

1st draft b. W. June 30/76 page 41

{vertical:}

(39) f. (Dutch White Iris)

(grassy mat)

orig. list Iris #27. Flwd 6/25/76. Pt. J. local (roadside <road's> Bel Belle Terre estate iris) planted 5/76. 1975 <Dutch cultivated> blue iris failed to come up; but blue-eyed grass, identified June 15

↓

flwd June 13 along with D. Wh. Blue-eyed grass, illust p. 27 Field Flowers [as peren <as "Stout b-e-g">, peren 8-18" H, stems

(mat lawn ?

bulbous plant: sisyrinchion Pliny → Sisyrinchium

turf)

branched 2 broad wings, Gray, 458-9, iris f. angustifolium

↓

flwrs pale blue changing to violet; capsule blackish

i.e. narrow-leaved + same as graminoides as in Field

Flowers, L. grāmen via sansk. to swallow gk. grastis <ΓΥΑ = land / field / ?>

Eng. grass - cf herb, gleba <turf> Luc 2, 29; 5, 1392 prostrati

(in tenaci gramine →

in-gramine <in gramine> molli; (the deer(\*) pasturage forgets i.e. fleeing the / wolf

(tennis)

carmina (Odes I 15, 30) A.P. 162 aprici <gramine> campi

↑ warm Campus sun (aprici April apricot)

(no beast touched quadrupes(\*) / . . nec

Vergil E 5, 26 <nec> graminis herba a blade of grass

grāminēus = grassy; corona obsidionalis

a grass crown presented by those delivered

from a siege to their deliverer as highest

military honor Livy 7, 37, 2.

plural of iris short

(sisyrinchium angustifolium(\*))

i preferred

Taylor: (hardy Peren -1 ft H. lvs narrow bluish green Flwg.

↓ (\*)

stalk flat twisted, deep blue, w. 6-pointed white starry

center accented w golden-yellow <(2)> 3-4 umbels <geniculate> knee (kneel)

↳ →

?? plural - ĩrĩ-dēz W.S. Lear etc

Iris (f. Iridaceae) genus w stout rhizomes <or> bulbous

(\*)i.e.

(roading (horse's travel <ordinary> over a road / vs.

D. white etc.

stocks + narrow often (sword-shaped leaves (~~but~~ i.e.

speeding

"Common" roadside Pt. J. <bearded> iris), \*but in some the leaves racing

are almost grass-like. (\*) Flwrs 6-segments arise from

spathe-like bracts; 3-outer reflexed, "falls"; inner 3

smaller, erect, "standards"; both "falls" + "standards"

have at the base a narrow claw, eaH the "haft."

Dutch (2 white(\*)

has the yellow ↓

Capsule 3-celled many seeded pod. Bulbous iris

beardless "Xiphion"\* or "Xyphium"\* Spanish iris —

1) yellow or orange

\*falls fiddle-shaped in the wild form, flower blue-purple

rising them bulb-like corms (underground stem scaleless)

patch(\*)

sometimes membranous, roots at the base nourish

the young plant, propagating cormels, which in turn

become corms — ∴ called "bulbo-tubers"

or | χρώς(\*)

or Xy Xyphioides - English iris, not native, but

via | graze,

via the Pyrenees, imported to Bristol + thought by

? | touches one

the Dutch to be native; narrow channeled

nearly, comes

leaves app = to the stem 8-15" H. Flwrs 2-3 deep

home purple, usually golden-patched, the falls wedge-shaped  
flesh suitable mild climate, but not easily outdoors  
body <sup>^</sup>Homer ΕΙΦΟΣ Doric σκίφος, τό a sword Homer

\* \* \*

page (pg 42) (39) Orig. List #27 (Dutch White Iris)

1st draft ~~W~~ <Wed> 6/30/76  
f Sat 7/3/76

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

stet violet rinks\* kneeing grassleaves curvet  
mementos dutch white iris return  
sees how dear apricot-yellow touch

2nd draft Sat. 7/3/76

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8



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**Sources**

Taylor, *Taylor's Encyclopedia of Gardening*, **Corm, Iris, Sisyrinchium**

Gray, *Gray's Manual of Botany*, **Iridaceae** (Iris Family) > **Sisyrinchium** > **S. angustifolium** (558)

Everett, *Field Flowers*, **Stout Blue-Eyed Grass** (27)

