



# D. Steve Varner, Illini Iris

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1985

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GREETINGS to our many customers and thanks for your faithful support in our years of serving you. We invite you to visit ILLINI IRIS (pronounced ILL-LYE-NYE) in bloom time. Maximum iris bloom normally is May 18 to 27, and hems peak by July 15. We expect first bloom on over 2000 bearded and Siberian iris and 1000 tet hem sdlg. We can be reached easily via interstates I-57, I-72 and I-74.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED: We attempt to be honest and realistic in our descriptions. Notify us promptly of any complaints or of failure to live. Our Siberian plants normally are larger divisions that clump faster than small plants from other sources. We are charging \$1. to those requesting our list, who were not customers in the last two years. Each person requesting a list will be mailed a list for the current year and for next year for this fee. Mail customers will automatically receive a list the following two years. Descriptions of former introductions will be shortened. More plants of others'; introductions will be listed. Write for specific scarce items.

This is the Lord's garden and only He knows how much longer Steve will be able to care for it. Breeding programs of various hardy perennials continue, with increased peony emphasis. This is a one man operation--don't delay if Illini Iris has plants you are seeking. Summer and fall delivery.

TERMS: Cash, minimum mail order \$10. Please add \$3.00 to help with packing and shipping. Extras are our choice, but list some preferences to guide us. We list only our own bearded introductions but grow many of the best from other hybridizers. Write us your wants and let us quote a package deal on those we can furnish. We ship by United Parcel Service prepaid, but need your street address or directions if you live on RR. Bearded iris orders shipped in order received, starting July 6, Siberians starting Sept. 7, unless you specify desired shipping dates. For nursery pick-up ONLY, we offer over 60 of the finest lilacs.

New for 1985--prices net.

BANTAM: MDB 3052 (Greenlee G48 X self) 6" M Dark red with purple tint. Falls flared and wave ruffled, deeper color near brown beard. Very ruffled standards twist wide open at 60 degree angle. Cream green styles show red midribs and crests. \$15.

HADES: TB V1109 (Spartan X Redenbo 9012A) 32" M Rich, bright, deep red self. \$25.

IRISH HALO: SDB 3014 (Cleo Palmer's 72-59 X Ida Mary Pattison) 12" E-M Flared, ruffled light green falls, slight green veins, white standards and white tipped beard. Wide parts. \$15.

PEACE CHILD: TB V1028 (Involved: Pearl Chiffon, Winterhawk, Crystal Blaze and pink sdlg.) 32" EM Ruffled, excellent form. White falls, light, light lavender standards. Light carmine beard. Produces show stalks. \$30.

COLORADO COLONEL: SIB V795 (sib to Invader) 32" ML-VL Medium blue from purple side, lighter blue edges. No signal. One branch, four buds. \$25.

DEMURE ILLINI: SIB V883 (Showdown X self) 36" E-M-ML Deep grape red. Much of the upper half of falls is white with grape red veins from side to side. Two branches and five buds. Very floriferous. \$25.

DIXON: SIB V888 (Outer Loop X V637 (Dreaming Spires sd.)) 32" M-L Medium deep blue with hint of dappling. Wide, light turquoise-green-blue styles. Two branches, four buds. \$30.

ILLINI FLIRT: SIB V9214 Tetraploid. (sib to Dance Ballerina Dance) 32" M Pinkish lavender rose amoena. Producing beautiful sdlg. with DBD. A breeder's tool. \$25.

1985 Tet Hem Introductions--fall delivery

DARK DELIGHT: S0444 (Ed Murray sdlg. X Illini Jackpot) 30" M-La diu dor. Ruffled petaled, full, recurved, very dark red self except for its M to ML very green throat. Terrific parent with Illini Chief, Illini Jackpot, Johnny Barbour, Ruby Throat and others. Popular at Florida convention. Well rooted single ramet plant \$100 net.

ILLINI MODEL: S0340. 62.5% Ed Murray (sib to Illini Jackpot sdlg X Ed Murray) 36" EM-La diu dor. Ruffled, bright, very deep dark red self except for its medium size light green throat. Excellent parent. Full, recurved, sun resistant. Heavy substance. Multiple, wide branching on sturdy scapes. Long bloom season. Judged Best Seedling, single bloom, at last Chicagoland Daylily Soc. Show. Limited stock. Single ramet plant \$100 net.

Earlier Tet Hem Introductions--fall delivery

ILLINI BELLE: Dor M-L. Recurved wide open, wide red with large green yellow throat. Fine parent. \$10.

