



# Twin City Iris Society

## News and Views

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sometimes a color is unique in an iris and is not easily duplicated. Such a color has been the raspberry pink of Mary Randall. A new, much improved iris in that color class is Dave Niswonger's 'Raspberry Ripples' 68. It is a deep rose purple self, very laced and excellently branched, one of the increasing number of exceptional iris coming from Dave's garden. A 'Pink Fulfillment' x 'Orchid Jewel' seedling was crossed with 'Rippling Waters' giving 'Raspberry Ripples', a recommended iris for any garden.

Our auction was a success. The attendance was better than any I can remember, over 70 adults being present. Bidding was animated and the income very good. Also, on Sunday, August 23rd, a rhizome sale was held at the Arboretum, with the proceeds going to the Arboretum and the Twin City Iris Society. We had no idea if this project would meet with success or be a total failure. Happily many people turned out and buying was animated. We exceeded our goal of \$400 in sales and all had a good time. I want to take this opportunity to thank those who helped so generously; Zula Hanson, Betty and Urban Ipsen, Dorothy and Stan Rudser, Ceil and Ernest Mutterer, Lois and Warren Johnson and children, and Jim Seeden. The dwarf irises were especially popular at this sale. I also want to thank all who donated rhizomes for the sale.

Many new members have been added to our roster as a result of the June Show, the auction and the arboretum sale. (See back page -Ed)

I am happy to report that our leaflet Iris Culture in Minnesota has had wide acceptance and that the 2nd edition is being planned. This edition will be published by the Agricultural Extension Service of the University and will include pictures and drawings.

Several of our members have been hospitalized this summer and we wish them all a speedy recovery. Mary Protzmann, Judy Goddard and Ann Johnson.

All iris rhizomes should be planted by now, making good growth for an excellent bloom season next year. Avoid excessive watering, especially in established clumps, if they look dry (that is their nature at this time of the year). The seedlings are growing very well and are showing remarkable increase.

We hope to see you all September 17th and extend a special invitation to new members and anyone else interested to see slides from the American Iris Society. Bring a friend along.

- Julius Wadekamper

### PRESIDENT-

Julius Wadekamper  
2700 North Oxford  
St. Paul, Minn  
55113

### 1st VICE-PRES-

Glenn Hanson  
7124 Riverdale Rd  
Mpls, Minn 55430

### 2nd VICE-PRES.

Ed Holloway  
5501 Emerson No  
Mpls, Minn 55430

### TREASURER-

Manfred Warmuth  
3656 Gettysburg  
Mpls, Minn 55427

### RECORDING SEC-

Virginia Messer  
Rte 2 Box 280  
Excelsior, Minn  
55331

### CORRES. SEC-

Gertrude Hain  
4111 Humboldt No  
Mpls, Minn 55421

### EDITOR-

Mary Divall  
4019 41 Ave So  
Mpls, Minn 55406

REGULAR MEETING  
September 17, 1970 8:00PM  
Guaranty State Bank - 3700 West Broadway

Slides on BEARDLESS AND BULBOUS IRISES from the American Iris Society

Bring a friend

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The North Star Lily Society will hold a bulb sale at the University of Minnesota Arboretum October 11, 1970. Bulb table sales begin at 10:30 AM with an auction of choice cultivars following the general membership meeting in the early afternoon (2:30). There will be a selection of cream through yellow unnamed spuria irises available for anyone interested at reasonable cost.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS:

Studies are underway at the University of Minnesota, Department of Plant Pathology on Scorch in irises.

Dr. Kennedy, a bacteriologist, and Dr. Dave MacDonald have been aided by a graduate student Bob Crow in isolation of the causal organism. They are trying to reinfect irises with the organism to prove or disprove its effect, and gain information on any other relationships to this disease. Keep your fingers crossed and we may have the cause and cure before too many growing seasons have passed.

