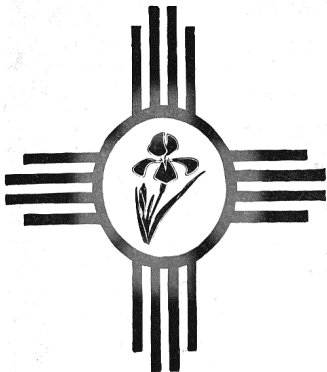


**AIS REGION 23**

**NEWSLETTER**



**FALL**

**1985**

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## RVP MESSAGE

Another year has come and almost gone--where does the time go? Iris season was the earliest and longest lasting of any that I can remember. In general, the irises are in better condition now than usual for this time of year due to the above normal rainfall during late summer and early fall, together with later than average freezing. It should be another good bloom season next spring, if-----.

The garden judging school hosted by Lu and Henry Danielson was a resounding success--a total of 35 attended. Lu and Maxine Ferkins both gave excellent presentations. This along with the good company and good food made for a most enjoyable and informative session. Lu and Henry would not accept but a small portion of the registration fees, returning most to the region. Thanks to all who contributed to make this such a success.

Our thanks and appreciation again to the Mesilla Iris Society for hosting the Region 23 Convention this year. Again, the congenial people, good food, and good programs resulted in a fine convention. Alan Ensminger of Omaha, Neb. was guest speaker at the banquet, and also conducted an excellent two-hour judges training school on Dwarfs and Medians Sunday morning. Convention Chairman Floyd Stopani did a super job. Special thanks to you Alan and Floyd.

Regarding the unfinished business pertaining to our Region 23 By Laws--the mail portion of the regional vote was: 19 votes for adoption of the proposed new By Laws; 4 votes for the proposed amendments to our existing By Laws. The question was brought to vote during the Region meeting at Las Cruces, and the result-unanimous in favor of adopting the proposed new By Laws, which are now in effect.

Two invitations were extended to host our 1986 Region 23 Convention--one from the New Mexico Iris Society in Albuquerque, and the other from Lea County Iris Society in Hobbs. After floor discussion, it was voted that Lea County Iris Society would host our 1986 Convention.

Region 23 has just won an "honor"; however, it is one we really don't want! During the past year, Region 23 had the highest percentage drop in AIS membership of all 24 Regions. We in Region 23 are not doing a good enough job of selling AIS! After all, it is the American Iris Society which makes this all possible. We lost five members due to death or as a direct result thereof, but our largest loss was in non-renewals by newer members. We should concentrate on these newer members by giving more assistance and advice. Usually the newer members are in relatively unknown areas, and need help in the very basics of iris culture. It's old stuff to most of us, but I think we fail to realize all the quandries through which newer growers pass. The reprinted article contained later in this newsletter may help. It is not entirely applicable to Region 23 conditions, but overall, it is the best and most complete article of this type that I have come across. It may also benefit some irisarians of long tenure.

I wish you all a most joyous holiday season!

H-----



1985 SHOW WINNERS

Albuquerque Aril Society----208 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal Howard Shockey--33 Blues
Bronze Medal Susan Latimer--15 Blues
Best Specimen Theseus
Exhibited by Howard Shockey
Best Seedling Howard Shockey # 83-107-A (AB)

Albuquerque Iris Guild----183 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal Susan Latimer--16 Blues
Bronze Medal Ellen Reed--7 Blues
Best Specimen Art Center
Exhibited by Susan Latimer
Best Seedling James Mahoney # 80-88 (TB)

Youth Section

Silver Medal Kurt Latimer--13 Blues
Bronze Medal Shannon Latimer--4 Blues

Lea County Iris Society----236 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal Mrs. Montez Bertram--17 Blues
Bronze Medal Bill Brown--17 Blues
Best Specimen Pacedillo
Exhibited by David Hooten
Best Arrangement Mrs. Jeri Toland
Artistic Sweepstakes Mrs. Montez Bertram

Mesilla Valley Iris Society----131 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal Margaret Dean--5 Blues
Bronze Medal Helen and Floyd Stopani--5 Blues
Best Specimen I. gatesii
Exhibited by Lu Danielson
Best Arrangement Fern Gold
Artistic Sweepstakes Diane Arrington

New Mexico Iris Society----320 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal Larry Anaya--16 Blues
Bronze Medal Sarah Doonan--15 Blues
Best Specimen Victoria Falls
Exhibited by Sarah Doonan
Best Seedling James Mahoney # 80-68-3 (TB)
Best Arrangement Jean Dabney

Youth Section

Silver Medal Kelly Doonan--10 Blues
Bronze Medal Kurt Latimer--5 Blues

Roswell Iris Society----Cancelled due to weather.

Santa Fe Iris Society----204 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal Betty Gonzales--15 Blues
Bronze Medal Margaret Johnson--9 Blues
Best Specimen Crinkled Joy
Exhibited by Roberta Utz
Best Arrangement Sylvia Chavez
Artistic Sweepstakes Kiana DiPalma

Youth Division

Silver Medal Laurel Bennett
Bronze Medal Angelica Chavez

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IN MEMORIAM

Erabelle Eiffert
Kenneth Pabst
Gus Seligmann

We have lost three very dedicated and valuable members with their passing. Region 23 would not have grown to it's present level, had it not been for their unwavering dedication and love for irises over a period of many years. Anyone who knew them, loved them. We will certainly never forget them, and will miss them very much.

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ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

We will be electing new regional officers next year who will assume office Jan. 1, 1987. Our recently ratified By Laws spell out the procedures which we must follow. Your copy of these By Laws was included as the center sheet of the 1985 Spring Newsletter. Because of the complexity of the entire nominating and voting procedures required to provide secret balloting, it is imperative that every step be done in a strictly timely manner. Your RVP has every intention of adhering to each and every deadline date, the first of which is Feb. 1, 1986. This is the date by which I should have received each affiliate's candidate for the Nominating Committee. Any affiliate society failing to return the AIS "Request for Affiliation" form along with their membership roster will automatically lose affiliate status for at least one year, and per our By Laws, will not participate in selection of the Nominating Committee. Members serving on this committee must have five years of continuous AIS membership. If a question should arise on this point, please contact me, for I can easily check the computer printout which lists initial AIS membership dates of all members.

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Over the past several years, there has been a decided increase in efforts by the AIS to better the quality of our judging. Some interpret this as a "get tough" policy, whereas others interpret it as "tightening of past laxness". However one may interpret it, the duties and obligations of AIS judges have long been spelled out in past Judges Handbooks, and latest policies are spelled out in our new handbook. In no way has this action been intended to discourage unqualified members from remaining as or becoming judges--it merely emphasizes the need to be more conscious and responsive to the specified duties and obligations of a judge. A total of 37 AIS judges were deleted this year for reasons other than death. Being an AIS Garden Judge is an honor and privilege, which once attained, should be maintained. The following is quoted from a letter just received from Walter A. Machulek, RVP Counselor for AIS.

The most important action of regional interest taken by the board is the rejection of two garden judges. Mrs. Rockwell, Judges' Training Chairman presented her list of recommendations, after which the board has presented sufficient evidence to show that two garden judges did not have the required training. The board took action, and the two names were dropped.

I think the message directed here to all RVP's is that we have a board of directors who care enough to want only the best possible people to judge irises and are willing to take some stern action to obtain these results. I would also hope that, in the future, RVP's will go over their listing of judges with a fine-toothed comb before recommending them to the Judges Training Chairman."

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I have heard someone express the possible feasibility of designating two different types of Master Judges--one active, and one inactive. The active master could include those still growing quantities of irises and actively engaged in all other judging activities, whereas, the inactive master could include those unable to do so because of physical disabilities or other circumstances. Both types would still be carried on the rolls in recognition of their past years of dedicated service. I think something such as this has great merit. How can any judge cast an accurate and meaningful ballot when the eligible irises are never evaluated in the garden, or only a very small number are subject to evaluation? How about some comments???