ILLINI FIRE: V8428 (Illini Belle sdlg X Illini Mission sdlg) 34" dor diu M-ML 4" Fully double. Ruffled, wide petalled dark red. (light green throat is not seen) 30 buds. Sun resistant. Full form. \$80.

ILLINI JACKPOT: (Ed Murray X B2) 36" dor diu ext M-ML-L. Long bloom season. Excellent branching. 30 buds. Ruffled 6" dark red, M green throat. Exciting parent. \$60.

ILLINI MAIDEN: V9422 (seen in the Rudolph garden as V9462) (Ed Murray X Illini Jackpot) 36" dor diu ext M-L 5" Very ruffled, dark deep red with ML green throat and fine white edge on parts of the petals. This 75% Ed Murray hem was very popular at the '81 conv. Parent of distinctive, ruffled, dark reds. \$90.



ILLINI PRIDE: V9420 sib. to Illini Maiden and very similar. If I had to choose only one for myself, I probably would choose Illini Pride. 36" dor ext M-L. Ruffled, bright dark red with ML green throat. \$90.

ILLINI PUMPKIN: Dor EM. Weather resistant, ruffled pumpkin gold. 40 buds. Top parent. \$10.

ILLINI RUFFLES: Dor ML-re Orange beige blend. Very crimped, pie crust edged petals. Ruffled breeder. \$30.

ILLINI SCARLET: '83 V8570 ((B2 x N1) X Miracle Maid) 32" dor diu. Wide, bright medium deep red, with deeper red halo, chartreuse inner halo and small very green throat. Excellent parent. Tremendous garden color. \$80.

MACHO: 28" ML dor. Wide and ruffled, wide open, cupped edges form. Reddish brown-rose blend with deeper red halo. M chartreuse green throat. Producing light brown sdlg. \$10.

MIRACLE MAID: (Ed Murray X B2) 28" ML. Long bloom season. Dor diu ext. BRIGHT deep red. Green throat. Velvety and sun resistant. One of my best. Won Best named cultivar, single bloom, Chicagoland Show. \$60.

PEONY -- AVIS VARNER: '83 Lactiflora peony #070, 36" M. Reliable bloomer. Large, deep red. Fully double. Excellent substance and stem strength. Fall delivery, 3-eye division. \$100.

#### FORMER BEARDED IRIS INTRODUCTIONS

AGAPE LOVE: TB ML 35". Melodiously beautiful blending of colors in light chartreuse-flesh stds, falls the same with lavender flush and chartreuse edges and hafts. Four branches, nine large ruffled blooms. \$15.

AVIS: TB 37" ML. The best branched stalk for displaying its four and five long lasting blooms at once that I have seen. Extremely wide, heavily substantiated flowers with violet stds, white falls tinted lt. violet. \$6.

BATTLE FURY: TB EM 36". A real red, white and blue garden effect. Std. are delightful violet-blue; falls are lt. violet-white, and the showy beards are red-pink. Excellently branched, 9 blooms. \$12.

BETTY WOOD: SDB EML 13". Extremely long bloom. This is a lovely, flared, ruffled lt. green creamy white iris with soft lt. violet-blue beards and a strong stalk. HM 81. Runner up AM. \$6.

BILL NORMAN: TB Fragrant. Excellent stalk, large wide white. \$6.

CHEERY CHERRY: '82 (Greenlee-Varner) SDB 9"M. Deep red self, lightly ruffled. Orange-red B. Red Breeder. \$5.

CHIEF ILLINI: TB 34" EM. Std. red; falls fluted, flared rose red; lt. orange-brown beards. Seven smooth and velvety flowers well displayed on sturdy three-branched stalk. Lt. brown beard. HM 77. \$5.

DAWN MELODY: TB EM 36". Rose-caramel stds, bright violet-rose falls banded brown. Four branches. \$10.

DISCO DOLL: '83 BB V921 (Blue Warbler X V419: pink sdlg 5243 X 150) 26" EM. 7 buds, 3 branches. Lightly ruffled, delicate pale pink falls. Pale, pale blue pink stds, carmine pink B. Has remained BB five years. \$17.

DIVINE GRACE: TB 34" ML. A pleasing personality in a ruffled, lt. blue reverse amoena. White tipped tangerine beards. Excellently branched stalk. Wide blooms. Strikingly handsome. \$15.

FIRESTONE: TB (Chief Illini X Jewel Tone) M 34". Firestone is a glowing, smooth plum maroon red self with the inner self beard turning brown. Four branches display this fiery jewel. Wide, slightly ruffled. HM. \$6.

FRAGRANT CLOUD: TB, EM-M, 35". Extremely fragrant. Taupe blend of excellent form and branching. \$8.

