

Twin City Iris Society

OFFICERS

President
Duane W. (Bud) Foss
6331 Winadale
Golden Valley
Minneapolis 22

1st Vice President
E. C. (Bud) Straub
Box 372, Route 3
Wayzata

2nd Vice President
Mrs. L. A. Wright
3611 Orchard
Robbinsdale

Recording Secretary
Mrs. Esther Berger
2236 East 42nd St.
Minneapolis 7

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. E. C. (Carol) Straub
Box 372, Route 3
Wayzata

Treasurer
Earl H. Maffei
6755 Harriet Ave. So.
Minneapolis

Directors
W. G. (Gus) Sindt
1847 East Ave.
St. Paul

Russell Frey
2214 Lyndale Ave. No.
Minneapolis 11

Mrs. J. S. Taylor
215 Amherst
St. Paul

Granville B. Goble
2543 38th Ave. So.
Minneapolis 7

Nathan (Jack) Burns
1707 77th Ave. No.
Minneapolis

Ben Haeg
8515 Lyndale Ave. So.
Minneapolis 20

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NEWS AND VIEWS
edited by edythe burns

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About sixty avid iris hybridizers attended the March meeting to get some tips on hybridizing from our guest speaker, Mr. Orville Fay, of Willmette, Ill. In addition to his very interesting talk, Mr. Fay showed some beautiful slides of some of his newer introductions among which were Mary Randall, Truly Yours, Cliffs Of Dover, and Good And Plenty. Also shown were many slides of some of the currently popular varieties of iris and day-lilies.

Mr Fay suggested that the following iris could be used as parents with better than average results; Snow Flurry, try this with most any color for branching and form, as it has no pollen it will have to be used as a pod parent. - New Horizon will prove to be a good parent for pinks as well as will Twilight Sky and Mary Randall, though the latter is still quite expensive and difficult to obtain. The following books on Genetics are available at the Minneapolis Public Library; "Chromosomes And Plant Breeding", "Genetics of Garden Plants" and "General Genetics"

Mr Fay recommends this spray for control of the iris borer. It is to be used as soon as growth starts and then again in a week or ten days:

2 level tablespoons of D.D.T.
2 level tablespoons of fermate
1 gallon of water

While we are on the subject of sprays here is an all purpose spray for iris and other perennials that has been taken from the A.I.S. Bulletins:

6 level tablespoonsful of 50% wettable DDT
2 level tablespoonsful of Dupont spreader sticker
3 level tablespoonsful of fermate
1½ tablespoonsful nicotine sulphate
3 gallons of water

mix DDT with a little water until it forms a thin paste and then do the same with the fermate. Stir the two pastes into the larger amount of water and then add the nicotine sulphate and finally the spreader-sticker. Stir occasionally when using to keep well mixed. For those who prefer a dust to a spray, you might try Protexall, a commercial product that contains DDT, Rotenone, sulphur and Fermate. (This also comes in a spray form. Either one may be purchased in most Garden Stores)

NOTE

Our annual auction will be held the first Thursday in Aug, at the home of Mr and Mrs Gus Sindt in St. Paul. More on this later.

ESSENCE of SPRING

The importance of fragrance in the garden has been, to some extent, overlooked in the search for other qualities in many of the new and popular garden flowers. This is truly a sad state of affairs as fragrance is of the utmost importance to the average gardener. Very few catalog descriptions mention fragrance as a selling point of a flower or plant, feeling perhaps that showiness is the prime factor in the purchase of plant material. We feel otherwise! There is nothing that adds so much to the enjoyment of a garden as does fragrance. For those who feel as we do about this, here are some garden subjects we have grown throughout the past years that we have found to be enjoyable both to the eye and to the nose.

Some of the pleasingly scented flowering shrubs we have grown and enjoyed include the beautiful white mock-orange, Minnesota Snowflake, which blooms so heavily in June; the honeysuckle that self-sows so readily and which we find difficult to keep "in bounds"; the sweetly scented flowering currant with its brilliant golden blossoms that bloom so early in the spring, and of course, the lilacs, which are practically indispensable in any aromatic garden.

Among the many annuals that are so necessary to the fragrant garden, you will find that petunias, sweet peas, verbena, dianthus (pinks), nicotiana (flowering tobacco), and stocks are, in our opinion, the choicest and the sweetest.

