November 11th.1924.

Mr.W.R.Dykes,
-Secretary-
The Royal Horticultural Society,
London,
ENGLAND.

My dear Sir:-

I have been reading your "Handbook of Garden Iris" with a great deal of interest, but was rather surprised to find only a passing reference to the very beautiful form of I.Sibirica, known as I.Nigrescens. Indeed I only infer you mean this variety from your description on page 94, as you do not name it.

My experience agrees with yours in that it is not floriferous and grows extremely slowly, but the colour is so rich and the flowers so well proportioned that I find it much admired. Three years ago I crossed it with Blue King and the results were all that could be desired.

The cross which I have named "~~Imperial~~ Caesar" is very vigorous and free flowering with the graceful foliage of Blue King. The colouring is deep velvety purple with the large standards of a redder tone. I think it should prove a valuable garden variety as it is several shades darker than any variety of the Siberian Group that I know. Caesar

I also have a range of intermediate forms, ~~while~~ some have not flowered yet and have the stiff foliage of I.Nigrescens. I will send a snap which will give you an idea of "~~Caesar~~" and will be delighted to send you a root if you so desire. Caesar

I shall also send a few pictures of my new seedlings, which are now under test at Ottawa and New York.

Sincerely yours,

F.C.MORGAN/SB.

P.S. I have just looked up your "Genus Iris" and can find no reference to I.Nigrescens there, but have seen it referred to in a recent reprint of an article by Sir Michael Foster in the Bulletin of the American Iris Society (May 1924 p.25).

Royal Horticultural Society,
Vincent Square,
Westminster, S.W.1.

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TELEPHONE: — VICTORIA 5363.
Secretary — W. R. DYKES, M.A., Lès-L.

All communications should be addressed to "The Secretary."

November 24th. 1924

F. C. Morgan Esq.,
c/o Messrs. H. Morgan & Co. Ltd.
Colonial House,
Montreal.

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your letter of November 11th and for the photographs of the Irises which you so kindly sent me.

I am sorry to say that I do not know of any variety of I. siberica known as nigrescens. As a matter of fact when I used to grow these Irises, I had so many seedlings of my own that I did not bother about named varieties. Now, however, I have a new garden in which I have some moist soil which ought to grow siberica exceedingly well and I should be very glad to have a plant of your hybrid which you kindly offer me and, if you have a piece of nigrescens itself, I should be very glad to have that too. I am wondering whether it is anything like the plant which I used to grow at Godalming which I raised from seeds which I obtained from Japan, which had narrow, stiff, erect foliage. In ~~With~~ my dry soil there it flowered very sparsely, some years not at all, but when it did flower the colour was very rich and dark. Unfortunately, I lost the plant when I had to give up my garden there five years ago. Now, however, I am in my new garden I am getting things together again and should be very grateful for anything of special interest that you could send me and if, on the other hand, there is anything you think I could send you, please do not hesitate to ask me.

Yours truly,

W. R. Dykes

F. C. MORGAN

Secretary.