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 HOW COMMITTEES-----PLEASE NOTE

In the AIS show report form, "Number of Entries" in the entire show refers to horticultural iris entries entered for competition, and should not include artistic entries, unnamed varieties, or those for exhibition only. Unnamed varieties should never receive an AIS ribbon, or should any AIS judge consider them for other awards. If an AIS judge is asked to judge unnamed varieties, he/she should politely refuse, leaving such "judging" to other persons. This is not just our RVP talking, it is AIS policy, as was discussed at the national convention this year.

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Of Favorite Irises

Once again, only about 1/3 of our membership participated in the AIS 1986 Symposium. Region 23 favorites still remain top quality irises as voted by AIS Judges throughout the country. Of the 17 most popular varieties, 11 have won the Dykes Medal, and the others have won AM awards. Seven of the top 10 varieties are Dykes winners, with at least two others being strong contenders for future award.

1986 Rank	1986 Votes	1985 Rank	Variety	1986 Rank	1986 Votes	1985 Rank	Variety
1	31	7	Victoria Falls	14	10	14	Dusky Dancer
2	27	1	Beverly Sills		10	12	Joyce Terry
3	24	3	Laced Cotton		10	10	Homecoming Queen
	24	1	New Moon		10	-	Mulled Wine
4	23	4	Song of Norway		10	16	Navy Strut
5	21	9	Vanity		10	15	Piping Hot
6	18	11	Gay Parasol		10	12	Ruffled Ballet
	18	2	Stepping Out		10	13	Superstition
7	17	11	Kilt Lilt		10	15	White Lightning
8	16	8	Debby Rairdon	15	9	-	Art Center
9	15	5	Going My Way		9	-	Blue Staccato
	15	4	Mystique		9	16	Chartreuse Ruffles
10	14	6	Mary Frances		9	15	Copper Classic
	14	8	Persian Berry		9	10	Dream Lover
11	13	12	Babbling Brook		9	15	Gold Trimmings
	13	9	Bride's Halo		9	-	Ice Sculpture
	13	7	Cranberry Ice		9	15	Latin Lover
	13	11	Grand Waltz		9	-	Michigan Pride
12	12	15	Broadway		9	-	Orange Empire
	12	10	Rancho Rose		9	16	Queen in Calico
13	11	-	Bubbling Over		9	-	Study in Black
	11	12	Pink Taffeta				
	11	-	Theatre				
	11	-	Titan's Glory				

SPEAKING THE SAME LANGUAGE

If everyone would speak the same language, one might know what the other is talking about! Throughout my 28 years of iris involvement and talking with people from all areas of the country, I note that the pronunciation or mispronunciation of iris names stands out very vividly in my memory. The following is taken from Garden Irises published by the AIS in 1959. It was authored by George H. M. Lawrence, who was then Director of L. H. Bailey Hortorium at Cornell University.



## Pronunciation of Iris Names

GEORGE H. M. LAWRENCE

There is no agreement as to what is correct or incorrect pronunciation of Latin names of plants. It is a matter of usage, dictated in part by nationalistic or linguistic custom, and in part by the disciplines of classical and ecclesiastical Latin. In the United States these botanical names are pronounced as if the words were English, but with the determination of the accented syllable following Latin usage. The division of the word into syllables follows the general rule that each syllable must contain a vowel, and that each syllable usually begins with a consonant and ends with a vowel except when its terminus occurs between double consonants.

In Latin, two adjoining vowels are pronounced separately unless treated as a diphthong; e.g., the ending *-oides* (such as in *Iris orchoides*) is pronounced oh-eye'deez (not oye-deez). But in *Iris laevigata*, the diphthong *ae* is pronounced as if *ee* (e.g. lee-vee-gay-tuh).

The final vowel or diphthong is always given its sound value; e.g., uh-kew'tuh for *acuta* and bye-for'mee for *biforme*. When the name is in the feminine gender and ends in the diphthong *-ae*, Americans usually give it a long *e* value (e.g., barnum'ee), whereas most British and continental Europeans following classical Latin usage, give it a long *i* value (e.g., barnum'eye). Names in the genitive case terminate in a double *i* (when masculine) and in *-iae* (when feminine), unless the ending is preceded by a vowel or the letters *er* and then a single *i* is used (e.g., *suertii* is pronounced swert'ee-eye, and *farreri* is pronounced far'rer-eye).

The stems of names commemorating persons generally are pronounced as those persons would pronounce their personal names in their own language. In the case of *Iris gatesii* the epithet *gatesii* is pronounced gates'ee-eye (not gay-tee'zee-eye). This usage of linguistic pronunciation often leads to different pronunciation of the same Latinized name in different countries, because linguistic usages provide for different sound values for different letters or syllables. In Germanic and some other languages, for example, the letter *w* receives the sound value of *v*, while *v* is pronounced as *f*, and the *ch* as *k*. This results in *kochii* being pronounced as koke'ee-eye, in *ludwigii* as lud'vik-ee-eye, and in *winogradowii*

as vee-noc-grah-dov'ee-eye. Similarly, names commemorating Frenchmen are generally given their French sound values in Britain and on the Continent, but less correctly are pronounced with English sound values in America. For example, in the name *Iris boissieri*—named for the Swiss botanist, Edmund Boissier—the epithet *boissieri* is correctly pronounced bwa-see-aye'eye but, in the United States, where the French pronunciation may be unknown to most users, is generally pronounced boyce-see-err'eye.

The sound value given the letter *a* in botanical names depends on personal choice, or perhaps on whether you are from the Midwest, from New England, or from Britain or the Continent. That is, for the name *americana* it is equally correct to say uh-meri-kay'nuh, or ah-meri-kah'nuh. Unfortunately there is no such yardstick for these cases as is reported to be used when pronouncing the word *vase*, where, if the article is valued over \$50 it is a vah'zee, but if less than that amount it is a vay'sse.

The syllabification and pronunciation suggested in the following list of iris names follow botanical practice. Where American pronunciations differ markedly from the more widespread British and European pronunciations, the former are also given and are placed within square brackets.

### PRONUNCIATION OF EPITHETS IN IRIS NAMES

*acuta* (uh-kew'tuh)  
*acutiloba* (uh-kew-till'oh-buh)  
*aitchisonii* (a-chi-sown'ee-eye)  
*alata* (uh-lay'tuh)  
*albertii* (albert'ee-eye)  
*albicans* (al'bee-kans)  
*albookmarkata* (al-bo-mar-gee-nay'tuh)  
*albopurpurea* (al-bo-pur-pew'ree-uh)  
*amabilis* (uh-mah'bi-liss)  
*amoena* (uh-mee'nuh)  
*antilibanotica* (an-tee-lye-bah-noe'ti-kuh)  
*aphylla* (uh-fil'luh)  
*arenaria* (a-ruh-nay'ree-uh)  
*aschersonii* (asher-sown'ee-eye)  
*asiatica* (aye-zee-a'tee-kuh)  
*atropurpurea* (a-tro-fuss'kuh)  
*atropurpurea* (a-tro-pur-pew'ree-uh)  
*attica* (at'tee-kuh)  
*aucheri* (awe'ker-eye)  
*auranitica* (awe-rah-ni'tee-kuh)  
*aurea* (awe'ree-uh)

bakeriana (baker-ee-aye'nuh)  
balkana (ball-kay'nuh)  
balsatica (ball-sa'tee-kuh)  
barnumiae (barnum'ee-ee)  
bartonii (barton'ee-eye)  
basaltica (bay-sal'tee-kuh)  
belouinii (bell-oo-in'ee-eye)  
benacensis (ben-uh-sen'sis)  
biflora (bye-flo'ruh)  
biggeri (bigger'eye)  
biliottii (bill-ee-ot'tee-eye)  
bismarckiana (bismarck-ee-aye'nuh)  
bloudowii (blow-dov'ee-eye) [blow-dow'ee-eye]  
boissieri (bwas-see-aye'eye) [bois-see-err'eye]  
bosniaca (boz-nigh'uh-kuh)  
bracteata (brak-tee-aye'tuh)  
brevicaulis (bre-vee-kaw'liss)  
bucharica (boo-kah'ree-kuh)  
bulleyana (bulley-aye'nuh)

