



Twin City Iris Society

News and Views

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bright clear yellow is a difficult color to achieve in an iris that also has the qualities of steadfast color and good substance. One of the best that I have seen is a spuria, 'Archie Owen'. Developed by Ben Hager, this brilliant introduction has many large well spaced flowers open at once on a curved stem that shows off each flower well. The substance is firm, giving an elegant beauty that will compete with any iris of any class.

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It has been a wonderful year. Truthfully I have enjoyed it. My greatest pleasure is to see the members involved in their society, and the initiative taken by the committee chairmen this year has not only been heartening but has made my work easy and fun. In my first message I told you that I have no pretenses and do not read hidden meanings into things. I have tried to treat all our problems openly and sincerely with you, and have found that love and sincerity make diplomacy obsolete.

Each committee chairman has been requested to send in a committee report to help gather items for the next executive committee meeting and to help plan and prepare for the coming year. My sincere thanks to all who have returned constructive reports.

Each of you were commended for outstanding work at the annual banquet but I also want to take this opportunity to officially thank each one of you in the name of the Society for a job well done.

Bring your friends and neighbors to our Nov. 19th meeting and partake of the fun and friendship of our holiday meeting.

- Julius Wadekamper

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY of the Twin City Iris Society is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, at 8 PM at the Guaranty State Bank in Robbinsdale. Party means food and fellowship so this is where the emphasis will be placed - and WE AS MEMBERS PROVIDE BOTH! Have you done any Christmas baking yet? What is your specialty? Make it now and bring some for all to share. This is a part of our Christmas Party.

"Touches of Greens for the Holidays" is the title selected for the program. Three of our own members will bring ideas for decorating our homes at the Christmas season. Some will be old, some new, but perhaps from their suggestions you will find a different approach to one or two of your own.

Plan to come for an evening of fun - and don't forget - WE PROVIDE THE LUNCH - our own favorite Christmas goodies!!! As we share of food and chatter, this can be for each of us the beginning of a joyous and especially festive season.

- Charlotte Sindt

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
November 19, 1970 at 8 PM.
Guaranty State Bank in Robbinsdale
Bring a friend!
"Touches of Greens for the Holidays"

We are indebted to Bill Gunther, Editor of the Spuria Iris Society, who has so kindly supplied us with the article, 'The LANDSCAPING VALUE OF IRISES', already printed up, for this issue. Our special thanks to him. I do have a small supply of iris pseudacorus seeds. If you wish to try some, please address your request to me, NOT the California Garden Magazine, as stated in the article. - Editor.

To all of you who have furnished material for use in the 'News & Views' during the past year, we thank you. Needless to say, the 'News & Views' would have been skinny indeed without your contributions, and we are most grateful for your support. As you know, we have many new members this year. In the winter months ahead, won't you please write of your cultural methods, for the benefit of these new people? We tend to forget that iris culture in Minnesota can be trying at times, even for the seasoned gardener, let alone the novice. Please share your knowledge with those who need it.

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY PAID YOUR DUES
PLEASE USE THE MEMBERSHIP FORM ON THE BACK PAGE

Or, if you prefer, Zula Hanson will accept memberships at the next meeting. This will be the last meeting of the year.

REGION 8 - AIS AWARDS

- AWARD OF MERIT - TB 'Minnesota Glitters' - runner-up 65 votes (Bakke-Messer)
BB 'Miss Ruffles' - runner-up 63 votes (Wright)
- HONORABLE MENTION - TB 'Deseree' - 25 votes (Miller)
MDB 'Lemon Puff' - 58 votes (Dunbar)
SDB 'Tiger Blaze' - 22 votes (Sindt)
SDB 'Parchment Plum' - 15 votes (Sindt)
BB 'Glenzula' - 16 votes (Bakke-Messer)
- HIGH COMMENDATION - TB Dunbar - 'Cranberry Velvet' 7 votes
TB Protzmann - 65-62 7 votes
TB Protzmann - 66-21 5 votes
TB Reinhardt, M. - 68-37 6 votes
MDB Dunbar - 'Jelly Bean' - 6 votes
MDB Sindt - 'Wild Blueberry' - 5 votes
SDB Dunbar - 70-12 5 votes
SDB Dunbar - 67-1 5 votes
SDB Sindt - 'Dancing Eyes' - 6 votes
BB Wright - BB 68-17 5 votes
BB Wright - P-361 5 votes
MTB Dunbar - 68-11 6 votes
MTB Dunbar - 61-5T 5 votes
Siberian Reinhardt, M. - 66-6 5 votes
- 'DARK SPARK' - Sindt awarded 3rd place in International competition for small irises in Vienna, Austria.
- note - Dunbar seedlings introduced thru Region 8.

