

Dwarf Iris Society Plant Sale



Guidelines for Donors

Thank You!

Thank you for donating plants to the annual DIS plant sale. The sale is our primary source of revenue, and essential to the ongoing success of our society. Thanks to generous donors like you, DIS is able to flourish and fulfill our mission of promoting dwarf irises to the public. These guidelines help ensure the best possible sale for both donors and buyers.

The Golden Rule of Donating Rhizomes

Donate only rhizomes that you would be willing to buy yourself. Is the rhizome a reasonable size for that class of iris? Is it healthy? Is it properly named? Would you be a satisfied customer if you paid for this iris?

What to Donate

The sale typically offers collections rather than individual plants. A collection of 5–8 different varieties is ideal. It is good if each collection has a theme (e.g., “Willott MDBs”, “dwarf and median plicatas”, “dwarfs of the 1950s”).

- Give each collection a descriptive name. Avoid using numbers in your collection names, as these can cause confusion with collection numbers in our master list, numbers of rhizomes, numbers of collections offered, and so on.
- If you can, please offer multiples of each collection (three to six is ideal). This reduces work for us, and gives buyers a better experience, because collections are less likely to sell out immediately.
- Irises in collections should be MDBs, SDBs, arilbred dwarfs, or dwarf species. Larger types may be included at the discretion of the plant sale coordinator.

New Introductions

If you are a hybridizer or commercial grower and can offer new introductions through the plant sale, that is awesome! New introductions make our sale extra special.

- You set the price at which your introductions are sold.
- Because of the higher pricing, we recommend collections with new introductions be smaller: 2–3 new introductions, or 1 new introduction with 2–3 other recent introductions. It is also acceptable to offer a single new introduction on its own.
- Please provide catalog-style descriptions of new introductions, so that buyers feel motivated to spend the higher asking price. Also include your best photo.

What We Need from You before the Sale

Before the end of May, notify the plant sale coordinator which collections you can offer: provide collection name, list of varieties in the collection, and number of collections offered. You do not need to provide descriptions or photos, except for new introductions. The earlier you can provide this information, the better!

As the end of May approaches, please **inspect your plants** in the garden! Unexpected weather and conditions can lead to fewer increases than expected, or poor-quality plants. It is better to withdraw an offering than to ship plants that will disappoint our buyers.

Donors-Only Presale

As a donor, you may purchase collections before the sale opens to the general membership. The plant sale coordinator will provide you with the master list for the sale early in June.

Preparing Plants for Shipment

After the sale closes in July, the plant sale coordinator will provide you with the names and addresses of the buyers of your collections. It is important to ship your collections promptly, and to send plants that are as fresh as possible. Many donors dig on Saturday and Sunday and ship on Monday. Buyers will then receive plants in time for weekend planting.

- Make sure each plant is completely clean and trimmed.
- Label with a Sharpie or stapled-on paper label. Do not use outer leaves for labeling, as these can wither away quickly.
- Very tiny plants (e.g., *Iris pumila*) can be packaged in small paper or mesh bags.
- Use airy, dry packing material (excelsior, shredded or wadded paper).

Our postage charges reflect Priority Mail flat rate boxes, but you can use a different type of box or shipping method if you prefer.

Please notify the plant sale coordinator when you ship your collections. DIS reimburses your actual postage, if you provide your receipts. Some donors waive their postage reimbursement, as a way of making an additional donation to the society. We are grateful for such donations, but we recognize this is not possible for everyone.

Canadian orders: Collections purchased by Canadian members must be sent **early in July** to Cathy Egerer for shipment to Canada. The plant sale coordinator will notify you on July 1 if any of your collections have sold to Canada members, and put you in touch with Cathy to make arrangements.

Buyer Satisfaction Policy

Plant sale guarantee: DIS guarantees all plants sold through the plant sale to arrive healthy and true to name. Our responsibility for unhealthy or misnamed plants extends up to a full refund for each plant in question, not including shipping costs.

Donor responsibilities: DIS does not hold donors responsible for replacing plants or providing refunds. However, donors are encouraged to work with the buyer and plant sale coordinator to resolve any issues to the buyer's satisfaction. Donors have the best understanding of their own growing conditions and their process for digging, preparing, and shipping the rhizomes.

Donors are expected to be courteous and respectful at all times. Complaints should not be taken personally; we are all fallible. Donors' interactions with buyers reflect on DIS and should be conducted accordingly.

Thank You for Supporting the Dwarf Iris Society!

Your generous donation of plants helps make the sale a success, helps keep the society financially viable, and helps attract new members. We value the work you do on behalf of the society.

Questions?

Contact Rachel Martel, plant sale coordinator, plantsale@dwarfirissociety.org.