caerulea (see-roo'lee-uh)  
californica (kali-for'nee-kuh)  
camillae (ka-mil'lee)  
carthalinae (kar-thuh-lin'ee-ee, or kar-tuh-lin-ee-ee)  
caucasica (kaw-kass'ee-kuh)  
cengialtii (sen-jee-all'tee-eye)  
chamaeiris (ka-mee'iris)  
chrysographes (kry-so-grah'feez)  
chrysophylla (kry-so-fil'luh)  
citriregalis (sit-ree-ree-gay'liss)  
clarkei (clark'ee-eye [when named for Clarke])  
coerulea (soo-roo'lee-uh)  
collettii (kol-let'tee-eye)  
confusa (kon-foo'suh or kon-few'suh)  
cristata (kris-tay'tuh)  
croatica (kro-a'ti-kuh)  
crocea (kro'see-uh)  
cypriana (sip-ree-aye'nuh)

daënnensis (day-en-en'sis)  
danfordiae (danford'ee-ee)  
darwasica (dah-vas'ee-kuh) [dah-was'ee-kuh]  
decora (dee-koh'ruh)

delavayi (dela-vay'eye)  
desertorum (de-ser-toh'rum)  
dichotoma (dye-kah'toh-muh)  
doniana (don-ee-aye'nuh)  
douglasiana (douglas-ee-aye'nuh)  
drepanophylla (druh-pah-no-fil'luh)  
dykesii (dikes'ee-eye)

elegantissima (ell-ee-gan-tis'see-muh)  
ensata (en-say'tuh)  
ewbankiana (you-bank-ee-aye'nuh)

falcifolia (fal-see-foh'lee-uh)  
farreri (far'rer-eye)  
fernaldii (fer'nald-ee-eye)  
filifolia (fi-lee-foh'lee-uh)  
flavissima (flah-viss'see-muh)  
florentina (flo-ren-tee'nuh)  
foetidissima (feh-tee-diss'see-muh)  
foliosa (foh-lee-oh'suh)  
fontanesii (fontan-eez'ee-eye)  
forminii (formin'ee-eye)  
formosa (for-moh'suh)  
forrestii (forest'ee-eye)  
fosteriana (fos-ter-ee-aye'nuh)  
fulva (full'vuh)  
fumosa (foo-moh'suh or few-moh'suh)

gatesii (gates'ee-eye)  
germanica (jer-man'ee-kuh)  
giganticaerulea (ji-gan-tee-see-roo'lee-uh)  
goniocarpa (garn-ee-oh-kar'puh)  
gracilipes (gray-sil'i-peeze)  
gracberiana (gray-bee-ree-aye'nuh)  
graminea (gray-min'ee-uh)  
grant-duffii (grant-duff'ee-eye)  
griffithii (grif-fith'ee-eye)  
grijsii (grec-yiss'ee-eye)  
grossheimii (gross-highm'ee-eye)  
guldenstaedtia (gool-den-steadt-ee-aye'nuh)  
guldenstedia (gool-den-stead'ee-uh)

halophila (ha-loh-fil'luh)  
hartwegii (hart-vay'gee-eye or hart-weg'ee-eye)

hauranensis (how-rah-nen'sis)  
haynei (hayn'ee-eye)  
helenae (helen'ee)  
henryi (henry'eye)  
hermona (her-moh'nuh)  
hexagona (hex-aye'goh-nuh)  
histrion (hiss'tree-oh)  
histrioides (hiss-tree-oh-eye'deez)  
hoogiana (hoog-ee-aye'nuh)  
hookeriana (hooker-ee-aye'nuh)  
humilis (hew'mi-liss)  
hungarica (hun-gar'ee-kuh)  
hyrcana (hear-kay'nuh)

iberica (eye-berr'ree-kuh)  
illyrica (ill-lee'ree-kuh)  
imbricata (im-bree-kay'tuh)  
inominata (eye-nom-mee-nay'tuh)  
italica (eye-tah'lee-kuh)

japonica (jah-pon'ee-kuh)  
jordana (jawr-day'nuh)  
juncea (jun'see-uh)  
junonia (joo-no'nee-uh)

kaempferi (kemp'fer-eye)  
kamaoensis (kah-mow-nen'sis)  
karategina (kara-teh-ji'nuh)  
kashmiriana (kash-mir-ee-aye'nuh)  
kasruwana (kass-roo-wan'nuh)  
kerneriana (ker-ner-ee-aye'nuh)  
kimballiae (kim'ball-ee-ee)  
kobayushii (koh-bay-yush'ee-eye)  
kochii (koke'ee-eye)  
kolpakowskiana (kol-pah-kov-ski-aye'nuh) [kol-pah-kow-ski-aye'nuh]  
kopetdagensis (koh-pet-dag-en'sis)  
koreana (koh-ree-aye'nuh)  
korolkowii (koh-rall-kov'ee-eye)  
kuschakewiczii (koo-shah-keh-vit'zee-eye)

lacustris (lay-kus'tris)  
laevigata (lay-vee-gay'tuh)  
lazica (lay'zee-kuh)

leichtlinii (liked'lin-ee-eye)  
leptophylla (lep-tow-fil'luh)  
leptorrhiza (lep-tow-rye'zuh)  
linifolia (lye-nee-foh'lee-uh)  
longipetala (lon-jee-pet'uh-la)  
longiscapa (lon-jee-skay'puh)  
lortetii (lor-tet'ee-eye)  
ludwigii (lud'vik-ee-eye) [lud'wig-ee-eye]  
lupina (loo-pye'nuh)  
lurida (loo'ri-duh)  
lusitanica (loo-see-tan'ee-kuh)  
lycotis (lye-koh'tiss)

macrosiphon (mak-roh-sigh'fon)  
maculata (mak-you-lay'tuh)  
magnifica (mag-niff'ee-kuh)  
mandshurica (mand-shur'ee-kuh)  
mangaliae (man-gal'ee-ee)  
maracandica (ma-rah-kan'dee-kuh)  
mariae (mah-ree'ee)  
maritima (mah-ri'tee-muh)  
masia (may'see-uh)  
meda (mee'duh)  
medwedewii (med-veh-dev'ee-eye) [med-weh-dew'ee-eye]  
melanosticta (meh-lan-oh-stik'tuh)  
mellita (mel'li-tuh)  
mesopotamica (mezo-poh-tay'mee-kuh)  
milesii (miles'ee-eye)  
minuta (my-noo'tuh)  
minutoaurea (my-noo-toh-awe'ree-uh)  
missouriensis (miz-zoo-ree-en'sis)  
monnieri (mohn-nee-aye'eye) [mohn-nee-err'eye]  
munzii (munz'ee-eye)  
musulmanica (mu-sull-man'ee-kuh)

narbutii (nar-boot'ee-eye)  
naryensis (nah-ree-en'sis)  
nazarena (nah-zah-ree'nuh)  
neglecta (nee-glek'tuh)  
nepalensis (nee-pah-len'sis)  
nigricans (nye'gri-kanz)  
notha (noc'tha)



ochroleuca (oh-krow-loo'kuh)  
olbiensis (ol-bee-en'sis)  
orchioides (or-kce-oh-eye'deez)  
orientalis (oh-ree-en-tay'lis)