Forms of Insecticides

1. Dusts are dry powders ready for immediate use. They may contain 1/2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, or 20 percent of the actual chemical. The rest of the dust is a carrier, such as talc or pyrophyllite. Combination dusts with two or more insecticides or fungicides are available. Dusts should not be used in sprayers because they do not mix properly with water or oil.

2. Wettable powders (W.P.) are dry powders which may be mixed with water to make sprays. Formulations containing 15, 25, 40, 50, 75, and 80 percent of the actual ingredient are available. These powders contain a carrier plus a wetting agent which permits them to form suspensions when mixed with water. This formulation is useful on vegetation because it does not injure foliage as readily as do emulsions or oil solutions. High-volume hydraulic sprayers with mechanical agitators are best suited for handling wettable powders.

3. Soluble powders. Only a few organic insecticides, made of newer materials, dissolve in water. Powders of these chemicals are called soluble powders. They may be mixed with water in the same way as wettable powders and used in the same type of sprayers that handle solutions or emulsions.

4. Emulsifiable concentrates (E.C.) are liquids which contain the insecticide dissolved in a suitable solvent and an emulsifier. This permits the concentrate to mix with water to form an emulsion. These concentrates may contain many different amounts of the active ingredient, but the label will give this information plus the weight of active chemical per gallon. For example: 25-percent methoxychlor emulsifiable concentrate contains 2 pounds actual methoxychlor per gallon; 18.5-percent dieldrin emulsifiable concentrate contains 1 1/2 pounds actual dieldrin per gallon; 57-percent malathion emulsifiable concentrate contains 5 pounds actual malathion per gallon, etc. Emulsions may be used in low-pressure low-volume sprayers without mechanical agitation. Be sure the use on plants is specifically recommended or included on the label as emulsions damage some types of foliage. Some insecticides are available as "flowable" formulations; these may be handled in about the same way as emulsions.

5. Oil solutions are solutions, generally ready to use, of the insecticide in a suitable solvent and an oil carrier. Ready-to-use solutions usually contain from 1/2 to 10 percent active ingredients. Some solution concentrates are available for further dilution with oil or to form oil sprays such as those used by aerial spray equipment, foggers, and mist blowers. Oil solutions should not be used on plants or animals except for special uses with special formulations, such as certain fly sprays on cattle.

6. Granules are ready-to-use preparations of the insecticide in or on particles of a carrier, such as attaclay or bentonite. The particles are usually from 25 to 60 mesh in size or from the consistency of granulated sugar to that of coffee grounds. Granules are particularly useful for controlling soil insects because they sift down through foliage and last longer than other formulations. The granules are also effective for corn borer control because they roll down into the whorl of the plant. They may be applied with fertilizer spreaders, seeders, or special granule applicators, ground or aerial.

7. Aerosol and spray bombs contain one or more insecticides, an oil solvent, and a propellant gas. These bombs produce a very fine mist (an "aerosol") or a coarse spray, depending on the purpose of the bomb. The fine mist aerosols are for the control of flying insects, such as flies and mosquitoes, in a closed room. The coarser spray bombs are used to apply a residual deposit of insecticide. You may use some spray bombs on certain plants, but check the labels carefully beforehand. Large aerosol cylinders are available for use in greenhouses, warehouses, etc.

8. Miscellaneous. There are a number of special types. Baits, insecticide-fertilizer mixtures, insecticide-herbicide mixtures, mothproofing agents, etc. should be used according to recommendations and label directions.

The Landscaping Value of Irises

by Bill Gunther

*San Diego-Imperial Counties
Iris Society*

WHEN ANY particular variety of iris is mentioned, any typical iris society member has a "built in" response or reaction. His reaction—almost invariably—is to think about the blossom of that iris. And his paramount consideration is the color of the blossom.

His thought processes have been "conditioned." He exaggerates the importance of the flower and *he thus minimizes the importance of the foliage and of the landscaping value of the plant as a whole.*

The fault for this distortion of perspective rests with the American Iris Society itself. This is because the society has a congenital affliction, seemingly incurable, which can be called "exhibitionitis." The chronic symptom of this affliction is that the society—and its members—evaluate every iris for the exhibition value of its flower rather than for the *landscape value* of the plant.