*Century Dictionary (CD)*, **knee, roading**

*Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, **iris**

Liddell & Scott, *A Greek Lexicon*, **ΓΥΑ, χρώς, ΞΙΦΟΣ, χρώς**

Lewis & Short, *A Latin Dictionary*, **grāmen, grāmīnēus, sisyrinchion**

Horace, *Odes* I. 15; *The Art of Poetry* line 162; *Epodes* II. 24

Virgil, *Eclogues* V. 26

**Textual note**

line 8: 6 words

**Dutch White Iris**

line 1: **Irides swordblade road dutch purple**

line 2: **grassleaf wilt blue-eyed grass turned**

line 3: **violet rinks kneeing grassleaves curvet**

line 4: **mementos dutch white iris return**

line 5: **see how dear apricot-yellow touch**

line 6: **grows april white 3-outer narrow**

line 7: **fiddle-waist falls 3-inner smaller standards**

line 8: **all told six based with hafts**

June 30-July 3/76

line 1: **Irides swordblade road dutch purple**

*Webster's Dictionary*, **iris**, *n.*; *pl.* irises (-ěz; -ǐz), irides (ĩr'ĩ·dēz; ĩr'ĩ-).

Taylor, **Iris**. A large genus of herbs of the family Iridaceae, comprising over 150 species, mostly from the north temperate zone, and thousands of horticultural varieties which to the gardener are far more important than any of the species listed immediately below. But over 100 of these species of iris are grown by fanciers and hybridizers, and those listed below are included because many of them have been the parents of most garden irises.

*Iris* is a genus of perennial herbs, with stout rhizomes or bulbous rootstocks and narrow, often sword-shaped leaves, but in some kinds the leaves are almost grass-like. Flowers are in six segments, and arise from spathe-like bracts. The three outer segments are reflexed and generally called the "falls," while the inner three are usually smaller and erect, and are known as "standards." But the falls and the standards have at the base a narrow claw, often called the haft.

**I. xyphiodes.** English iris, but not native there and originally from the Pyrenees. A bulbous iris imported to Bristol, England, and thought by the Dutch to be native there and hence called the English iris. They have narrow, channeled leaves, about equal to the stem which may be 8-15 in. long. Flowers 2 or 3, deep purple-blue, usually golden-patched, the falls wedge-shaped. Can be grown outdoors in mild climates, but not easily.

Liddell & Scott, **ΞΙΦΟΣ** {ξίφος, *xiphos*} Dor. **σκίφος**, *εος, τό*, a sword: in Homer described as large and sharp, and two-edged; later ξίφος was distinguished as the *straight sword*, from the *sabre*, μάχαира (471).

CD, **roading**, *n.* {...} **2.** The continuous or ordinary travel of a horse on the road, as distinguished from speeding. [Colloq.]

line 2: **grassleaf wilt blue-eyed grass turned**

See Taylor line 1.

Everett, *Field Flowers*, **STOUT BLUE-EYED GRASS**, *Sisyrinchium graminoides* {> Grass-like} [Iris family]. Botanically the Blue-Eyed Grass is not a grass at all. It is a dainty and pretty relative of the Iris which earned its common name because of the grassy appearance of its foliage and because of its starry blue flowers. Each flower remains open for but a few hours and closes around midday. About 150 different kinds of Blue-Eyed Grasses are known to scientists. All of them are natives of North America. {...} **FLOWERS:** Blue six-petalled stars, ½ to ¾ inch in diameter, two to four in a cluster. **PLANT:** Perennial, 8 to 18 inches tall. Stems branched, furnished with two broad wings. Leaves grasslike, in tufts (27).

Lewis & Short, **grāmen**, *inis, n.* [Sanser. root gar-, to swallow, Gr βορ- in βιβρώσκω, βορά, Lat -vorus, in carnivorus, vorare, etc., hence, fuller root gras-, Gr γράστις, Lat. grāmen for gras-men, cf Germ. Gras, Engl. grass], *grass* (cf.: herba, faenum, cespes, glaeba) (α) *Sing.:* prostrati in gramine molli, Lucr. 2, 29; 5, 1392; Hor. Epod. 2, 24: cervus graminis immemor, id. C. 1, 15 30: aprici campi, id. A. P. 162: graminis herba, *a blade of grass*, Verg. E. 5, 26; Liv. 1, 24, 5: florem, *flowery turf*, Mart. 9, 91, 1: generosum, Juv. 12, 40: quocumque de gramine (equus), *pasture*, id. 8, 60. —

**grāmīneus**, a, um, *adj.* [gramen], *of grass, covered with grass, grassy*. **I.** In gen.: campus, Verg. A. 5, 287: palaestrae, id. ib. 6, 642: sedile, id. ib. 8, 176: arae, id. ib. 12, 119: corona obsidionalis, *a grass crown presented by those who were delivered from a siege to their deliverer*, among the Romans the highest mark of military honor, Liv. 7, 37, 2 {...}.