pabularia (pa-bew-lay'ree-uh)  
palestina (pa-less-tie'nuh)  
pallasii (pallas'ee-eye)  
pallida (pal'lee-duh)  
paradoxa (pa-rah-dox'uh)  
parnormitana (par-nor-mee-tay'nuh)  
parvula (par'voo-luh)  
perrieri (perry-aye'eye) [perry-err'eye]  
persica (per'see-kuh)  
petrana (pet-ray'nuh)  
phragmitetorum (frag-mye-teh-tow'rum)  
pinetorum (pye-nee-toh'rum)  
planifolia (play-nee-foh'lee-uh)  
plicata (plye-kay'tuh)  
polakii (poh-lak'ee-eye)  
polysticta (polly-stik'tuh)  
popovii (poh'pof-ee-eye)  
potaninii (poh-tah-nin'ee-eye)  
prismatica (priz-ma'tee-kuh)  
proantha (pro-an'thah)  
pseudacorus (soo-da'koh-rus)  
pseudocaucasica (soo-do-kaw-kah'see-kuh)  
pseudopumila (soo-doe-pew'mi-luh)  
pseudorossii (soo-doe-ross'ee-eye)  
pumila (pew'mi-luh)  
purdyi (purdy'eye)

reginae (ree-jye'nee)  
reichenbachiana (rye-kan-bahk-ee-aye'nuh)  
reticulata (ree-tik-you-lay'tuh)  
rosenbachiana (rozen-bahk-ee-aye'nuh)  
rossii (ross'ee-eye)  
rubromarginata (roo-bro-mar-jin-aye'tuh)  
rudskyi (rud'ski-eye)  
ruthenica (roo-then'ee-kuh)

sambucina (sam-bew-sigh'nuh)  
samariae (sah-mar'ee-eye)

sanguinea (san-gwin'ee-uh)  
sari (sar'eye)  
scariosa (skah-ree-oh'suh)  
schelkownikowii (shell-kov-nee-kov'ee-eye)  
scorpioides (skor-pee-oh-eye'deez)  
setosa (see-toe'suh)  
shrevei (shreev'eye)  
sibirica (sigh-bir'ee-kuh)  
sikkimensis (sik-kim-en'sis)  
sindjarensis (sind-yar-en'sis)  
sintenisii (sin-tin-iss'ee-eye)  
sisyrinchium (sis-ee-rin'key-um)  
sofarana (so-fah-ray'nuh)  
sogdiana (sog-dee-aye'nuh)  
songarica (son-gar'ee-kuh)  
speculatrix (spek-you-lay'trix)  
spuria (spew'ree-uh)  
squalens (squaw'lenz)  
stocksii (stocks'ee-eye)  
stolonifera (stoe-loh-nif'ee-ruh)  
subbarbata (sub-bar-bay'tuh)  
subbiflora (sub-bee-flo'ruh)  
subdecolorata (sub-dee-koh-lor-aye'tuh)  
susiana (soo-see-aye'nuh)  
swertii (swert'ee-eye)

tadshikorum (tad-she-ko'rum)  
talischii (tah-lish'ee-eye)  
tectorum (tek-toe'rum)  
tenax (teh'nax)  
tenuifolia (ten-you-ee-foh'lee-uh)  
tenuis (ten'you-iss)  
tenuissima (ten-you-iss'ee-muh)  
thompsonii (tompson'ee-eye)  
tigridia (tye-grid'ee-uh)  
tingitana (tin-jee-tay'nuh)  
tridentata (try-den-tay'tuh)  
tripetala (tri-peh'ta-la)  
trojana (tro-jay'nuh)  
tubergeniana (too-bear'jen-ee-aye-kuh)

unguicularis (un-gwick-you-lah'riss)  
urmiensis (ur-mee-en-sis)  
urumovii (urr-oo-moff'ee-eye)



vaga (vah'gah)  
 varbossiana (var-bos-see-aye'nuh)  
 variegata (vay-rec-eh-gay'tuh)  
 vartanii (var-tan'ee-eye)  
 verna (ver'nuh)  
 versicolor (ver-sih'koh-lor)  
 vicaria (vic-kay'ree-uh)  
 violacea (vie-oh-lay'see-uh)  
 virescens (vie-ress'senz)  
 virginica (vir-jin'ee-kuh)  
 vvdenskyi (vuh-vuh-den'sky-eye)

warleyensis (ware-lee-en'sis)  
 wattii (wat'ee-eye)  
 westii (west'ee-eye)  
 willmottiana (willmott'ee-aye-nuh)  
 wilsonii (wilson'ee-eye)  
 winkleri (vinkler'eye) [winkler'eye]  
 winogradowii (vin-oh-grah-dov'ee-eye) [win-oh-grah-doe'ee-eye]

xiphioides (ziff-ee-oh-eye'deez)  
 xiphium (ziff'ee-um)

+++++

Now, I trust you all can correctly pronounce "holpakowskiana" and "shelkownikowii" without hesitation.

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 The following article authored by Irene Otte was published in the Region 3 1984 Spring Newsletter. It is the best and most complete article of it's type that I have read. Although climatic and growing conditions in Region 3 (Pennsylvania and Delaware) are quite different from those in New Mexico, most of the information applies universally. Following the end of the article, I have made a few comments specifically pertinent to our region.

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BEGINNER'S LUCK! - DON'T COUNT ON IT!  
COMMON MISTAKES BEGINNING IRIS GROWERS MAKE

By: Irene Otte

Author's Note: If you are a satisfied AIS member and an experienced iris grower, this article isn't really intended for you. It was written at the request of several experienced, conscientious irisarians concerned about the large dropout rate of AIS and local club members. This article is meant to be reprinted and distributed free by your local iris club, the Area Chairperson, Membership Secretary, and large local growers. Each copy should carry the Area Chairperson's name and telephone number. I suggest the article be given to:

- A. Every purchaser of iris plants at your local plant sales. Pass on a copy with requests for plants from your own garden too.
- B. New members joining your local iris club at the time they join. It might help them get a successful iris growing start. Maybe this way, new members you sign up will still be enthused three years from now and not be a "dropout statistic".
- Once reprinted, this article is of little value "stashed away". At local club dis-  
 cretion, active members could distribute 10 copies as they see fit.
- C. Iris show visitors purchasing iris at the show. Charge a quarter to the idly  
 curious show or garden visitors.
- D. Visitors to your own yard at bloom time who are seriously enthused about trying  
 to grow a few iris for the first time. Large, local iris growers may want to offer  
 customers a free copy as well.
- E. Each new Regional AIS member as soon as possible after he joins to be personally  
 delivered by the Area Chairperson. This visit encourages interest and the exchange of  
 iris knowledge through personal contact.
- F. New members as an attachment to the "Welcoming Letter" that should be written.

Many AIS and local club dropouts could be prevented if more personal interest was  
 expressed in each new member and more personalized growing expertise passed along.  
 This article listing common iris growing pitfalls is meant to assist the beginner and  
 aid in retaining that initial enthusiasm for years of iris growing satisfaction.

The mistakes enumerated in this article are widespread among beginners. More es-  
 tablished growers are often unaware as to why that blue ribbon or beautiful bloom  
 eluded them. The mistakes and comments tabulated below were repeated year after year  
 by friends, the public, and both AIS and local iris club members while touring my iris  
 garden. Shocking? Maybe! -- But I can attach names and addresses to each "mistake"  
 or example listed. From these examples, several facts become clear:

- A. Confusion exists about proper growing techniques. Not enough basic cultural  
 knowledge has been understood or applied. Intent may be good--actual practice has  
 big gaps.
- B. Instructions clear and obvious to the giver, often an established grower, are  
not obvious or usable to the beginner. Kindergarten level, step-by-step instructions  
 and demonstrations reap the best results. TAKE NOTHING FOR GRANTED. Example: I asked a  
 registered nurse in Pittsburgh how the iris plants I delivered 3 weeks before were do-  
 ing. Calmly, she replied, "Oh, I haven't planted them yet. You said, 'Plant in full  
 sun,' and it's been cloudy or raining every day since." Unbelievable, but true. Often  
 the only reason beginners follow instructions is because they finally understand the  
 disaster awaiting them if they don't.

