

Miss Frances Edge McIlvaine, Glen Isle Farm, Downingtown, Pa., writes August 12, 1921:

"*Iris ensata*, S.P.I. No. 40766, sent me in February, 1918, from Chico, Calif., has now grown into a good-sized clump. Its leaves have attained a length of some 2 to 2½ feet. Its flowers are very small, a pale blue, but so fugacious one has to be out very early to see them. The introducer's note said:

"The long grasslike leaves are very strong and fibrous and may be used in the garden for tying purposes instead of raffia."

"This could not be tested until this season. I am happy to say, however, that it is quite true. And in another year's time it may become one of the most important plants in my working garden. I tied the strong stalks of dahlias this June, using the ribbonlike leaves of the Iris, wrapping them twice around the dahlia stalk and around a 3-inch stake. It has dried and held perfectly. This will be a great labor-saver, as one could plant it about a garden at convenient intervals and have at hand a perennial source of tying material which is always urgently needed."