

Donating Seed to the SIGNA Seed Exchange

The seed exchange is SIGNA's primary fundraiser and subsidizes the publication of our newsletter and other projects. Please consider donating. It's easy, fun and donors receive special consideration (priority) when orders are filled. Here is what you need to know to donate, but if you have questions contact Sean Zera, Seed Exchange Chair, at SIGNASeedEx@gmail.com or phone (734) 417-7264.

NEW! – We are asking donors from the US to allocate seed into glassine envelopes for sale. This is not absolutely necessary but would be a great help to the seed exchange team. Please contact Sean for instructions and to obtain glassines. Also contact Sean if you'd like help in some other way.

WHAT – Please send seeds of any iris species or any other member of the Family *Iridaceae*. Hand-pollinated, wild-collected and uncommon species are especially sought after. Common and abundant species are welcome and appreciated. Seeds from named cultivars are also welcome. 100 to 400 seeds are ideal, but smaller numbers are welcome.

Hand pollination. PLEASE, PLEASE try to hand-pollinate the species in your garden specifically for the Seed Exchange, either by using two clones of the same species or by selfing. Hand pollination assures that a particular species will come true from seed. This is especially important for those species that readily cross with other species. This is the only way to preserve these true species!

Wild-collected Seeds. Many of us live near an area where irises grow wild. Wild collected seed is extremely popular and the best way to ensure genetic diversity. If you know an area where irises are growing wild, please make a trip to collect a reasonable number of seeds. Even if it is a widespread species, we have many members who would like to grow seeds of your native iris.

Iris pseudacorus. We no longer accept or offer typical *Iris pseudacorus*. Seeds from special forms, colors, hybrids and named cultivars are still welcome.

WHEN – Seeds from US residents should be received no later than November 1, 2023. For late ripening seed, please send a list and brief description by the above date, so they may be included in the list. Foreign donors should send seeds no later than October 1, 2023. All seeds must be received no later than December 1, 2023. Seeds received after this date may be listed on the web site as "Late Arrivals."

HOW – All seeds should be fully ripe and dry and free of other plant material. Please do a rough count of the seeds. Be sure to include YOUR FULL NAME & ADDRESS and email contact. A separate list of your donations with all the information above is very helpful.

Packaging. Small paper or glassine envelopes are preferred for packaging seed. Please do not use film canisters, small boxes or plastic bags. They are difficult to handle and organize and may promote seed loss.

Labeling. Mark each envelope clearly and legibly with your name, the CORRECT NAME of the iris and the approximate number of seeds. For named cultivars, please provide the species name or hybrid group (Siberian, spuria, etc.). Mark the package "OP" for open pollinated or "HP" for hand pollinated. Mark wild collected seeds "WC" and give the location and elevation, if known. If the seed are from plants grown in your garden from wild collected seed, write "ex" then give the above information. Also use "ex" to indicate other sources for seeds or plants (SIGNA, BIS, etc.). Give a brief description of the iris, especially if there are any unique characteristics. Seeds with clear descriptions are always more popular in the sale.

FOREIGN DONATIONS – BEFORE sending seed from outside the US, please email the seed chair for the current regulations regarding import of seed into the US. We will provide detailed information and import documentation to ensure easy, safe and legal transfer of seeds. Again, try to send seeds before October 1.

WHERE – SEND SEEDS TO: SIGNA Seed Ex, Sean Zera, 5635 Thomas Rd, Ann Arbor MI 48108-9758.