

TO OUR WONDERFUL DONORS:

How to Process Rhizomes for the HIPS Sale

Suggestions from the Rhizome Sale Committee

Donors, your enthusiasm and generosity save historic irises by distributing them to other gardeners who love them. Often there is no other known source for an iris that is offered in the rhizome sale. That's huge. Money earned in the sale keeps HIPS afloat financially and helps support vital rescue projects, education, and all the other things HIPS does to preserve irises.

Please understand that the following constructive suggestions will help make the HIPS Rhizome Sale even better. A happy customer returns year after year, and a healthy rhizome means another historic iris has been preserved. For more details, please see the HIPS website.

THE GOLDEN RULE OF DONATING IRISES:

Donate only rhizomes that you would be willing to pay \$6.50 for yourself.

The HIPS Rhizome Sale Situation:

SHIPPING + STORAGE + SHIPPING

Anything you donate will go through the mail, then endure a storage period, and then go through the mail again, in hot and often humid weather.

CHOOSING WHAT TO DONATE

- ★ **Historics are the top priority** and sell the best.
- ★ **Modern irises that are close to 30 years old (i.e., nearly historic) are welcome.**
- ★ **In general, please send four or more rhizomes of any one cultivar.** If something is VERY rare, it's OK to send fewer. When in doubt, ask!
- ★ **PLEASE be accurate with your IDs.** If you are not sure of the correct name of an iris you want to donate, send it as a noid.
- ★ **Give each noid a separate name or number,** like Noid 27 or Aunt Mary's Noid, and email us a photo. **Noids don't sell without photos.**

WASHING

- ★ **Wash the rhizomes** with a strong stream from a hose; let them dry thoroughly.
- ★ **If there is any chance of rhizomes getting mixed in washing, label them first.**
- ★ **Please don't bleach before shipping.** Bleach is

very harsh and hard on the rhizomes.

- ★ **Make sure rhizomes and fans are completely dry before packing,** or they'll mold or rot.

TRIMMING

- ★ **Cut fans 6 inches long.**
- ★ **Remove old bloomstalks.** They snap off easily at the base; if not, cut off close to the rhizome.
- ★ **If you have leafspot starting, PLEASE** cut off the diseased parts of the leaves.
- ★ **Root: trim or not—your choice.**
- ★ **Double-check for borers.** We examine rhizomes carefully when we receive them and again before shipping, but please be vigilant.

LABELING

- ★ **Use a BLACK Sharpie Fine Point.**
- ★ **Spread the leaves of the fan. Write on ONE inner leaf, first wiping off the powdery "bloom." Start at the base and write toward the top of the fan. PRINT.**
- ★ **Abbreviations:** Make sure we understand what you write, so do include a list of abbreviations.
- ★ **A few of our donors staple paper name labels to the iris leaves.** If you do this, please make sure the papers are stapled firmly.

SHIPPING

- ★ **Print your NAME & ADDRESS on the outside of every box.**
- ★ **Ship Priority Mail** and send on a Monday or Tuesday for fastest arrival. Express or Priority Express are NOT necessary.
- ★ **Rhizomes need packing material to keep air moving inside the box; otherwise they mold or rot.** Excelsior, clean straw, cedar shavings, crumbled paper, or clean, dry pine needles make good air pockets.
- ★ **Bundling: If you have several small rhizomes, leave the bundling to us!** We use mesh bags.
- ★ **DO NOT WRAP THE RHIZOMES** in anything, even newspaper. They always mold.
- ★ If you use email, **please email the sale committee when you ship the boxes;** we'll email you back when they arrive. ☞