## BEGINNER'S LUCK! - DON'T COUNT ON IT!

### COMMON MISTAKES BEGINNING IRIS GROWERS MAKE

By: Irene Otte

Mistakes below are in **BOLD** type. Remedies are in small type.

#### PLANT SELECTION

1. **TOO MANY IRIS RHIZOMES PURCHASED FOR BED SPACE AVAILABLE.**
2. **SUPPOSEDLY CHEAP "MAIL ORDER SPECIAL" PLANTS ARE PURCHASED.**

Often these varieties have been discarded by knowledgeable growers and replaced by better quality, modern varieties available reasonably through reputable AIS hybridizers. Get catalog names and addresses from your local iris club. A few good iris bring the most pleasure.

3. **NO THOUGHT IS GIVEN AS TO WHETHER THE RHIZOMES PURCHASED BLOOM EARLY, MIDSEASON, OR LATE.**

If you plan three blue iris varieties, choosing one early, one midseason, and one late extends the bloom period and improves the balance and beauty of your bed. Most Tall Bearded iris bloom midseason. Try to get some early and late ones. Grower's catalogs list color, season of bloom, height, etc.

4. **HEIGHT OF PLANT VARIETY AT MATURITY NOT CONSIDERED.**

A 44" iris stalk is more likely to fall over or need staking than a shorter, more modern variety. Likewise, too short a stalk (32" or less) creates placement problems in order to be seen and enjoyed. Beginners should concentrate on 34-36-38 inch heights which are easier to handle.

5. **A MIXTURE OF DWARF, TALL BEARDED, JAPANESE ETC. ARE PURCHASED AND PLANTED TOGETHER THINKING ALL IRIS ARE THE SAME.**

Bloom time, height, and culture vary for each type leading to possible future disappointment. Get your feet wet and learn how to grow one type well such as Tall Bearded—then by all means expand and grow other types.

6. **SMALL AND IMMATURE PLANTS, SOMETIMES OF DISCARDED VARIETIES, ARE UNKNOWINGLY PURCHASED AT LOCAL IRIS CLUB PLANT SALES OR IRIS SHOWS WITH EXPECTATIONS OF BLOOM NEXT YEAR.**

What better way to discourage beginners and cause vital enthusiasm to wane. (Note to local plant sale chairmen: Small, immature rhizomes should not be on any sale table. If it doesn't have a good chance to bloom next year, don't sell it! Beautiful blooms foster enthusiasm and happy, active members. Providing your sale with antiquated castoffs thinking, "Oh, they just want flowers" creates a discontented customer and/or a sure-fire "dropout" member.)

7. **NEWEST, FANCY IRIS INCLUDED IN INITIAL IRIS PURCHASES.**

Gain growing experience before you order that expensive, new introduction.

Suggestion: Request help from an AIS member, and limit your initial iris selections to those within the top 20 on the Regional Popularity Poll. It is a safe bet you will like them. To make this list of region favorites, an iris has been thoroughly screened by experienced growers and has grown well in your area. It meets modern standards, and above all, is hearty and a dependable bloomer.

#### BED PREPARATION

1. **NO DETAILED LAYOUT OF THE IRIS BED IS MADE PRIOR TO TURNING THE FIRST SHOVEL.**

Figuring out in feet and inches the width of outer margins, distance between plants in the row, and the space required between rows goes a long way toward eliminating many future troubles. It seems unnecessary to a beginner who just wants to plant a few iris, but you will know just how many plants your bed will accommodate successfully before purchase or actual planting. Suggested steps in making your layout:

- (a) Measure maximum length and width of your total bed and mark these figures roughly to scale on a big piece of paper.
- (b) Mentally visualize how your rows of plants are going to lay for maximum sunlight, ease of cultivation, and least soil erosion.
- (c) Think of each plant as an "X" on your drawing and as a solid 18" plant circle, and space in your row accordingly. Allow 2 ft. between each new individual rhizome (X) in the row.

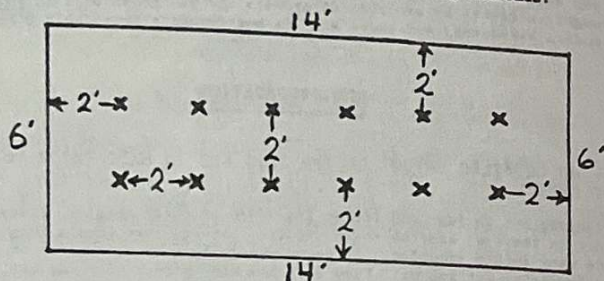
Your first impression of your new bed is that your rhizomes are "lost". For the first year fill the gaps between newly set iris with annuals. You will need this extra space before your single iris plant reaches maturity in two growing years and becomes ready to divide.

- (d) Allow at least 1 ft. as a border on all sides of the bed beyond the required space for your plant leaves. Cultivation will be easier and the lawnmower won't massacre your plants. If planting near a wall, place your row beyond the roof's drip line and at least a foot away from the wall to prevent your plants "cooking" from excessive reflected heat, or rotting from water puddles and poor drainage.
- (e) Allow at least 2 ft. (preferably more) between rows of iris. Plants on each side will overhang into your aisles. So, after your plants have matured and are ready to divide in two years, you will still have a 6-inch space to use to weed, spray, fertilize, cultivate, and dig.



In summary, a beginner with a rototilled 6 ft. by 14 ft. bed, which has been fertilized according to soil test recommendations, can plant 12 prime rhizomes on 2-ft. centers and anticipate the fullest growth and finest bloom for two or possibly three years before division.

Example of layout to scale with an "x" representing rhizomes:



2. BEDS ARE NOT PLACED SO PLANTS WILL RECEIVE AT LEAST ONE-HALF DAY OF FULL SUN FOR BEST RESULTS.

Avoid too much shade. It creates narrow, sparse leaves, weak plants, and fewer, smaller flowers.

3. SOIL OF FUTURE FLOWER BED NOT ADEQUATELY TILLED BEFORE INSERTING PLANTS.

Especially in heavy, clay soil save your back, rent or hire a rototiller, and till at least 9" down--your clumps will be deeper rooted, larger, healthier, and you will have a lot more bloom per plant.

Remember: Plants breathe air through their leaves and roots. Therefore, they will do better in properly rototilled, loose, deeply cultivated soil. Rototilling promotes better root systems, drainage, and air circulation deep down in the soil. Adequate space for air circulation around the leaves encourages healthier growth too.

4. SOIL PH AND DEFICIENCIES ARE NOT CORRECTED DURING BED PREPARATION PRIOR TO PLANTING THE FIRST PLANT.

- (a) Most Pennsylvania soil requires ground dolomitic limestone be applied to reduce soil acidity and achieve the desired pH of 6.5 to 6.8 to grow healthy Tall Bearded Iris. For best results rototill the required limestone evenly into the soil prior to planting.

(b) Always allow at least 6 weeks lapse between applying limestone and any chemical fertilizer. NEVER apply limestone and chemical fertilizer at the same time. "Lock-up" can occur so you could benefit from neither one.

(c) Contact your County Extension Agent, get an easy to use soil test kit, and send in a soil sample. The written soil analysis you will receive will tell you your pH and your soil's deficiencies, and it will specify recommended amounts and types of fertilizers to use to correct your soil.

True, people grow iris without a soil test, but a single soil test can pay big dividends. Your fertilizer program is easier and cheaper because only what you need can be applied. More vigorous plants with better bloom result if you follow these soil test recommendations.

(d) Providing the soil pH has been corrected for at least six weeks, the necessary fertilizers recommended by your soil test results can be rototilled into the soil to a depth of 3" at planting time.

If the pH has not been corrected and limestone is added at planting time, you must wait until six weeks after planting to fertilize. Also, once the plant is in the ground, it is harder to work the fertilizer granules into the soil without damaging the plant's roots.