"INFORMATION PLEASE"

Where do we go with insecticides now that D.D.T. is banned? Sevin is supposed to be an answer but this year proved ineffective against borer and thrips. Mr. Gable has had luck with Cygon. Two of us have used Meta-systox R. another systemic, with varying degrees of luck.

If you have had success with something, using a regular spray routine, please let the editor know.

Cygon has the lowest toxicity rating of the systemics and is therefore safest to handle. DDT and Dieldrine are both banned or restricted as of last July.

There will be a new insecticide available next year that offers biological elements of control but the two of us testing it on irises have yet to get concrete results.

- Warren Johnson

THANKS FROM GUS:

"Thank you all for the tremendous response to the 1970 TCIS show. The work is finally done... Again thanks for helping put on a tremendous show". - Gus

LIBRARY NOTES:

"The Median Maze" written by Carol Lankow and published in the June issue of the Sooner State Iris Society "Iris News". A delightful piece. Ask your librarian for this bulletin. (You will find many fine articles in some of the other issues, also.)

"What About Judges?" by Charlotte Sindt, published in the June 'Minnesota Horticulturist', gives you an insight into judging at flower shows.

"Toward Harmony in Horticulture" by Dr. Peter Ascher, published in the 'Minnesota Horticulture'. Part I - the Collector can be found in the December, '69 issue and Part II - the Specialist is in the March '70 magazine. Surely you didn't miss these two gems! Should be required reading for all iris gardeners!

The following information has been taken from the "Index to plant chromosome numbers" published by the California Botanical Society and the National Science Foundation.

Gam: means chromosome numbers obtained from meiosis of gamete cells.

Spor: chromosome numbers obtained from sporophytic cells.

