rubra plena*.** Double rich crimson, the early Peony so common in old gardens, and one of the best. 50 cts.

MR. RICHARDSON'S HOUSE IN DORCHESTER.

P. officinalis var. Sabini. Single, rich crimson, with yellow stamens, very fine. \$1.50.

P. Wittmanniana. A low growing, early flowering species with single pale primrose yellow flowers. A rare and interesting Peony. \$2.00.

Double *Paeonia albiflora* varieties.

Adolphe Rousseau. Very large, semi-double, rich garnet crimson. \$1.50.

Blanche Neige. White, cupped, slightly suffused pink, beautiful. \$1.00.

Carter's Seedling. Pure white, without any shade of other color. This Peony was grown under this name by Mr. John Richardson. It was a seedling raised by William Carter who was the skilful gardener of the Botanic Garden in Cambridge nearly from its beginning into the early days of Asa Gray. \$1.00.

Emile l'Hoste. White shaded to primrose yellow in centre, some stamens showing. Charming. 75 cts.

Festiva. Full double white with some crimson splashes, Dwarf grower and later than Festiva Maxima, which it otherwise closely resembles. 50 cts.

Festiva Maxima. Pure white with sharp crimson splashes on a few petals. Very tall and free blooming, one of the finest of all Peonies. 75 cts.

Humei (synonym Francis B. Hayes). Bright rose, perfectly double, midseason, rather weak stem. 50 cts.

This Peony I have grown for many years under the name Francis B. Hayes. I did not get my stock from Mr. Richardson, but from Mrs. E. M. Gill of Medford, a most careful and enthusiastic gardener. She obtained her Peony collection mainly from Mr. John C. Hovey from whom presumably this Peony came directly. Mr. Hovey gave the name Francis B. Hayes to a Peony he got from Mr. Richardson under the impression that it was one of his seedlings, and there is no doubt that this is the plant so named. This year Mr. Arthur H. Fewkes and Mr. E. J. Shaylor, both most careful men and leading experts in varieties of Peonies examined my plants in bloom and both unhesitatingly said that this Francis B. Hayes is the

old variety Humei. It is just such a variety as would be likely to occur in an old garden like Mr. Richardson's. Further, Mr. Richardson rarely labeled his perennials or kept any track of names. Mr. Richardson had so many seedling Peonies that it is quite natural that Mr. Hovey should have been mistaken in supposing that this variety was a seedling. There is a very excellent colored plate of Humei published in Curtis' Botanical Magazine, Plate 1768, vol. 42, 1815. The description states that the drawing was made from a specimen communicated by Sir Abraham Hume, who imported it from Canton. The variety Humei is further mentioned in the Botanical Register, vol. 6, p. 485, 1820. The published figure and description of the foliage as wrinkled both correspond closely with the character of the plants in my garden. For the above reasons, especially the opinion of Messrs. Fewkes and Shaylor which is the most critically expert opinion that one could have, I treat Francis B. Hayes as a synonym of Humei.

La Rosiere. White, with creamy centre. Charming. 75 cts.

Madame Bucquet. Dark crimson amaranth, free bloomer. 75 cts.

Madame Lebon. Very large, rich rosy crimson, perfectly double, fine. 50 cts.

Marechal Vaillant. Very large, deep rosy crimson, superb. 50 cts.

Marie Jacquin. Globular, semi-double, white or delicate flesh, with yellow centre. Charming. \$1.00.

Marie Lemoine. Large, upright, pure white with cream white centre, late. Very fine. 75 cts.

Monsieur Jules Elie. Delicate pink, very large flower, fine. \$1.00.

Pottsii. Intense dark crimson, semi-double to completely double, varying much in doubleness. Very rich color. 50 cts.

Queen Victoria. White, centre tinted yellow, with some crimson dashes. 75 cts.

Souvenir de Casper Calot. Deep rose pink. Splendid flower. 75 cts.

A CORNER OF MR. RICHARDSON'S GARDEN WITH A PARTIAL VIEW OF HIS HOUSE.

Triomphe de l'Exposition de Lille. Rosy pink, full round flower. Fine. 75 cts.

Ville de Nancy. Carmine rose, late, fine. 75 cts.

Zephyrus. White, touched with pink. 50 cts.

Paeonia albiflora: Richardson Seedlings.