Perennials you can enjoy for their fragrance as well as their beauty include several members of the dianthus family, some of which are, the dainty and fringed bright Cheddar Pink, the rose crimson Deltoides Pink, and the Sweet Williams, an old time favorite. The Monardas with their bright large red flowers have a strong lemon mint fragrance. Thymes, which do not seem to be grown much in Minnesota gardens although we found them to be ideal for ground cover and for the rock garden, are also strongly lemon scented. The old-fashioned perennial heliotrope will atone for its lack of garden personality with its haunting and delightful fragrance. Several varieties of peonies including Phillippe Revoir, Mons Jules Elie and Mrs Franklin D Roosevelt, all in various shades of pink, possess a wonderful rose-like scent. Most of the white lilies are pleasingly scented and the Auratum or gold-banded lily is so strongly scented, it will perfume the entire garden. It is well worth the extra care required to winter it. If you wish to grow fragrant roses, you will find most of them in the red and rose pink colors. Chrysler Imperial, Crimson Glory and Mirandy are especially good although there are many others, too numerous to mention. The daylily, Hyperion, is one of the very few fragrant daylilies and it blooms in midsummer when so few other flowers are in bloom, making it doubly appreciated. There are also the daffodils and violets in early spring and the charming lily-of-the-valley which grows so accommodatingly in any shady nook or corner. And then, of course, there is the backbone of the late spring and early summer garden, THE IRIS. Most of the dwarf iris are extremely fragrant, this is especially true of the purple toned varieties. In the tall bearded group, the most pronounced fragrance has been noticed in the following varieties: Priscilla and Snow Flurry in the white class; Bellerive, Ruffled Bouquet and Star Shine in the cream class; Gilt Edge, Song Of Gold and Illinois in the light yellow class; Goldbeater and Jasmine in the bright yellow class; Blue Glow (grape), Cornflower, Sky Ranger, Sylvia Murray, Tishomingo and Tosca are equally good in the blue class; In the blended colors, including the browns, we have found Arab Chief, Cascade Splendor, Daybreak, Juliet, Rose Festival and Wild Honey very pleasing. While Gay Senoxita and Molly May were the only two in the plicata group with any definite fragrance. Most of the purple iris have that wonderful grape fragrance in varying degrees, we like Ebony Queen, Sable and Black Banner real well. The red iris are gifted with a very heavy sweet scent. Cameroun, Inspiration, Jasper Agate, Ranger, Red Valor and Rubient are all worthy examples.

We have undoubtedly missed more fragrant garden subjects than we have mentioned in the above article, which of your favorites have we omitted?

Corrections and additions to the membership list

Mr and Mrs W. G. Pollock	(f)	4231 So. Sheridan Ave.	Mpls. Minn.
Karl and Grace Schulze	(f)	4824 Garfield Ave. Se.	Mpls., Minn.
Ruth Carlson		3100 33rd Ave. So.	Mpls., Minn.
Dorothy Keckefoth		2853 Inglewood Ave.	Mpls., Minn.

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Spring is the time of the year dedicated to poetry, and like everyone else, we get off a vivid and profound masterpiece of beauty and refinement now and then. So for the Poets Corner, here are two stunning original poems of depth and feeling.

Poem # 1

Anticipation

Our gardens will be all aglow
Two weeks after the iris show.
Or then, again, two weeks before,
Iris blooms we'll have galore.
And so it is- t'was ever so!
We have no bloom for the iris show.

(mimeographers note: "Ahem!!!")

Poem # 2

The First Work-out Of Spring

On bended knee we yank the weed,
We hoe the row with right good speed,
Prune the shrubbery, spray the flowers,
Paint signs and labels for hours and hours.
Smack the aphids, whack the borers,
Shoot the gophers and other horrors.
Don't you think, oh Iris People,
We're slightly missing in the steeple?

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Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 22nd, at Rutherfords Garden store, 4995 Excelsior Blvd., Minneapolis. Mr and Mrs. A.S.Gowan will show their collection of color slides taken during a recent visit to Japan. Mrs Gowan, who is one of our members, lives in Excelsior where she and her husband operate quite a large garden. We are sure they will be happy to answer your questions about gardening in general or if possible, about Japan. The meeting will begin at 8:00 PM, and as usual, refreshments will be served.

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Congratulations are extended to Mrs Agnes Wright for her prize winning entries in the recent Minneapolis Home and Building Show flower arrangement contest.