Iridaceae: family number 45

IRIS	GAM.	SPOR.	REFERENCE	IRIS	GAM.	SPOR.	REFERENCE
albertii Regel		24	Mitra	japonica Thunb.		36	Shar.&Ta'60
aphylla L.		48	Mitra	napalensis		30	Shar.&Tal'60
arenaria Waldst & Kit		22	Mitra	tectorum Maxim.		32	Shar&Tal '60
attica Boiss		16	Mitra	albertii Regel		24	Randolph&Mitra
balkana Janka		24	Mitra	brevicaulis Raf.		42	Randolph & Mitra
bosniaca Bac		24	Mitra	elegantissima Sosn.		20	Randolph & Mitra
cengialti		24	Mitra	fulva Re		42	Randolph & Mitra
croatica Horvat unpubl		48	Mitra	fulva 21		42	Riley 1942
cypriana Fos. & Baker		48	Mitra	furcata M.Beib.		24	Randolph & Mitra
douglasiana Herb		40	Lenz	giganticaerulea Small		44	Randolph & Mitra
flavissima Pullac		22	Mitra	" X I. brevicaulis		43	Randolph & Mitra
gatesii Foster		20	Mitra	hexagona 22		44	Riley 1942
hoogiana Dykes		44	Mitra	imbricata Lind.		24	Randolph & Mitra
illyrica Tomm		24	Mitra	longiceorpa Ledert.		18	Randolph & Mitra
imbricata L.		24	Mitra	paradoxa Stev.		20	Randolph & Mit61
kashmiriana Baker		24,48	Mitra	pumila L.	30,31,32		Randolph & Mi 61
lortetii Borb		20	Mitra	scariosa Willd		24	Randolph & Mi 61
mellita Janka		24	Mitra	sulfaria c. Koer.		24	Randolph & Mit 61
Mesopotamica Dykes		48	Mitra	taurica Loddiger		32	Randolph & Mi 61
pallida Lam.		24	Mitra	timofejewii C. Woron		24	Randolph & Mi 61
perrieri Simonet unpub		24	Mitra	versicolor L.		108	Love & Love 1961a
pseudopumila Tineo		16	Mitra	sp.(Abbeville Red)	42,43		Randolph & Mi 61
pumila L.		32	Mitra	aphylla bohémica Sch.	48		Skalinsra 61
reginae Horvat		24	Mitra	balkana 22II22+1IV			Simonet 62
reichenbachii Heuffel		24	Mitra	macrantha 22II+1IV			Simonet 62
soforana Foster		20	Mitra	hoogiana			Simonet 62
stolonifera Maxim.		44	Mitra	pseudacorus L.	24,32,34		Skalinsra 61
tenuis Nutt.		28	Lenz	pumila 16			Simonet 62
trojana H.Kern		48	Mitra	siberica L.		28	Skalinsra 61
variegata L		24	Mitra	brandzae Prodon		20	Lenz & Day 63
Vol. 1957				carthaliniae Fom.		44	Lenz & Day 63
foetidissima L.		40	Mori	collettii Hook.fil.		30	Larson 63b
pseudacorus L.		34	Mori	crocea Jacq.ex Baker		40	Lenz & Day 63
Supplement page 32-				graminea L.		34	Lenz & Day 63
florentina L.		44	Suzuna 1953	halophila Pal.	44,66		Lenz & Day 63
tenax Parish var. australis Foster		20	Lenz 1950	kerneriana Asche & Sin	18		Lenz & Day 63
Vol. 1959				klattii Kem. Vat.	44		Lenz & Day 63
attica		16	Rand & Mitra '59	maritima L		38	Lenz & Day 63
danfordiae		27	Rand & Mitra '59	monnieri D.C.		40	Lenz & Day 63
histroides var. Major		16	Rand & Mitra '59	ochroleuca L.		40	Lenz & Day 63
histroides		17	Rand & Mitra '59	pseudocorus L.		34	Gadella & Klip63
pseudopumila		16	Rand & Mitra 59	setosa Pall.	34,36		Sonolovskayer
pumila	30,32		Rand & Mitra 59	setosa		38	Hora & Kuro 63b
reticulata var Clarette	20		Rand & Mitra 59	setosa var hodoensis	54		Hora & Kuro 63b
reticulata var ViBty	18		Rand & Mitra 59	setosa var. Hara	54		Hora & Kuro 63b
speculatrix		44	Lenz 59	sintensii Janra		16	Lenz & Day 63
wattii		30	Lenz 59	spuria		22	Lenz & Day 63
winogradowii		16	Rand & Mitra 59	urumovii vel.		20	Lenz & Day 63
fulva 21		42	Riley 1942	sp		40	Lenz & Day 63
germanica L.		44	Shar & Tulu 60	aphylla L. ssp. boh.	48		Weislo 64
hexagona var gig.22		44	Shar & Tulu 60	illyrica Tommac	24		Lansi 64
				pseudocorus L.	34,32,24		Weislo 64
				siberoca L	28		Weislo 64

### DDT Restriction

As of December 20, 1969, the USDA cancelled the registration for all uses of DDT in four major areas:

1. On shade trees.
2. On tobacco.
3. In or around the home.
4. In aquatic environments such as marshes, wetlands, and adjacent areas.

DDT may be released for use in or around the home and in aquatic environments if public health officials determine it is needed for control of insects that transmit diseases.

All federal or state insecticide recommendations affected by the above restriction of DDT should be discarded.

Insecticides continue to be an essential part of insect control programs. Effective safe, and economic insect control depends upon proper identification of the pest, a knowledge of its habits and biology, and an intelligent selection of the best combination of practices and chemicals avail.

It is extremely important to store and use all pesticides properly to avoid injury to:

1. The person applying the chemicals;
2. Children and others who may come into contact with improperly stored chemicals or application equipment;
3. Treated crops or animals through overtreatment, through selection of the wrong formulation, or because of illegal chemical residues;
4. Adjacent crops and livestock because of drift;
5. Fish, wildlife, and other nontarget organisms in the treated area.

#### GENERAL PRECAUTIONS FOR USING PESTICIDES

1. Always read the label before using sprays or dusts. Note warnings and cautions each time before opening the container.
2. Keep sprays and dusts out of reach of children, pets, and irresponsible people. Sprays and dusts should be stored outside of the home, away from food and feed, and under lock and key.
3. Always store sprays and dusts in original containers and keep them tightly closed. Never keep them in anything but the original container.
4. Never smoke or eat while spraying or dusting.
5. Avoid inhaling sprays or dusts. When directed on the label, wear protective

clothing and masks.