FULL CRY: TB, EML 36" 5LYO/VLRW6-DYO. Well branched, exciting bicolor blend with light tan cream stds, violet-rose-white blend falls edged brown. Lt. orange beard. Excellent parent. \$8.

GLADYS O'KELLY: TB 36" M-ML. Excellently poised, lightly ruffled, deep light blue self (RHS 107D). Blue beards tipped lt. yellow. Best light blue I have seen. Strong, stately, well branched stalks. \$15.

GOLDEN KIWI: '82 TB 5347 37" ML. Yellow self except ruffled falls are overlaid gold. Orange-yellow beard. Excellent branching and bud count. (sdlg X Miss Illini) Has HC. \$18.

GUYS AND DOLLS: TB, ML, 34". Wide, modern form bicolor-buff stds, rose violet falls edged buff. \$7.

HEALING TOUCH: TB 34" M. Excellent stalk ruffled lt. blue. \$6.

ILLINI JOY: 36" ML. Wide vibrant apricot with a white blaze below the beard. Sturdy stalk. Excellent. \$5.

ILLINI MOON: TB 32" EM. Wide, rounded cream white. Distinctive blocky shape with slightly flared falls. \$5.

ILLINI REPEATER: TB 35" EM. A dependable remontant cream and plum red plicata with all the good branching, bud count, form, substance and charm sought for in a regular TB. Blooms spring and fall. HM. \$8.

LATE REPORT: TB ML 36". This late wide ruffled iris has lt. yellow stds with lt. yellow falls overlaid cream except at the edges. Strong stalks carry 9 buds and 3 branches. HC, HM. \$5.

LEISURE LODGE: '84 TB V1194 (Charisma X Gladys O'Kelly) 30" M. Wide parts. Excellently branched, sturdy stalk, 8 buds. Ruffled, medium deep, medium blue with pale purple tint, and light tangerine beards. \$22.

LILAC AND LAVENDER: SDB ML 7-9". Distinctive--delicate pinkish blending of lilac and lavender. \$5.

LOVE IS: TB EM 35". Uniquely distinctive and beautiful, with conical flesh pink stds and slightly ruffled, wide rose-lilac falls that are deeper at the edges. Very light pink beard. HC, HM. \$4.

MILDRED HARRELL: TB 35" ML. Large, wide, jaunty laced cream with buff tints. Ruffled and airy. \$8.

MISS ILLINI: TB 35" EML Y1F. HC, HM, AM and second for Franklin P. Cook Award. Distinctively beautiful with its smooth color, wide, well proportioned parts lightly ruffled and laced. My favorite deep yellow iris. \$8.



MT. COOK: TB ML 34". Wide parts. Handsome, smooth color combination. Lt. blue stds; white falls. HM. \$12.  
NEWLY RICH: TB 36" ML. Brilliant, ruffled yellow. Brassy and conspicuous. \$8.  
NIGHT TRAIN: BB 27" EML. I think of this border as black even though the stds have some purple in them. A proven BB parent, it has all the attributes of the best TB--13 buds, excellent branching, smooth color, good form and substance--but all in proportion for its height. HM. Clumps often bloom 18 consecutive days. \$8.  
PATRICIA VARNER: TB EML 36". Named for two daughters-in-law, this creamy white and raspberry red plicata has good substance and form on an excellently branched stalk with high bud count. Long bloom season. \$7.  
PATTI PAGE: TB 35" EM. Wide white, hafts have overlay of yellow-chartreuse-tangerine, with the yellow farther from the tangerine-red beard. Lightly ruffled and flared. Well branched stalks. \$8.  
PEARL CHIFFON: TB 36" EML. A true lavender reverse bitone with lavender beards. This well branched, weather resistant, elusively beautiful, big flowered TB DOES have the individual personality, charm and substance that I look for first in an iris. I consider it my best TB iris. \$6.  
PILLOW TALK: TB 38" M. Ruffled creamy white. Show stalk. \$6.  
ROSE GARDEN: IB M 17". Long blooming, veined rosy mauve. Refined show stalk. Delightful FRAGRANCE. \$5.  
STOLEN LOVE: TB ML 36". It gives the best performance of the hundreds of named irises grown here. Beautiful color combination. Blush pink stds, rose-pink falls with lighter area around medium red beards. \$10.  
UP DATE: TB 34" ML. A ruffled beige brown. Falls have a rosy overlay to give a brown edge. Unique. \$6.  
WEE DOLL: MDB (Greenlee-Varner) EM 5". Delightful and distinctive. Std's are light lilac (RHS 97D) and flaring falls are lilac (RHS 94D). Accenting beards are white. Covers the plant with color. \$5.