The following Peonies are seedlings raised by the late Mr. John Richardson of Dorchester, Mass., who was well known as a very skilful horticulturist. The Peonies that he originated include some of the finest known varieties. I received my plants directly from Mr. Richardson. Living near him in Dorchester, I was in close touch with him from my childhood until his death in 1887. After his death I published a notice of him, including a full description of his choice Peonies (John Richardson: His House and Garden. Trans. Mass. Horticultural Society for the year 1894, Part I). This is, I believe, the only complete set of the Richardson seedling Peonies listed in a sale catalogue. Many of these have received Certificates of Merit, or Silver Medals from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, as indicated in the descriptions.

Alpheus Hyatt. Beautiful Rose pink, petals a uniform color throughout, very large, perfectly double, a flat flower and late. Extra. \$1.00.

In my list published in 1916 I called this variety *Grandiflora*. As the name *Grandiflora* is in current usage in the trade for one of Mr. Richardson's seedlings which is totally distinct (see p. 14) last year I dropped that name for this variety and revived the name *Alpheus Hyatt* which I gave to it many years ago.

Charles Sedgwick Minot. Clear, satin pink, high rounded flower, perfectly double, fragrant, free bloomer, mid-season. Extra. First Class Certificate of Merit, 1904. \$3.00.

Dorchester. Light clear pink, cream color in centre, perfectly double, erect, fragrant, late. First Class Certificate of Merit, 1870. 75 cts.

Francis B. Hayes. See the variety *Humei*, p. 9.

Ferdinand Stoliczka. Guard petals broad, delicate pink, centre petals narrower, pure white, perfectly double, erect, free

bloomer, very early. A very distinct and beautiful flower. First Class Certificate of Merit, 1904. \$3.00.

George B. Sowerby. Guard petals delicate pink, inner petals white, shaded yellow, long, narrow, wrinkled. Mr. Richardson used to compare it to ice cream in a pink saucer. This variety is very double and exceptionally early. \$1.50.

Grandiflora (synonym Henry Woodward). Light blush pink, lighter in centre, very large flat flower, perfectly double, late. Extra. First Class Certificate of Merit, 1883. \$1.00.

For years I have grown this Peony under the name Henry Woodward which I gave to it, and I described and figured it under that name in the Transactions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for the year 1904, p. 181, Plate 9. Nevertheless this Peony has been widely distributed in the trade under the name Grandiflora and is generally known under that name as I am informed by three Peony experts of unquestionable authority. To avoid confusion, last year in my list the name Grandiflora was accepted and Henry Woodward was treated as a synonym. (See Bull. American Peony Society, August, 1915, p. 17.)

H. A. Hagen. Bright clear pink, uniform color throughout, perfectly double. Very erect and a beautiful color, very free blooming, mid-season. Choice. \$4.00.

Isaac Lea. Rose pink with a slight purplish caste, very large flower, perfectly double. \$1.50.

John Richardson. Blush rose, fine form, perfectly double, late. First Class Certificate of Merit, 1904. \$3.00.

Milton Hill (synonym Augustus A. Gould). Flowers large, cupped, clear soft flesh color, a little deeper if shaded or opened in the house, turns nearly white in full sun before fading. Centre creamy in opening bud, late. A wonderfully beautiful flower, one of the choicest of all Peonies. First Class Certificate of Merit, 1891. \$3.00.

Norfolk. Flowers large, cup-shaped, light rose pink, deeper in the centre. A very beautiful color, perfectly double, mid-season, extra. \$1.50.

Paul Fischer. Bright rose pink, cupped, perfectly double, erect, very distinct, early. \$2.00.

SAMUEL HENSHAW, ONE OF MR. RICHARDSON'S
CHOICE SEEDLING PEONIES

Richardson's Perfection. (Synonym Perfection. Named Perfection originally; but as another and older European variety is called Queen's Perfection and in catalogues is usually listed as Perfection, I changed the name in 1904 to Richardson's Perfection, thus retaining the original name but giving it a distinctive character.) Flower light blush pink, lighter in the centre, shaded to yellow at base of central petals. Perfectly double, very erect, free bloomer, very late. Choice. Silver Medal, 1869. \$1.50.

R. P. Whitfield. Beautiful light pink, shaded lighter in centre, rather flat flower, free bloomer, perfectly double and very late. Extra. \$3.00.

Rubra Superba. Bright crimson carmine, uniform color throughout, large flower, erect, perfectly double, late. The only crimson variety in the Richardson seedlings. First Class Certificate of Merit, 1871. Extra. 75 cts.