Every year the American Iris Society and its components award thousands of cups, trophies, certificates, and ribbons of assorted colors to various irises. About 99% of these awards (most of them are ribbons) are awarded at various iris shows, and the vast majority of ribbons go to "specimen stalks." A specimen stalk is a single bloomstalk which bears one or more blossoms. Since these bloomstalks usually are naked of all foliage, it is obvious that all the awards which go to specimen stalks have no correlation with the landscape value of the plant from

which the stalk was plucked.

The very small proportion of American Iris Society awards which are not given at iris shows or exhibitions are awarded on the basis of guidelines which are prescribed by the society in its handbook for judges. These guidelines give fine lip service to the garden value of an iris plant—but they prescribe "weighting factors" for each award which without exception *subordinate the plant to the flower.*

There is an annual award of the American Iris Society for the tall bearded iris which has the best white flower—but there is not an award to the tall bearded iris which has the most resistance to the ugly leaf-spot disease. There is an annual award for the iris of any class which has the best red flower—but there is not an award to the iris which has foliage which is the most evergreen the year around. There is an AIS "color classification" system by which every iris is classified; every

last factor considered in that classification system relates to the flower. The type of foliage and the qualities of the plant seemingly are irrelevant.

The AIS awards system has stimulated hybridizers to work exclusively toward better flowers. In doing this, the hybridizers have neglected to work toward better garden plants—because there has been no stimulation for them to do so. As a result, a situation now exists in which hundreds of new hybrid irises introduced each year have better flowers than any wild species. But the vegetative portion of the new introductions—on the average—is less attractive than that of the wild species from which the hybrids were derived. The foregoing paragraphs are very purposeful. They lead up to—and they explain—a statement which is almost unbelievable, but which probably is perfectly true. IF ALL THE IRISES IN THE WORLD TODAY WERE JUDGED ON THE SOLE CRITE-



Iris pseudacorus photographed by
Paul Runde

RION OF YEAR-AROUND-LAND-SCAPING VALUE, IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE TOP THREE AWARDS WOULD BE TO SPECIES.

The three wild irises which would be very likely to win this very mythical award are *Iris douglasiana*, *Iris ensata*, and *Iris pseudacorus*—not necessarily in the sequence listed. Information about these three species follows:

Iris douglasiana (pronounced "douglas-ee-aye'nuh") is native to coastal areas of California and Oregon. The Pacific Ocean stabilizes the temperature and the humidity of this coast so that *Iris douglasiana*, in its native habitat, very rarely is exposed to hard freezing, to high temperatures, or to extreme dryness. Consequently this iris never has reason for going dormant, and it probably is the most evergreen of all irises.

This species has glossy foliage of a dark blue-green color, the growth habit of each individual plant is very compact, the height of the foliage remains almost constant (about one foot) all year long. The plant is "tough," and almost completely resistant to attacks by insects, bacterial rot, fungus, and/or virus.

Like all plants, *Iris douglasiana* desires garden conditions similar to the natural conditions which pertain in areas where it grows wild. When these conditions are provided, it is a beautiful plant 365 days of the year. And when springtime comes, the beautiful blossoms are a real extra bonus, rather than merely a justification for tolerating a plant which—for about half the year—is a wretched looking eyesore in the garden.

Iris ensata (pronounced "en-say'tuh") is a native of Asia. There are no hybridized introductions which include genes from *Iris ensata* because no hybridizer yet has been successful in attempts to cross *Iris ensata* with any other species to make a hybrid.

The foliage of *Iris ensata* is about 18" tall, very dark blue-green in color, and so slim that it appears almost grass-like. It has heavy vertical veins and is very tough. This foliage is very effective and is very long-lasting when used in arrangements. The blossoms of *Iris ensata* are relatively small; they most commonly are a slate-blue color, but the form which is called "alba" is one of the very few beardless irises which has a white blossom without a yellow "signal" on the falls.

Like *Iris douglasiana*, the individual clumps of *Iris ensata* are dense and compact in habit. But unlike any



Iris douglasiana



Iris ensata

other iris, the roots of *Iris ensata* head straight down, and deep down, to reach deep-under moisture. For that reason, its foliage stays healthy and green when the weather gets so dry and hot that every other iris would either die or go dormant.

Iris pseudacorus (pronounced "soo-da'koh-rus") is a native of nearly all of Europe and of parts of North Africa, Asia Minor, and Siberia. As indicated by its wide natural habitat, it is a very adaptable plant. In comparison with other irises, this species is extremely vigorous, very large, and practically disease free. It requires more water than most irises; it often is advertised as a "water-iris" because it will grow very well in a swamp or poolside location.

