

EVALUATION OF INTRODUCTION SPECIES OF *IRIS* L. IN THE FOOTHILL ZONE OF CRIMEA

Reshetnikova L.F.

Taurida National V.I. Vernadsky University, Simferopol, Russian Federation
E-mail: l.kirpicheva@mail.ru

One of the main tasks of introduction of decorative plants which is taken in botanical gardens is identification of the most promising species, forms and varieties for implantation in practice of green building.

Long ago species of *Iris* have been introduced into the culture (including selection) as ornamental plants that adorn the gardens and parks. The purpose of this work is studying of introduction possibilities of local and general decorative species of *Irises* and their use in green building in the foothill zone of Crimea. 10 species of *irises* of Botanical Garden collection were the objects of study. Smolinskaya scale was used to determine the success of the introduction and the definition of perspective group. The scale includes 7 main features that characterize the shoot growth, flowering, fructification, vegetative propagation, resistance to pests and diseases, cold resistance, vitality and self-renewal. Studies have shown that in general all species of *irises* collection of Botanical Garden Taurida National University V.I. Vernadsky successfully passed the period of adaptation to soil and climatic conditions in the foothill zone of Crimea and fully display their decorative qualities. The evaluation revealed the success of the introduction of 8 species with a high level of adaptation (28-35 points) and 2 species with an average level of adaptation (21-27 points). *I. ensata*, *I. glaucescens*, *I. graminea*, *I. lactea*, *I. pallida*, *I. pseudacorus*, *I. sibirica*, *I. versicolor* showed a high level of adaptation. These species are promising and stable in the introduction. *I. halophila* and *I. pumila* showed an average level of adaptation. All studied species are highly decorative and recommended for use in gardening and flower decoration in the foothills of Crimea.

Keywords: collection, introduction, phenology, planting.

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