#### FORMER SIBERIAN INTRODUCTIONS

ANN DASCH: ML 38". One of the most beautiful Siberians. Distinctively charming dappled lt. blue purple with deeper blue-purple edges. Four buds. Graceful and durable. HC, 115 votes HM. 1983 Morgan Award. \$8.  
AVON: EML 38" Cambridge sdlg. Flared, medium blue with light blue styles; no signal. 4 blooms per stalk, well formed and durable. Charming. Long bloom season. HM 81. Producing very blue sdg's. \$10.  
BELFAST: EM 36". One of my best parents. Very floriferous clump. Novel, dappled deep blue-purple with large area in falls dappled full blue with white. Light blue styles. HC. HM 81. \$8.  
DANCE BALLERINA DANCE: '83 SIB, 32" E-M 4 buds, terminal and one branch. (Currier McEwen's T4 72/10 X bee). The first tetraploid "pink" amoena. Suggestive of a dancer's attire, with almost flared, ruffled, full lavender pink falls with lighter band at edges, and wide, pinkish near white standards and styles, it is unique. \$40.  
DARK DESIRE: 36" VE-M. A very vigorous deep blue purple. No signal. Wide of parts. HM. \$5.  
DIANA BLUE: '83 SIB (Belfast X Steve) 30" EM. Flat form, dappled purple blue tritone: dappled purple blue stds, less dappled, deeper purple blue falls and feathered light blue styles with tiny turquoise mid ribs. \$22.  
DUTCH: '84 SIB (Maranatha X Wine Wings) 28" EM. Terminal, one branch, 4 buds. This rich, royal red plum with only little white veins in the signal area gives the reddest garden effect of any Siberian I have. Parent of my best '83 first blooming sdlg. "DUTCH" is the nickname of President Reagan from Avis' home town, Dixon. \$22.  
FRIENDLY WELCOME: EM 36" FB 1. Best bright blue self I have seen. Very wide. 4 buds. HM. \$7.  
HIGH OFFER: '82 SIB V755 38" EM. Lustrous, wide, floriferous, very deep blue purple self. CHOICE! \$17.  
ILLINI CHARM: VE-M 24". Early, low, flared lt. wine-lilac with white signal. Truly a charm--new color combination with the grace of butterflies. 1 branch. HC JC HM Runnerup for Morgan Award 78. \$5.  
ILLINI ENCORE: EML 30". White stds with lt. violet tint and falls are the same but overlaid with an etching of lt. violet. 2 branches and terminal each with three buds whose time lag insures long bloom. HC. HM. \$8.  
ILLINI PEACE: 33" ML. Two branches, 5 buds. Large white white umbrella shaped flower. \$8.  
INVADER: 30" ML. Flared and furled wide parts are gracefully assembled in flat form. Std's are lt. medium deep blue. Falls are medium deep blue from the lavender side. Lt. blue style arms add contrast. \$14.  
KING OF KINGS: '83 SIB (Ode to Love X Illini Encore) 33" ML. Terminal and branch, 4 blooms. Large, wide, white self with faint green veins and shafts. Jaunty form. May be the best white Siberian. \$22.  
KISMET: EM 35" 2 branches, 5 buds. Bright, medium deep red from purple side with small white signal areas. Gives the most red garden effect of any I have. Graceful and charming. Excellent branching. \$10.  
LETITIA: 30" EM. Std's deep blue; falls blue-purple with large white signal. Lt. styles. \$8.  
MARANATHA: EM-ML 38". A wide flat flower in royal purple with branching and lots of buds. HM. Outstanding. \$5.  
MARLYA: ML 34". A large, wide flower in deep blue from the purple side. Good garden color. Durable. \$8.  
NEW WINE: ML 35". Striking contrast. Std's rosy wine-red; falls rich wine, slightly deeper at edges. Style arms aqua-blue with deeper center rib. Easy parent. Most votes for HC in '73. Most votes for HM '81. \$12.  
ODE TO LOVE: EM 32" terminal branch. Very durable, distinctive, wide, rounded white from Dreaming Yellow X Au Sable River. Lt. green shafts. Much poise and charm. Fine parent for white. \$10.



OUTER LOOP: EM-M 32". Distinctively different. Dappled bright medium blue, falls deeper at the edges. Contrasting lt. blue styles. Exceptional parent. One of the most beautiful Siberians to bloom here. \$12.

PIRATE PRINCE: ML 28". (Maranatha X Dreaming Spires). Deep blue-purple stds held upright at 45° angle. Wide flared falls are lustrous rich purple with no signal, but have green overlay on shaft. HC. HM. \$5.