6. Do not spill sprays or dusts on the skin or clothing. If they are spilled, remove contaminated clothing immediately and wash thoroughly.
7. Wash hands and face and change to clean clothing after spraying or dusting. Also wash clothing each day before reuse.
8. Cover food and water containers when treating around livestock or pet areas. Do not contaminate fish ponds.
9. Use separate equipment for applying hormone-type herbicides in order to avoid accidental injury to susceptible plants.
10. Always dispose of empty containers so that they create no hazard to humans, animals, or valuable plants.
11. Observe label directions and cautions to keep residues on edible portions of plants within the limits permitted by law.
12. If symptoms of illness occur during or shortly after spraying or dusting, call a physician or get the patient to a hospital immediately.

#### PROVIDE FOR SAFE DISPOSAL OF EMPTY CONTAINERS

For all empty containers of all types: Do not reuse the container. Completely empty the contents and bury the unused chemical at least 18" deep in an isolated location away from water supplies. The best place to take empty containers of all kinds is a properly operated sanitary landfill dump maintained by a city or community. If such a dump is not available, the following procedures should be followed:  
Glass containers: Break and bury pieces 18" deep away from water supplies.  
Fiber & paper containers: Burn completely. Exercise extreme caution and stay well away from the smoke.

(continued - DDT Restriction)

Always read and follow the directions and precautions on the label of a pesticide container. Handle empty containers as carefully as those that are full.

#### GERMINATING IRIS SEEDS

My method is somewhat similar to that described in the last AIS Bulletin but much easier, in fact a lazy way, but it works. Years ago I got a copy of Prof. Mitchell's book Iris for Every Garden and read of the "Cluff Method," and tried it, soaking pieces of paper towels in agar solution, etc., keeping everything very sterile. A brother-in-law who had been my Biology teacher in college got me the agar from the lab. I began to wonder what would happen if I used plain water instead of the agar solution and vermiculite instead of paper toweling. It worked even better. Gradually I began to revise my methods to make things easier. One year I got 88 seedpods, most of which I started indoors. At first I soaked the seeds only a minute or so in pure chlorox and then one day, just by accident, I left a seedpod (loose seeds) of Wabash x Chantilly in the chlorox at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour. They were white when I removed them and terribly slippery to work with but I got 37 plants from that one seedpod! And Lloyd Austin's Manual listed Wabash as a poor germinator!.... So ever since I let the seeds soak several minutes in the chlorox usually until they begin to turn color, then rinse with clear water, add more water and soak overnite or until the seeds have swelled considerably. I like to use peanut butter jars or instant coffee jars for just a few seeds.

When seeds have swelled, I pour the water off, rinse, and then with my thumbnail I scrape away the outside seed coat at the end where the seeds were attached. This is usually the most pointed end. But with some rounded or triangular seeds this is harder to find. Sometimes you can see the scar with a small magnifying glass. But, as I've told my neighbor, when you scrape the end and it has a brown area underneath, that's the wrong end; try the other end. Then I cover with water again and let stand overnite. Sometimes this step drags out to several days, but overnite is usually long enough.

Then I use a very sharp paring knife or better yet, a razor blade, and slice the pointed tip off. I have the same jar with label and date attached with scotch tape and half-full of vermiculite, and space the seeds lengthwise on top of the vermiculite. Do not push the point down; if so, the radicle or root will be pointed downward but the green shoot will have to twist to grow upwards. If laid with point horizontal, the root will turn down and the place where the first leaf originates is in perfect position to reach for light and grows quickly.

I usually sprinkle a little vermiculite over the seeds, then water moderately, cover with the lids with holes punched in for ventilation, then stand on a window ledge in my kitchen.

