

NEWS AND VIEWS  
of the  
*Twin City Iris Society*

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Edythe Burns, Editor

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Our February meeting was held in St. Paul. We all enjoyed Dr. H. F. Arneman's talk on soils. It was very informal and the many questions asked Dr. Arneman indicated a definite interest in the program.

During the business meeting preceding the program, Pres. Vic Bates asked for a vote on buying a gavel for the Society and after a brisk discussion his request was voted down and we remain gavel-less. Luckily, Mrs Hanratty just happened to have a spare potato masher in her purse and it was used by Vic as a gavel for the balance of the meeting. Incidentally she was the only lady present who had one.

Quite a few nice comments were made in regard to the new paper for the N & Vs and also our new stationary.

Mrs O. A. Bakke and her committee served the refreshments, coffee and cake.

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LAST CHANCE

This is the last issue of the News and Views you will receive unless you have paid your 1956 dues. The mailing list is formed anew each Spring from the list of paid up memberships. So be sure and check both last months and this issue of the N & Vs to see if your name is included.

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Corrections and Additions to the Membership List  
(as of March 9th 1956)

MR. NATHAN BURNS 1707 77th Ave. No. Minneapolis 12, Minn.	Adah and Ruth Anderson (corr.)	810 Edgemoor Dr.	Hopkins, Minn.
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	Mrs Anna B Wilcoxon		Slayton, Minn.
	Mrs Carl E Johnson	2508 Byrd Ave No.	Minneapolis 22.

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Color Slides

Mr E. H. Hunt, secretary of the Minn. Hort. Soc., would appreciate very much the loan of any good color slides of iris- just long enough for them to be duplicated. The Hort. Soc. has had many requests for iris slides and needs a collection of them badly. Either send them directly to Mr EM Hunt, Minn State Horticultural Society, U of M, St Paul Campus, St Paul 1, Minn., or bring them to a meeting and I will see that Mr Hunt received them. (editor)

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IRIS  
(oncocyclus species)

From western Asia:

Huge blooms strangely marked. Signal patch about the beard.  
Season of bloom, May; height from 10 to 20 inches.  
Culture: Lift and keep dry after bloom, replant in late fall - otherwise same as tall bearded iris.  
EXAMPLE: Susiana iris and Gatesii iris, etc.

(Regelia iris)

Related to oncocyclus iris but of different form having long flowers rather than broad.  
Season of bloom, May; height from 5 to 24 inches.  
Culture: basically the same as the oncocyclus iris.  
EXAMPLE: Hoogiana iris and korolkowi ~~iris~~, etc.

Mr W. G. Sindt of St Paul has been growing some of these exotic iris, so we asked him to give us a report on their performance in his garden. His report follows.

The oncocyclus specie of iris is native to the holy land and is noted for its extremely broad falls and heavy veining and stippling. William Mohr, Lady Mohr, Oyez and Peg Dabagh owe their characteristic markings to their oncocyclus ancestry which may be as much as half as in the case of Wm Mohr or only an eighth as in Peg Dabagh.

Because in its native state the oncos grow in an environment quite different from that of Minnesota, they require special culture. They are cold hardy so the only care they need is a little mulch the same as is used for most iris here. The soil must be on the alkaline side and kept dry during the summer. Against the advise of more experienced and wiser irisarians, I have attempted to grow a few with limited success.

Four years ago I bought one rhizome each of susiana and nigresens (this was supposed to be really black). They arrived in late October and were quite small and dried up. These I planted in 10" pots using good garden soil and about 10% pea size limestone. The pots were then set out in the garden up to their rims and after freezing, covered with marsh hay. The next Spring I was rewarded with one exotic bloom on susiana. About the middle of July the foliage dies down and the pots are taken up and put in the garage to be reset the next October. So far I have been able to keep susiana alive with three or four increases but no more bloom. Nigresens has never bloomed for me and two years ago it died.

From my experience I would say the oncocyclus specie iris are rather difficult to bloom here but can be kept alive and I always live in hopes that next year will be THE year. These oncocyclus should not be confused with iris referred to as "onco-bred" or "oncos" which have some oncocyclus blood crossed with tall bearded varieties. The latter strain are of normal culture and can be raised by anyone with good success.

Song of India

A scientist, Dr. C T N Singh, of Annamali Univ., Lucknow, India, claims plants enjoy music and will show faster growth if they hear sweet music. He says his first proof of this was when he saw the leaf of a plant sway while listening to music played on a metal rod. ? ? ? ? ?

Some plants overdo it of course and get so tired they can hardly stand up during the day. We have a couple of bushes that are real "rounders". If any of our members have seen any of these goings-on themselves, please give us a report on it but please be sure that its authentic rock-and-roll and not just jitterbugs on the other side of the leaves.

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POTLUCK SUPPER

The annual potluck supper will be held Thursday, March 22nd, at 6:30 P M at Rutherfords Garden Store, 4995 Excelsior Blvd., just east of the Miracle Mile in St. Louis Park. The ladies are to bring either a hot dish, dessert or salad and the gentlemen will pay one dollar for all they can eat. The money taken in on the potluck supper is what pays for the coffee and cakes served at other meetings throughout the year. If any of the ladies have not been contacted in regard to what they should bring, call Mrs O A Bakke at JU 6919. This meeting is usually our best attended meeting of the year. The program will be a panel discussion with a board of experts to answer your questions on iris and other subjects.

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If you have unsuccessfully tried growing lupins, a suggestion made by Dr. Arne- man is to inoculate the seed before sowing with any good legume inoculant (such as Spergon or Nitragin). Reports are that this really does the trick

Another suggestion made by Dr. Arneman is that if your soil requires liming, to use ground limestone rather than slaked or hydrated lime.

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TREES

According to a recent concensus of Nurserymens personal opinion, the ten most popular shade trees in America are the Pin Oak, Sugar Maple, Sweet Gum, Norway Maple, Thornless Honey Locust,,Soft Maple, Red Maple, American Sycamore, European White Birch and the American Elm.

The ten most popular flowering trees are the Flowering Crabs, Redbud, Magnolia Soulangeana, Washington Hawthorne, White Dogwood, Flowering Cherry, Flowering Plum, Tree Lilacs, Shadbush and Mountain Ash.

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The perennial blue sage (Salvia patens) can be stored pver winter like dahlias or glads and replanted the following Spring. This beautiful plant grows to a height of about 24 inches and is a lovely shade of ultramarine blue.

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See you all at the Potluck dinner. Dont forget the time and place; Rutherfords Garden Store, Thursday March 22nd, 6:30 P M.

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Sign on the back of a large transport truck, "Low Clearance, Sport Cars Only".