## ACTUAL PLANTING

1. NO ADEQUATE CHART IS MADE THAT LISTS VARIETY NAME AND POSITION OF EACH PLANT IN THE BED.

Many times I've watched an iris lover stand with his chart (if you could call it that) in hand, but absolutely unable to determine if it was one or more varieties that died over the winter to create the "hole" he sees.

A large piece of paper with an "X" marking the plant's location in the bed, stating the variety name, and listing the color is a must. It helps if you plant your iris in a predetermined pattern in the bed.

- (a) Some permanent marker should be established within the bed to serve as a layout starting point. This marker would facilitate counting to pinpoint the exact location of each variety in the bed and on the chart.



- (b) Correct and remake your chart whenever necessary. Write-ins and crossouts on old charts cause many mixups and heartaches.

Remember, if you want to enter a fancy bloom in the local show, you must know the variety's name.

- (c) I can't tell you how many times I've witnessed utter panic and heard, "I can't find my iris chart." "I've got a beautiful bloom, but the tag is missing." "I wish I knew what it is."

Believe me, if you must, stash one copy of your chart in the family vault—and make yourself an additional copy. Insert the spare in a ring binder for permanent, ready reference.

- (d) Visualize how you want your bed to look, and how each plant's color will look blooming next to its neighbor.

It always comes as a surprise when I warn the happy new owner of some iris plants, "Be sure to make a color chart—think of your color arrangement before planting." Two yellows next to each other may kill both of them; complementary colors together enhance as do light and dark colors.

Often a beginner states, "I hate purple", or "I don't like white", and eliminates those shades in his initial selection. By doing so, the overall blending and beauty of a complete color spectrum is lost. Many times the most beautiful iris available are subtle blends of those "eliminated" or "least favorite" colors. Once seen growing among the favorites, usually the "would-be eliminated" colors are well liked. A complete range of contrasting colors makes a bed more appealing to the eye.

This preliminary work of arranging the colors and blooming schedules pays off with a prettier, longer flowering garden.

- (e) I.D. tags placed at the base of the clump listing variety name get lost, broken, or illegible. Variety name for the replacement tag comes from the chart.

All sorts of identification tags are available from wholesale greenhouse suppliers and seed catalogs. Or you can make your own from a Clorox bottle.

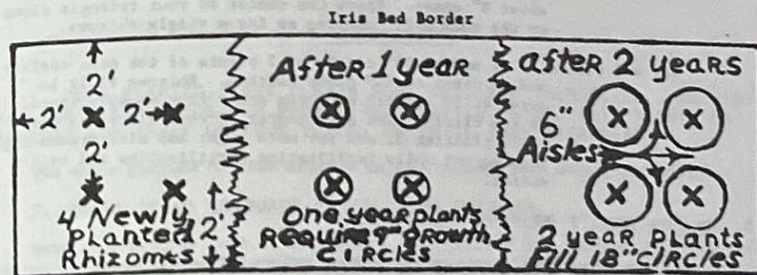
Do purchase a waterproof, sunproof marking pen from a greenhouse supplier. Most so-called waterproof pens available fade with sunlight. Grief results when I.D. tags are illegible and there is no chart.

## 2. RHIZOMES ARE PLANTED TOO CLOSE TOGETHER IN THE ROW--SAY 1 FT. TO 18 INCHES.

This is the biggest mistake iris growers make.

- (a) Planting different varieties 1 ft. apart is sheer disaster unless you divide clumps every year. It crowds and possibly stunts growth. If there is one rule in growing iris, it is, "GIVE EACH PLANT MORE ROOM THAN YOU THINK IT NEEDS." Each plant requires its own sphere of growing and propagating room, light, and air.
- (b) Minimum spacing between single plants should be 2 ft. One healthy rhizome will propagate by growing 4-8 "increase" (new baby plants attached to the mother plant) per year. In two years this single rhizome that seems so small today will "clock" to achieve a circular mass of plants about 18" in diameter.
- (c) Assuming healthy, normal growth, in two years if spaced only a foot apart, you will have such a mass of entwined roots and stunted rhizomes it will be hard to divide them. Besides that, you can't tell where one clump ends and the next begins, so you don't know if you are retaining a pink one or a blue one to replant.
- (d) If you don't provide adequate space, within 2-3 years due to rhizome crowding you will get shorter, weaker stalks with smaller flowers. Conversely, if show stalks are your goal, they are more readily assured by proper spacing and by dividing each clump every year.

These facts are graphically illustrated in the schematic iris bed chart with plant spacing and growth size drawn to scale that is presented below.



TIME-GROWTH STUDY OF RHIZOMES PLANTED ON 2 FT. CENTERS

If the four plants in the graph above were permitted to grow for three years or longer without division (not pictured), they would be grown together with the rhizomes disastrously intertwined. Overgrown iris clumps with dense foliage are more subject to borer infestation, plant diseases, and to severe outbreaks of bacterially caused soft rot in the shaded portions of the plant.



- (a) If you have several rhizomes of a single variety to plant, think of the numbers on the face of a clock. You have several planting alternatives:

For 2 rhizomes: X  
 X  
 Plant at 6 and 12. Point rhizome "toes" toward each other about 6-8 inches apart. As with single plantings, plant the next variety (group) on 2 ft. centers.

Do not plant at 6 and 12 if 6 is located at due South since the plant growing in the 6 location will shade the 12 o'clock plant in normal summer midday sun. Plant at 9 and 3 instead.

For 3 rhizomes: X X  
 X  
 Plant at 10, 2, and 6

or: X  
 X  
 Plant at 12, 8, and 4

so as to best eliminate one rhizome shading its neighbor. Again, "toes" point toward each other in the triangle about 8" apart. Space the center of your triangle clump on the same 2 ft. spacing as for a single rhizome.

For 4-5 plants: We use an 18" circle of 5 plants of the same variety, and we plant on 44" clump centers. Rhizome #1 is located at 12 o'clock with the other four equally spaced in the circle. The open center of this circular, multiple planting allows for more light and air, preventing rhizome rot while facilitating fertilization and cultivation.

### 3. PLANTS AREN'T PROPERLY PLANTED.

- (a) IRIS PLANTS ARE COVERED TO THEIR NECKS WITH DIRT.

Beginners are shocked to learn the upper surface of the rhizome should be exposed to the sun and air.

- (b) DURING PLANTING ROOTS OF THE NEW RHIZOME ARE ONLY SPREAD OUT HORIZONTALLY.

In addition to horizontal root spreading, root ends should also be

headed downward in the hole. Newly planted rhizomes will start to grow if their roots are simply spread horizontally and without any downward direction. However, in our Pennsylvania winter climate there is a greater tendency for the young plant to "frost heave" or die during winter or early spring if the plant is limited by only a shallow horizontal root system.

- (c) NEW RHIZOMES AREN'T SOAKED AND TREATED PRIOR TO PLANTING.

Treat new rhizomes before you plant regardless of appearance, source, or cost, and save yourself a lot of future misery. Beware: Iris disease isn't always visible to the naked eye. So—choose between a fungicide [Banrot, Benomyl or equivalent] or a bactericide [Agri-Strep or equivalent], and soak by submerging the rhizome in a pan 4-6 hours to eliminate disease, replace moisture, and speed up the initial regrowth.

- (d) NOT ENOUGH SAND OR HUMUS IS ADDED TO THE PLANTING AREA.

For humus add well rotted spent manure, compost, or mushroom manure to the planting area. Tall Bearded iris don't like wet feet. Provide good drainage.

- (e) INSUFFICIENT SLOW RELEASE PHOSPHORUS IS PROVIDED FOR HEALTHY IRIS PLANT GROWTH.

Mix a cup of steamed bonemeal in your actual 18" planting circle before planting the rhizome. It is a tremendous assistance toward strong root growth and bigger, stronger plants.

## ANNUAL CARE

1. ONCE PLANTED, IRIS PLANTS MUST FEND FOR THEMSELVES. OUTSIDE OF PULLING A FEW WEEDS AND PROVIDING A LITTLE WATER, IRIS PLANTS GO UNATTENDED FOR THREE OR FOUR YEARS, OR UNTIL THEY DISAPPEAR.

