

Twin City Iris Society

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NEWS and VIEWS
edited by edythe burns

Jan.
1956

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On the color slide program of Nov. 30th, 1955 winners are Mrs. K.M. Fischer in first place for her lovely color picture of CASCADE SPLENDOR. Mrs Fischer wins a beautiful green five dollar bill etched on both sides by the famous Washington artist, E Pluribus Unum. Other winners who will each receive a one dollar award were,

Mr Ken Shook for his picture of EXTRAVAGANZA

Mr Tom Gibbs " " " " DAWN REFLECTION

Mr and Mrs Robt Leacock for their picture of MILDRED PRESBY

Mr and Mrs Robt. Leacock " " " " JAKE

Mrs K.M.Fischer for her picture of OYEZ

All of the original transparencies have been returned to their owners.

Spring is just around the corner. First Robin was Burpee's seed catalog and then Rex Pierce's mental challenge, (very much afraid I bought a mess of weeds one year, he ^{made} them sound so interesting) although now I do better with my new system of looking in the encyclopedia to see just what it is I am ordering first.

1956 DUES

\$2.00 for a single membership and \$2.50 for a family membership.

This includes membership in the Minnesota State Horticultural Soc.

If you belong to the Hort. Society through some other organization

your dues are \$1.00 less, but you must include your 1956 Horticultural

membership number with your dues. All dues should be mailed directly

to your Secretary, Mrs R. J. Wysocky, Route 1, Mounds, Minnesota.

JAPANESE IRIS by Mrs R. J. Wysocky

We enjoy Japanese Iris so much as they bloom after the Bearded iris and the Siberian iris, after the June bloom of the H.T. roses and before the phlox are really in full bloom. They are either double (Columbia is a lovely light blue of the double type) or single (Royal Robe is an old timer well named) with variations in the size of the blossoms just as in Tall Bearded Iris. All the Japanese (or Kaempferi) iris I have seen have much larger blossoms than the siberians. (Betty Holmes, a single white, sometimes reaches 12 inches across with falls spread out) None of the Jap. Iris have noticeable standards- sound quite immoral dont they?

From our experience I would not recommend planting Jap iris in any completely unsheltered area such as a new housing area with no shade or protection from the wind, or in places where it is not possible to water them frequently.

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Jap iris are not bulbous but fibrous rooted and care must be taken to spread the roots when planting just as with the roots of any similar perennial. They love loose soil, in heavy clay they are temperamental. As we have heavy clay we added sphagnum moss and terralite to the bed before planting. They are lime haters, which means not only lime but bonemeal or wood ashes are, if not poisonous to them, at least not beneficial. Jap iris love damp but not swampy ground. They are not water plants although they will respond wonderfully under moist lightly shaded conditions. They will winter kill if not planted in a well drained bed, a slightly depressed bed on a slope is ideal. They like leaf mould and, as do most plants that have a lowland, woodsy ancestry, will thrive best when one teaspoonful of aluminum sulphate and a like amount of ammonium sulphate is applied to each plant each year at the normal planting time- August. In severely alkaline soils perhaps using larger quantities of the sulphates mentioned would result in success.

Although the newest hybrids are comparatively expensive, the older hybrids (such as the three varieties mentioned above) are quite inexpensive - and very lovely.

Our next meeting is scheduled for this coming Wednesday, Jan. 25th. Of course we realize that this is rather short notice but the date and site of the meeting was not determined until last Wednesday. At any rate we will have a meeting at Rutherfords Garden Store, 4995 Excelsior Blvd, just east of the Miracle Mile in St Louis Park. The meeting will begin at 8:00 PM Refreshments - coffee and cake, will be served. Our newly elected officers will take over at this meeting. The program is open - mostly discussions on what we did right and wrong last year with our iris. Perhaps there is something you would like to discuss or you may have some questions that other members might be able to answer. So dont forget the date.... WEDNESDAY JAN. 25TH at Rutherfords.

We doubt if many of you covered your iris this winter. We know we didn't. Our hay is still in the garage. No one seems to be quite sure whether this is good or bad, however we havent had any real thaws as yet so it cant be too bad.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

The village of Mawsynram, India reported a world record 555.76 inches of rain in 1955. This figure is official. In 1954 it also held the worlds record for precipitation. Now here is a real opportunity for even a mediocre salesman to get rich in the raincoat and umbrella business. Cant see how he can miss. A branch office could be opened at Cherrapunji, a neighboring village, which was runner-up in 1955 with 446.41 inches of rain.
