

Twin City Iris Society

NEWS & VIEWS

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Another summer has passed and we are looking forward to a winter of planning and study with a view to improving our Iris quality as well as quantity. We certainly hope that the coming winter will prove to be kinder to our iris plantings than was the previous one. I know that if we could order the kind of winter we want, it would be one with plenty of moisture and snow - not too cold - but cold enough! Since we can't order weather to our preference, we must prepare our beds this Fall to the best of our ability to protect them for any contingency.

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The first Fall meeting of the Twin City Iris Society will be held September 23 at the East Lake Y.M.C.A. our regular meeting place. It will begin promptly at 8:00 P.M. Miss Anderson has a most entertaining and enlightening evening planned. A panel of growers will discuss all phases of iris culture and will be delighted to answer any and all questions put to them to help you grow bigger and better Iris.

We hope to see all of you at this meeting to learn more about your favorite flower as well as to renew old friendships and make new ones. As usual, coffee and refreshments will be served.

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Mrs. Bakke reports that two new members of the Junior Iris Society, Donald and Charles Rudser, show a great deal of interest in iris growing - enough so, that they are doing the lion's share of the work in making the new type of name stakes their father devised. They have several varieties of iris now and are anxiously waiting for Spring to see them bloom.

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Our annual Iris Auction was held August 6, on the grounds of Mrs. Alice Foss's lovely home. A large group brought their picnic lunch and held a congenial hour or so of fellowship before the auction. There was a large crowd at the auction, which provided some lively bidding under the able handling of the auctioneers, "Bud" Foss and "Gus" Sindt. The evening was cool and was greatly appreciated after the torrid days

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which preceded it, and best of all - no mosquitoes!!

We wish to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Foss for the use of her lovely grounds and for the prodigious amount of work she donated to this project. Its through the unceasing efforts of such loyal members that the society is enabled to carry on. We extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude for a job very well done. Our thanks also go to the auctioneers and all others whose time and labor made this auction such an outstanding success.

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Questions and answers taken at random from Garden Quiz a monthly letter from the Minnesota State Horticultural Society.

1. Are there any truly "black" flowers?
Ans ... There are some that are nearly black, particularly in iris and tulips; but technically they are very dark shades of blue or red.
2. Do angleworms increase the fertility of soil?
Ans... No, they have very little effect on fertility. Usually they are found only in soil that is reasonably rich and moist.
3. Against what pest was Bordeaux Mixture first used?
Ans ... Children! Vineyard owners near Bordeaux, France put this "poisonous-green appearing" substance on grape vines in the hope of discouraging pilfering. Incidentally it was noted that it helped to control troublesome fungus diseases.
4. The mint family includes many members in addition to those which are called "mints". In general they have square stems, opposite or whorled leaves and two-lipped flowers. Can you name any of the common ones?
Ans ... Coleus, Salvia, Physostegia, sage, hyssop, lavender.
5. At what time of year are rose bushes most apt to be winter-injured?
Ans ... Many rose growers now believe that fall is the most critical time. They suggest that you give some protection to the crowns and lower stems by hilling with soil, leaves, or other mulch - before that first freeze.
6. Is fall a good time to plant woody materials -- shrubs and trees?
Ans ... Fall plantings may be successful, and certainly have a better chance than late spring or summer plantings; but in general fall planting is not as safe as early spring planting.
7. Is it necessary to wait until the tops have been frosted to dig glads, dahlias, and other "tender perennials"?
Ans ... No. As soon as they are reasonably mature and it is apparent that the growing season is practically over it is wise to dig, cure and store them. It is not necessary to wait for freezing weather.

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DON'T FORGET OUR MEETING SEPTEMBER 23 at 8:00 P.M.