The whole purpose of this article is to overcome this widespread mistake.

2. THERE IS NO ADEQUATE FERTILIZING PROGRAM.

Despite libraries full of literature, fertilizing is a bugaboo art with most iris growers, especially women. They either don't fertilize enough, apply it at the wrong time of the growing cycle, or don't use the right stuff most of the time. Good intentions don't create great flowers.

- (a) Learn that the three numbers on the fertilizer sack stand for NITROGEN, PHOSPHORUS, and POTASH in that order. 5-10-10 means 5 parts nitrogen, 10 parts phosphorus, and 10 parts potash. By predetermining the mix you can closely approximate your soil test recommendations.



(b) Remember the key roles of these three ingredients this way:

**Nitrogen:** Aids leaf growth—use lots for lettuce, not for iris. Too much nitrogen causes lush, weak leaf growth, reduces iris bloom and encourages rot.

Use a low nitrogen fertilizer on iris and replace only the nitrogen deficiency stated by your soil test.

**Phosphorus:** Encourages good strong root structure—need a lot for turnips and for iris. Use should be coordinated with Potash.

**Potash:** If everything else is right, it acts as a general "tonic": It increases general vigor, bloom and seed set, and strengthens stalks and disease resistance if you have enough phosphorus and nitrogen.

Potash is extremely water soluble so it leaches away and needs the most frequent replenishing.

(c) After soil test corrections are made and a maintenance fertilizer is required, a balanced fertilizer such as 5-10-10 or 10-10-10 provides the best results. Ordinarily not more than 2 tablespoons of granules is enough to sprinkle thinly as a single application around (not on) a single rhizome. A small, flat cat food can full of 10-10-10 around a 5-plant 18" circle works well for us.

Super Phosphate fertilizer when used as recommended supplies only one needed ingredient, phosphorus, and supplements, not substitutes for your basic balanced 10-10-10 fertilizer application.

Liquid fertilizer applications made from Rapid Gro or Peters 20-20-20 are very potent, rapidly absorbed, water soluble fertilizers. They give plants a quick "kick", but must be used with discretion to avoid lush, weak growth, root burn, and iris rot.

### 3. CONFUSION PERSISTS AS TO WHEN TO FERTILIZE AND WITH WHAT.

No fertilizing program or application schedule is infallible. There are too many variables. However, as a guide to beginners, the following application schedule is effective for us in an established bed producing show stalk bloom:

(a) LATE SUMMER (mid August): A light application (1/2 amount mentioned in "c" directly above) of a balanced fertilizer such as 10-10-10.

(b) LATE FALL:

1. October 15th: The other 1/2 of the amount mentioned in "c" directly above of 10-10-10 (use 1 tablespoon per rhizome).

2. Thanksgiving (after growth quits or first hard frost):

Apply Super Phosphate:

For single, first-year rhizomes: About 2 tablespoons.  
For 18" clump of 5 plants that has grown for a year: About 1/2 cup. Amount depends on the number of increase. DO NOT PUT SUPER PHOSPHATE ON THE SURFACE OF THE RHIZOME.

(c) EARLY SPRING (3 weeks before bloom time). Tall Bearded begin bloom about May 15 and normally peak May 30 in Pittsburgh.

So about April 25th: One application of Rapid Gro (use 1 tablespoon per gal. water) liberally around each plant, not on it. Plants absorb their nutrients in liquid form. This application assists the plant achieve rapid spring growth for its maximum bloom potential.

(d) WEEK IMMEDIATELY AFTER BLOOM: Remove all bloom stalks. (Snap off at rhizome level.) This avoids rhizome and stem rot. Seed pods, if allowed to develop, also drain nutrients from the plant.

(e) IF YOU ARE DIVIDING YOUR CLUMPS THIS YEAR, THE WEEK AFTER BLOOM:

Besides removing bloom stalks, fertilize with one application of 10-10-10 to aid plant recuperation and to produce larger sized increase. Then you must wait 6-8 weeks before dividing.

(f) IF YOU ARE NOT DIVIDING THIS YEAR: Take a soil test, and unless absolutely necessary, skip this after-bloom fertilizer step entirely. You don't want to create rot problems with lush leaf growth or too numerous, small increase which can crowd your plant circle. Wait until the LATE SUMMER application.

(g) IF YOU ARE SETTING OUT NEW RHIZOMES IN LATE JULY: Outside of mixing steamed bonemeal in the dirt in the hole followed by one watering with Rapid Gro about 10 days after planting, wait and apply both LATE FALL fertilizer applications mentioned in (b) above.



## IRIS PROBLEMS

In most areas of Region III there are only three major problems that affect iris: IRIS BORERS, SOFT ROT, and BOTRYTIS. Understand and control these iris problems, and usually you are home free to more satisfaction than with most other perennials. Programs and sprays vary among growers. So do the results. I list programs that have worked for me and many others.

### 1. NO REGULAR SPRAYING PROGRAM IS FOLLOWED THAT CONTROLS IRIS BORERS.

This is one of the greatest mistakes Region III iris growers make. Near Pittsburgh at least, YOU MUST SPRAY. Otherwise, disaster usually results, and sooner or later your iris plants are literally going to disappear. You spend money for plants, and start off with hours of preparation of your bed. Why not invest a little more time and effort and eliminate the problem of iris borers? Think of your borer spray program as "insurance". It really isn't hard or complicated, and with reasonable care while spraying, the benefits are huge.

#### (a) FOR IRIS BORERS I USE CYGON 2E:

I follow a precise and time proven spray procedure:

First: I mix 3 tablespoons of liquid Cygon 2E per gallon of warm (110°F.) water that already contains 1/4 teaspoon of Tide to serve as a "spreader-sticker".

As with any potent spray, follow the label precautions and DON'T:

- (1) Mix spray inside your house.
- (2) Allow spray to remain on bare skin.
- (3) Allow this spray to reach vegetables or fruit for human use.
- (4) Use any spray or chemical beyond the maximum shelf life of the product.  
For Cygon 2E it is 3 years for dark, warm shelf storage.

Second: I spray once per growing season in mid April using a power sprayer that develops 60 lbs. nozzle pressure. I adjust the spray head to produce a very small, needle sharp spray pattern, and I hold the spray nozzle within one inch of all iris plant surfaces. I thoroughly wet the entire plant and adjacent soil surface.

Repeating, I apply my Cygon 2E spray to wet both sides of leaves, all stalks, the exposed rhizome surfaces, and the surrounding dirt.

This single spray procedure has given excellent results. One mid-April spray for each of the last five years has kept my iris borer free. However, I keep my eyes open for any subsequent unexpected infestation by observation for:

- (a) Saw-tooth-like leaf damage accompanied by
- (b) A soft, brown, slimy fecal trail made by the iris borer as it heads downward inside the leaf surfaces toward the rhizome.

I avoid any spray application after buds show color until immediately after bloom time, if necessary. Cygon 2E is a systemic absorbed into the plant's tissues, so once the surface dries, it doesn't wash off. GREATER TISSUE ABSORPTION IS ACHIEVED ON THE MORE TROUBLESOME WAXY LEAVED IRIS VARIETIES BY USING BOTH A HIGH PRESSURE SPRAYER AND WARM WATER SPRAY. This is very important to success in killing borers within a leaf.

If a lower pressure hand sprayer is used, begin spraying in mid-April and spray at least once a month through October until a hard, killing frost or freeze.

The iris borer transforms itself from a small, white maggot-like borer to a large, grooved, pinkish borer that is as large as a cutworm. The actual Iris Borer Moth is night flying, and is seldom seen as it flies about to lay its eggs on summer nights. Insect literature states, "The Iris Borer Moth's eggs are generally laid on dead leaves or vegetative trash, and the eggs laid the previous Fall hatch the following Spring." Before the Spring borer hatch, clear all plants of dead leaves and accumulated trash. Also trim off dry, brown portions of live leaves.