The foliage of this iris is a rich green color; the individual leaves have

a tough central vein which serves as a stiffener; in the summertime the foliage will reach to a height of five feet without flopping. *Iris pseudacorus* apparently is immune to leaf spot and to virus infection.

It is so versatile that when growing in an area of severe winters it goes dormant during the winter; when growing in an area of mild winters but dry summers it goes dormant during the summer; and when given mild and moist conditions the year around it remains evergreen the year around.

The blossoms of *Iris pseudacorus* do not have grand size or heavy substance or flaring form—but they do have a delicate and fragile type of beauty which can be matched by no other iris. (The judges of the 1967 iris show in Sacramento, California, must have been he-men who were particularly sensitive to delicate and fragile types; they chose *Iris pseudacorus* as the "Queen of the Show.")

The color of the blossom usually is a light yellow self, but a brown signal is prominent in some forms. The rhizome (root) of this iris attains the size and fleshiness of a sweet potato. In favorable conditions a clump of *Iris pseudacorus*, if not restrained, will expand to the point where it will choke out neighboring plants. The best way to restrict the clump to the size desired is to chop off all rhizomes which grow outside the perimeter of this area which is assigned for this iris. The rhizomes which are chopped off can be given to friends for use as starts for their own clumps.

Anyone who has a moist spot in his garden for *Iris pseudacorus* may obtain a half dozen seeds of this plant by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to the CALIFORNIA GARDEN magazine. There is no charge.

These seeds should be planted about a half inch deep and kept moist until they sprout; the young plants should be kept moist until they mature and bloom; and the mature plants should be kept moist indefinitely. ■

Editor's Note:

This article was written for and directed to southern California gardeners who comprise the readers of the California Garden magazine. *Iris douglasiana* and *Iris ensata* thrive in southern California—but they might not survive the winters of Minnesota.

(reprinted, with permission, from the California Garden, April/May 1968)

The Arils in March in Southern California
as seen by Julius Wadekamper

The entire Wilkes' garden in Tujunga is occupied by arils and the species oncocyclus and regaliocyclus, as well as their various intercrosses. Austin's 'Persian Embroidery' an RC was well grown. The standards are white to a very light flushed blue, fine veined. The warm ivory falls were sanded with specks and have finely netted veins. It grows 12-14" tall with excellent form. It is a good increaser.

A good 12" seedling was Korolkowii x OY40-A. It shows violacea very dominantly and has a deep black beard. Most korolkowii - violacea seedlings seem to show this dominance.

RC56-11A x (Lortetii x Aurenitica) x W118 x)Y40 x 53-44, an RC, was also a very fine seedling of Tom Wilkes. The standards were large and tan and the small recurved falls were brown. It has a reddish brown spot and is quite prolific. It grows from 16-18".

John Holden's HA-18-A with pale gray standards and a cinnamon colored beard was very beautiful. It was blooming at 6" but is said to normally grow taller.

A Bushey seedling B-S-5 had very impressive styles. It is a delicate light blue with veined standards and a very dark signal.

Austin's 'Bagdad Beauty', an oncocyclus, is truly a beauty. Although it has no pollen it grows and increases well, is fertile and the seeds germinate well. It was wine colored base in the standards and darker falls and a very dark signal. It is said to remain open many days, even in inclement weather.

Another Austin introduction is 'Persian Pansy' a RC from hoogiana and said by Mrs. Wilkes to be the only known tetraploid RC known so far. It is a bright metallic violet with a recessed yellow brown beard.

Kerr's 55-5-0 has real aril form but no pollen. The beautiful large standards are blue purple and the falls are spotted. K-56-20 has a light background, tannish veins and a brown spot. It is also very beautiful.

Mrs. Wilkes arilbreds stress the C.G. White breeding lines. They are crosses between tall bearded and onco irises. One, numbered W-7 that she believes to be 3/4 onco, but which has subsequently been lost is used extensively by her in her breeding program. She also has some excellent seedlings from 'Syrian Moon'. The best of these are yellow with brown signals.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME _____		TELEPHONE _____
ADDRESS _____		
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP CODE _____
AMOUNT OF DUES _____		
TWIN CITY IRIS SOCIETY _____	SINGLE \$1.50	MAIL YOUR REMITTANCE TO: Mrs. Glenn Hanson 7124 Riverdale Road Minneapolis, Minnesota 55430
" " " " _____	FAMILY \$2.00	
MINN. HORT. SOCIETY _____	SINGLE \$2.50	
AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY _____	SINGLE \$7.50	

Please mail your membership dues to Zula Hanson by January 1, 1971.
Please note the increase in dues for the Minnesota Horticulture Society.