Samuel Henshaw. Outer petals clear rose pink tinged with white, inner petals pink and white intermingled, the white predominating. Very large full flower, perfectly double, erect, of wonderful vigor. To get best results should be shaded from the sun, disbudded, as lateral buds injure the shape of the flower, and freely manured. It is then a magnificent and most distinctive Peony. Late. Silver Medal, 1904. \$6.00.

Walter Faxon. Clear bright pink, brighter in centre, the most exquisite shade of pink I have seen in a Peony. Very double but a few stamens show in the centre. Free blooming, mid-season. One of the best and most distinctive of Mr. Richardson's choice productions. First Class Certificate of Merit, 1904. \$6.00

FLEUR-DE-LIS.

These Irises are of easiest culture and present a wide range of color in the different varieties. Plant in well-drained soil in a sunny exposure, setting the rhizomes about an inch deep. Irises can be planted to advantage in clumps or in rows, where many are grown, rows two to three feet apart are more desirable as being more easily taken care of. When planted in clumps a reasonable distance of a foot or more should be maintained between different varieties, otherwise they may grow together and get mixed. Irises are best planted immediately after blooming, as they then begin making root and top growth and will bloom better the next year if planted then. They may

however, be moved at any time from July to September, or very early in spring. In late autumn cut off the foliage close to the ground and burn it. This helps to clear up the garden at a time when there is less hurry than in spring and also it will ensure destroying the eggs of a worm which winters in the foliage and if not destroyed may cause serious injury to the root-stocks the ensuing year. The rhizomatous Irises like lime which may be liberally dug into the soil. Lime, however, is not good for Japanese Irises and probably other fibrous-rooted Irises as well and should not be used on them. In the descriptions, standards signify the upright petals and falls the pendant petals.

Iris Germanica. The Type. Standards blue, falls purple. 20 cts.

Amas (synonym *Macrantha*). Standards blue, falls purple, an enormous flower of great beauty. 25 cts.

Aurea. Rich deep yellow. 25 cts.

Bridesmaid. Standards pale mauve, falls white, slightly veined purple. 25 cts.

Celeste. Soft lavender blue. 25 cts.

Chameleon. Standards rich blue, falls purple blue. 25 cts.

Cordelia. Standards lavender blue, falls rich purple, edged lavender, very fine. 35 cts.

Delicatissima. White, heavily frilled with blue. 20 cts.

Dr. Bernice. Standards coppery bronze, falls rich velvety plum, very fine. 25 cts.

Florentina. White with a slight lavender cast, very early. 25 cts.

Gracchus. Standards plain yellow, falls crimson, netted white. 20 cts.

Ignocita. Standards violet, falls light purple blue veined, free bloomer. 20 cts.

Innocenza. Standards cream white, falls the same but veined with a little blue netting at base of petals, beautiful. 25 cts.

Iris King. Standards beautiful smoky yellow, falls rich maroon, bordered yellow. 50 cts.

Jacquesiana. Standards light coppery red, falls rich maroon. Very distinct and beautiful. 35 cts.

Kharput. Very large, rich royal purple, early. 25 cts.

Khedive. Soft lavender blue. 25 cts.

Lorely. Standards light yellow, falls ultramarine blue, bordered cream. 75 cts.

Machalisea. Deep violet blue, similar to Odoratissima, but a deeper color. 25 cts.

Madame Chereau. White beautifully frilled, with a wide border of blue. 25 cts.

Madame Pacquette. Deep rosy claret, late, a very distinctive variety. 25 cts.

Madame Piffaut. White frilled, with wide border of pink. 25 cts.

Mdlle. Patti. Standards yellow, falls maroon, a striking color. 25 cts.

Mephistopheles. Standards violet blue, falls similar but darker, veined. 25 cts.

Minerva. Standards gray lightly netted, falls white, heavily netted maroon purple. Odd color, distinct, admired by artists. 25 cts.

Mrs. G. Darwin. Standards white, falls the same but with yellow blotch at base of petals, and slightly netted violet at base. 25 cts.

Mrs. H. Darwin. Standards white, falls the same but slightly netted violet at base, profuse bloomer, extra. 25 cts.

Mrs. Neubronner. Very deep golden yellow, darker than Aurea. 50 cts.

Odoratissima. Deep violet lavender, tall and stately, very fragrant, choice. 35 cts.

Othello. Standards purple blue, falls dark blackish purple, profuse bloomer, late, extra. 25 cts.