RARE JEWEL: ML 25". Violet-wine-lilac and white with lt. blue styles. Only introduction with this combination. Lower than usual clump has 4 charming smaller flowers per stalk. HM 81. \$10.

REJOICE ALWAYS: 35" VE-M. Early and long blooming. Floriferous. Std. lav. and lilac. Falls deeper. \$5.

SHOWDOWN: 25" M. HC. HM 77. A red violet self I call grape red with wide white "signal" veined aqua-purple. Showdown is set off with wide ruffled aqua-purple styles. Excellent parent. \$6.

SILVER BIRD: '82 SIB V8106 34" ML. Wide, very deep royal blue with slight purple overcast. Tiny edge of silver on falls. Aqua purple styles. Unique. Excellent parent. (Maranatha X Steve) \$22.

SOLE COMMAND: 32" ML. Outstanding BEAUTY! Two large, wide flowers per stem. Gracefully durable. Std. are full blue, falls are dark blue and the wide blue style arms have aqua midribs. \$14.

STEVE: 34" ML. (Tealwood X Blue Moon). Std. deep blue; falls the same; ruffled, all parts wide. Contrasting style arms are unusually wide, ruffled and elliptical. HC, HM, JC. Runner-up for 81 Morgan Award. \$8.

TEALWOOD: 36" ML. Best performing, smooth dark purple velvety Siberian available. Flat form, neat erect foliage. Beautiful, long lasting. One of the best parents. Morgan Award. Excellent. \$8.

WATERLOO: '82 SIB V760 36" ML. Wide, stds rich grape purple. Falls darker with slightly dappled lighter center. No signals. Falls have an "onco" tuck at tips. (Dark Desire X Steve Varner) \$17.

WINE WINGS: EML 32". Floriferous, long blooming red with touch of violet. Beautiful clump. HM 78. \$10.

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	SIBERIANS from other breeders.		All prices net.		*denotes tetraploids.		
ATOLL	\$ 6	DREAMING YELLOW	\$ 8	MOON MOTH	\$20	SILVER EDGE*	\$10
AUGURY	20	EGO	7	ORVILLE FAY*	8	STEVE VARNER	15
BERLINER REISEN	25	FORETELL	14	PINK HAZE	25	TEAL VELVET	20
CLEE HILLS	20	LIMEHEART	7	REDDY MAID*	25	TEMPER TANTRUM	20
"COREY'S PINK"	5	LITTLE TRICOLOR	5	RUFFLED VELVET	15	VALDA	20
DREAMING SPIRES	5	MAGGIE SMITH	22	SHIRLEY POPE	20	VIOLET JOY	20

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Other Breeder's TET HEMS							
ANGEL'S DELIGHT	\$20	CHI. PICOTEE PRIDE	\$20	KING ALFRED	\$15	MOKAN DELIGHT	\$20
BALD EAGLE	10	CHICAGO ROYAL ROBE	20	LEMON LACE	15	SCARLET OAK	30
BRIGHT SUNSET	15	CHICAGO RUBY	15	MASADA	15	SCARLOCK	20
BURPEE ORANGE	15	CHI. WEATHERMASTER	20	NEON YELLOW	15	SILVER TRUMPET	20
CARNIVAL DANCE	15	CHRISTMAS TIME	10	PALACE CONCUBINE	15	SOMBRERO WAY	15
CHICAGO APACHE	30	DAWN BALLET	20	PERSIAN PRIEST	20	SUPER PRIZE	25
CHICAGO BLUE EYES	25	DIVINE GIFT	30	PINE TANGERINE	20	SWEET REFLECTIONS	20
CHICAGO CAMEO	15	GALENA MOON	5	RED POLL	20	TENDER SHEPHERD	20
CHI. CANDY CANE	20	HEAVENLY TREASURE	30	ROSE FESTIVAL	20	TET JAKARTA	50
CHICAGO CARDINAL	15	IMPERIAL GUARD	10	RUBY THROAT	20	WILBUR HARLING	40

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HEMS on Display

Thousands of seedlings

ANN BLOCHER, AGAPE LOVE, ED MURRAY, ELIZABETH ANN HUDSON, GENTLE SHEPHERD, HEMLOCK, HOMEWARD BOUND, JAMES MARSH, MONICA MARIE, POLDARK, ROBERT BRUCE COOKE, RUBY CLARET, STELLA DE ORA, SULTAN'S RUBY, and others.

ORDER EARLY-----Please give desired shipping dates and complete postal and street address so UPS can deliver. List some extras you would enjoy.

Visitors on the way to the Iris, Peony and Hem Conventions can easily reach us from Interstates. We are 1 mile North of the town square on N. State Street.