After the plants are so high they bump the lids, I remove the lids, keep well watered. Sometimes I water with Hyponex solution, but not unless the ground is too frozen to get any for transplanting. I use cat food cans (3" height) milk boxes, etc. for transplanting and common garden soil, fresh from the garden (no sterilizing!)

from ZETA ROBIN -  
(Letter of Kathryn Heilman)  
Lebanon, Pennsylvania

"THOUSANDS of Minnesotans participated in the state-wide environmental teach-in.... We need a re-examination of priorities. The environmental focus demonstrates the urgency of basic, comprehensive conservation education. Most certainly, we need citizen support for broad environmental policies encompassing our land, air and water resources. Above all, we cannot "stop" after merely defining environmental problems. " - Harold Levander, Governor of Minnesota.

from Conservation Volunteer



## IRIS PALLIDA

Iris pallida, probably native to Tirol is a major species contributor to our modern TB iris. It is distinguished by its scarious or paper like spathes. Some of pallida's characteristics are undesirable by today's standards, and hybridizers are trying to rid the newer cultivars of them. These are haft markings, narrow falls and dull color. Pallida also has desirable characteristics, thick beards, zig-zag stems with good branching and good substance and fragrant flowers. Dykes states that Iris plicata is a form of pallida "either an approximately albino form or a hybrid., in which some factor or combination of factors succeeds in suppressing the purple color except for the veins on the edges of the standards and falls." Mme. Chereau is perhaps the best known example.

IRIS PALLIDA

The variegated leafed irises are forms of iris pallida. Several good garden forms have been grown in the past including Albert Victor, Assaurey, Dalmatica Princess Beatrice, Delicata, Madame Pacquette and Queen of May, all light lavender or soft rosy lilac in color. It is interesting to note that a knowledgeable garden writer, Brock, stated that "no more beautiful garden flower could be named than I. pallida-dalmatica." This was before 1935.

- J. Wadekamper

## DON'T BE WITHOUT A SMALL SPRAYER

Last year I purchased a small plastic sprayer at Warner's Hardware for \$1.95. It has a small tube or plastic hose that plugs into a jug or bottle. The nozzle is adjustable from a small stream to a mist. The sprayer handle is pumped with the fingers of the right hand as the spray is directed toward the leaves. It is ideal for spraying a few infected plants when it is too big a job to use the power sprayer. It is all plastic, nothing to rust or corrode.

I have another small plastic sprayer. It has a plastic bottle that holds about a pint. The mechanism is the same as the above sprayer. I've quit digging dandelions and other weeds out of my lawn. I just pull off the flower and put it in my jacket pocket, give one shot of spray with weed killer solution and no more dandelion. They don't die immediately but curl and later disappear. You may find a few dandelions in my lawn if you look real hard but if they ever show yellow they'll get the treatment.

- Gabe

## Please add these members to your yearbook -

Mr. Wm Bledsoe (honorary) Fayetteville, Tenn.	Jim Seeden 2606 W 93rd St Bloomington, Mn
Mr. Bob Paulson 2375 Como West St. Paul, Mn	Winona Flower and Garden Club
Mrs Shirley Elavsky 5824 Elliot So Mpls. Mn	c/o Mrs Wm Schwab Box 528 Winona, Mn
Mr&Mrs Al Westerberg 5229-10th Av S Mpls. Mn	Dr Clarke Cosgrove (honorary)
Mr&Mrs M Rademacher 7708-64th Av N Mpls, Mn	8260 Longden Av San Gabriel, Cal
Mr&Mrs Weldon D Arndt 1201 83rd Av N Mpls. Mn	Mr&Mrs Vernon Weeks 3740 Louisiana Mpl:
Mrs Leonard Schmidt Okabena, Minn	DE Karnstedt 980 W como Av St Paul, Mn
John B Potter Box 398 Long Lake, Minn	Claire&Constance Groth 708 Merrivale So
Dr&Mrs Anton Lyzenga 13209 Myrtle Drive	Minnetonka, Mn
Burnsville, Mn	