Palissy. Standards rich reddish brown, falls maroon. Small flower but of rich color and distinct. First Class Certificate of Merit, Mass. Horticultural Society, 1889. 25 cts.

Pallida var. A. Beautiful light lavender. With all the varieties of Pallida I am not sure which this one should be called, so simply indicate it by a letter. It is close to Pallida Dalmatica and came from Mr. John Richardson's garden in 1858. 25 cts.

Pallida Dalmatica. Beautiful light lavender, of great size, superb. 35 cts.

Pallida var. Madame Elmira. Similar to Pallida Dalmatica but with somewhat taller foliage. 25 cts.

Prince of Wales. Standards light yellow, falls crimson, heavily netted yellowish white, low grower. 25 cts.

Purpurea (synonym *Atropurpurea*). Rich dark purple, uniform color throughout, early. 25 cts.

Queen of May. Delicate rosy pink, charming. 25 cts.

Queen Victoria. Standards white with sharp splashes of purple, falls dark purple, striking color. 25 cts.

Rhein Nixe. Standards pure white, falls deep violet blue edged with white, tall and very striking. 75 cents.

Robert Burns. Standards yellow, falls crimson netted yellow. 25 cts.

San Souci. Standards smoky gray, falls crimson, netted pale yellow, very striking. 25 cts.

Sappho. Standards rich purple blue, falls intense rich purple, small flower but very rich, and free blooming. 25 cts.

➤ **Trojana.** Standards light violet blue, falls deep purple, very tall and late. 35 cts.

➤ **Victory.** Standards white, falls dark purple. (Similar to Queen Victoria but without purple splashes in the standards.) 25 cts.

The following varieties, while not named, are amongst the best I have, and where names are not cared for are very desirable.

No. 5. Standards pure white, falls white, delicately veined purple. Very attractive. 15 cts.

No. 56. Standards light yellow, spotted slightly with purple, falls pale yellow. 15 cts.

No. 98. Standards light purple, falls darker purple, early, profuse bloomer. 15 cts.

No. 105. Standards brown, falls deep crimson, netted yellow. 15 cts.

No. 124. Standards brilliant yellow, falls rich crimson, netted yellow, fine. 20 cts.

No. 136. Standards light nankeen, falls rich crimson maroon. From the garden of the late Mr. Francis Parkman. 25 cts.

No. 137. Standards purple, falls very rich dark purple, very beautiful. 25 cts.

Various Species and Varieties of Iris.

Iris benacensis. Violet purple, early. 25 cts.

Iris cristata. Dwarf, being 3-4 inches high, flowers delicate light blue, very charming and a profuse bloomer. This species while a native of the southern states has proved perfectly hardy here in well drained soil, early. 15 cts.

Iris flavescens. Delicate primrose yellow, profuse bloomer, very desirable. 25 cts.

Iris gigantea. A splendid Iris with tall erect foliage, flowers pure white with golden blotch at base of falls, late. Plant in damp soil. 25 cts.

Iris lutescens. Bright yellow, dwarf, blooms with the Iris pumilas. 25 cts.

Iris lutescens var. Statellae. Lighter yellow and taller than the preceding, early. 25 cts.

Iris Monnieri. Similar in habit to *Iris gigantea*, but with beautiful golden yellow flowers. One of the most beautiful of Irises, but a shy bloomer. Plant in damp soil. 35 cts.

Iris Pseudacorus. Bright yellow. Suitable for planting in wet places, even in standing water, yet will do well in ordinary garden soil. 15 cts.

Iris pumila No. 6. Violet purple, very dwarf, 4-6 inches, early, good for edgings. 15 cts. and \$1.00 a dozen.

Iris pumila No. 7. Similar to above but with rich purple flowers. 15 cts.

Iris pumila No. 8. Taller and later than the two preceding. Royal purple. 15 cts.

Iris Sibirica var. alba. Similar to var. *grandis*, white slightly tinged blue. 25 cts.

Iris Sibirica var. grandis. Tall, graceful, narrow foliage, flowers small, light blue, the falls netted white. A most attractive Iris. 25 cts.

Iris Sibirica var. Orientalis (synonym var. *Sanguinea*). Foliage broader than in the type, flowers intensely deep purple blue. 15 cts.

Iris Sibirica var. Snow Queen. Foliage broader than in the type, flowers large, pure white. Very beautiful, late. 25 cts.

Iris spuria. Narrow, tall foliage, flowers light blue with yellow blotch on falls. 25 cts.