Gray, **FAM. 36 IRIDACEAE** (Iris Family) > **3. Sisyrinchium** L. **BLUE-EYED GRASS** > **8. S. angustifolium** Mill. (narrow-leaved).— *Loosely tufted, ascending to geniculate* {> Glossary: Bent abruptly, like a knee} and spreading, the *leaves and stems mostly deep green* (rarely glaucescent) and *drying blackish; leaves submembranaceous*, 1.5-6 mm. wide, shorter than to exceeding flowering stems; *stems broadly winged* (except in young or crowded individuals), *flexuous* or even geniculate, 1-5 dm. high, *mostly forking; peduncles 2-5, loosely ascending, winged*, 2-15 cm. long; *lowest foliaceous bract slightly shorter than to overtopping the flowering spathes, the latter 1.5-2 cm. long, with mostly subequal bracts; perianth pale blue, changing to violet* {...} (458).

line 3: **violet rinks kneeling grassleaves curvet**

See Gray line 2.

CD, **knee** v. **II. trans.** To kneel to.

I could as well be brought  
To *knee* his throne. *Shak.*, Lear, ii. 4, 217.

See Lewis & Short, **grāmen** line 2.

Horace, *Ode* I. 15. lines 29-30 {from Lewis & Short, **gramen** line 2}:

cervos uti vallis in altera

visum parte lupum graminis immemor,

(as the deer forgets its pasturage and flees the wolf seen across the valley)}

**curvet / mementos** < *cervus immemor*

line 4: **mementos dutch white iris return**

See Lewis & Short line 2 and Horace line 3.

See Taylor line 7.

line 5: **see how dear apricot-yellow touch**

See note on Horace line 3 {**see** < visum; **dear** < deer.}

See Lewis & Short, **gramen** line 2.

Horace, *The Art of Poetry*, l. 162 {via Lewis & Short, **gramen** line 2}: gaudet equis canibusque et aprici gramine Campi, ([the young men] finds joy in horses and hounds and the grass of the sunny Campus). {LZ reads *aprici*, meaning sunny, as simultaneously apricot and april}.

Liddell & Scott, **χρῶς** {*chrōs*}, ὁ, *χρωτός, χρωτί, χρωτά*: Ion. *χροός, χροῖ, χροά*: Att. dat. *χρῶ*: —like *χροιά* and *χρωμα*, *the surface of the body, the skin, also the body itself: the flesh*, as opp. to the bone: generally, *one's body, frame*. 2. *ἐν χροῖ*, Att. *ἐν χρῶ*, *close to the skin: ἐν χροῖ κείρειν* to shave *close*: metaph., *ξυρεῖ ἐν χρῶ* it shaves *close*, i. e. it touches one *nearly*, comes *home*; *ἐν χρῶ παραπλέειν* to sail past so as to shave or graze, Virgil's *radere littus* (792).

Virgil, *Eclagues* V, lines 25-26 {via Lewis & Short, **gramen** line 2}:

nulla neque amnem

libavit quadrupes nec graminis attigit herbam.

(no four-footed beast tasted the brook or touched a blade of grass.)

line 6: **grows april white 3-outer narrow**

See Lewis & Short, **gramen** line 2 and note on Horace line 5.

See Taylor line 1.

line 7: **fiddle-waist falls 3-inner smaller standards**

Taylor, **Iris** {see line 1} > I. **Xyphium** (6). Spanish iris. Not very different from the preceding {I. **xyphiodes**, English iris}, but the falls fiddle-shaped, the flower blue-purple (in the wild form) with a yellow or orange patch. Mediterranean region. There are many hort. forms, from among which has arisen the Dutch iris, which is one of the best for forcing for winter bloom and much used by florists.

See Taylor line 1.

line 8: **all told six based with hafts**

See Taylor line 1.