Borer outbreaks are much easier to prevent than to eradicate. The key to success is, "Keep your bed clean at all times, and be certain your first spray is done right and on time."

#### (b) The most common borer procedure errors are:

1. Don't spray early enough. (First spray by mid-April)
2. Don't spray strong enough. (Pressure and concentration of spray)
3. Don't spray often enough.
4. Make up the spray using COLD water.
5. The worst spray substitute used to alleviate borers is to shear off the leaves about 3" above dirt level. This disregards the plant's need for leaves to grow, and with this method any borers in the rhizome, on the leaf stubs, or already down in the root area are ignored. This is a poor substitute for effective, modern eradication methods.



## 2. ALL IRIS ROT IS THE SAME AND REQUIRES THE SAME TREATMENT.

The misconception that there is only one type of iris rot leads to improper, ineffective treatment.

People can get two types of Massles and should know that iris get TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF ROT: Soft Rot and Botrytis.

## 3. SOFT ROT WILL CURE ITSELF.

Maybe. But don't count on it. Apparently healthy plants can be wiped out if left unattended. Watch your bed for signs of a Soft Rot outbreak. A seige of hot, humid, wet weather encourages this bacteria (in all soil all the time) to activate. A soft, very foul smelling rhizome results. The affected part looks like thick sour cream, only more yellowish. If it hits leaf fans where they attach to the rhizome, the entire fan falls over in a matter of hours, and you find it lying flat on the ground. Often the disease eats away on the back side of the leaves just where they attach to the rhizome. Affected leaves often have very brown tips.

(a) FOR SOFT ROT I USE AGRI-STREP (a commercial Streptomycin Bactericide):

1 Tablespoon powder per one gallon of warm water. Note I list one tablespoon. It takes this one tablespoon amount per gallon to be effective on iris per actual tests by Memphis State University. Therefore, disregard the one teaspoon per gallon application rate listed on the AGRI-STREP package. Pittsburgh irisarians have proven that the teaspoon rate won't work and that the stronger one table-spoon rate works well for bacteria caused rot.

Apply with a sprinkler can on entire rhizome, dirt, and if necessary, spray on leaves too. It washes off with each rain so do it on a dry day. Repeat applications may be necessary, perhaps 3-4 from April to November.

(b) Prevention is best. Cure is difficult. To attempt cure: With a teaspoon scrape out the infected, soft rhizome tissue and burn it. Then pour on AGRI-STREP solution liberally at once with a watering can. You may have to repeat application in a day or two. Sun and air assist in a more rapid curing process. If untreated, the entire rhizome rots away and the plant simply disappears.

## 4. "I DON'T RAISE ANY BOTRYTIS IN MY GARDEN-I ONLY GROW TB'S."

Funny? No. Pathetic? Yes! Many growers have no conception that BOTRYTIS is a Fungus caused disease and not a rare species iris. Botrytis can affect potatoes, apples, and iris, etc. However, with iris it is sometimes also referred to as "Winter Rot."

Botrytis in its earliest stages looks like little black dots on the exposed rhizome surface. As it progresses dots turn to spots, spots become patches, patches

become broad black, fuzzy stripes. The black fuzz consists of spores just waiting for wind or water to carry them off to a new location and another new disease colony. On iris rhizomes the fuzzy, black stripe is usually followed by a dull, black, cracked open surface that covers a corky, dry tissue area within a weakened or dying rhizome. A final contrasting identification: Although both types of rot produce yellow, creamy, diseased rhizome tissue—Botrytis Rot does not smell.

(a) FOR BOTRYTIS I USE BANROT (a wide spectrum systemic fungicide)  
Second choice is Benowyl which isn't known as a systemic; therefore, it is less effective.

I dissolve 1-1/2 TEASPOONS BANROT powder per 2 gallons warm water, and apply as a drench with a watering can on the entire plant plus surrounding dirt:

In LATE FALL - to prepare the bed for winter.

In EARLY SPRING (mid April) - to protect plants during wet spring weather.

Protection span for BANROT is 8 weeks, so reapply throughout the summer at eight-week intervals.

BANROT can be obtained from major greenhouse suppliers. It's very expensive, but effective. A 2-lb. package could be purchased by your local iris club and divided into approximately 16 small packets suitable for sale to local member growers.

(b) Often bacteria caused Soft Rot and fungus caused Botrytis develop in conjunction with each other.

We treat by using BANROT first and repeat BANROT applications at eight week intervals. Meanwhile, if, due to hot, wet, muggy weather, an outbreak of Soft Rot occurs, then we treat with AGRI-STREP.

Don't apply BANROT and AGRI-STREP at the same time. Over application of either BANROT or AGRI-STREP leads to the loss of effectiveness.

(c) Common misconceptions regarding "ROT" are:

1. All iris rot is the same.

There is no comprehension that there are two totally different causes for rot, one requiring a bactericide, the other a fungicide.

2. Ajax Cleanser or Clorox are effective for curing iris rot.

They don't cure—they just sterilize, dry up, or bleach the surface, that's all. Very effective for scraped out surface areas of diseased rhizomes, but not effective for deep seated or plant-sap circulated bacteria or fungus diseases.



## RHIZOME DIVISION

### 1. "I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DIVIDE". "WHAT SHOULD I DO?"

When dividing neophyte iris growers are often confused about what to throw away and what to keep and replant. An actual demonstration of rhizome division with the beginner getting his hands dirty makes the clearest impression. More experienced iris club friends can be a great help here.

You can eliminate a lot of the confusion by thinking of your iris clump in female terms:

- (a) An iris rhizome blooms once at maturity, grows increase, eventually becomes encircled with its offspring, loses its leaves, and dies.

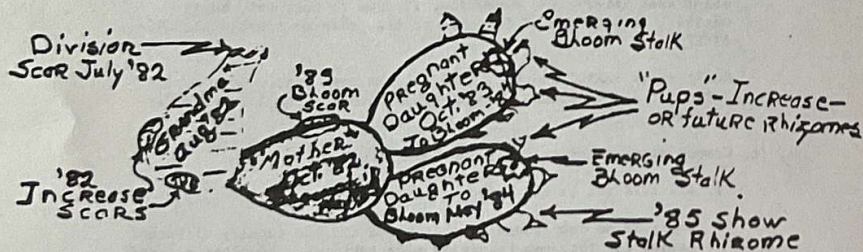
For a two-year clump division:

Call the oldest originally planted rhizome with no leaves "Grandma".

Call the first generation mature rhizomes that are the first year increase developed by Oct. 15th of the original year "Mothers".

Call all the additional "increases" attached to "Mother" the "Pregnant Daughters".

These terms become clear with study of the drawing below:



### (b) How to divide:

1. Throw away "Grandma" and all rhizomes which had bloom stalks. Neither will probably ever bloom again. If you are desperate for increase from this variety—try replanting these—it might be successful.

2. Plant the largest, healthiest rhizomes of those that remain in this order of preference:

(a) The largest "Pregnant Daughters" with the "pups" still attached.

OR:

(b) The large but immature "Mother" rhizomes that have not bloomed yet.

These should bloom and/or grow good increase for next year.

While dividing iris is really quite simple once understood, many would-be irisarians throw away part of what they should replant. A brilliant Ph.D. scientist who had old, common iris growing for years completely unattended complained bitterly, "Your iris plants just won't bloom." "I tend them carefully and divide every year." A personal tour turned up the real cause: He was replanting only the "Grandmas" and throwing everything else away. No wonder that the "old girls" never bloomed!

### 2. IRIS ARE DIVIDED EITHER IMMEDIATELY AFTER BLOOM OR IN LATE FALL.

- (a) Wait 6-10 weeks after bloom to divide. The embryonic flower for next year's bloom forms inside the new growth rhizome during the six weeks following bloom. By not waiting at least 6 weeks for this growth to occur, future bloom is reduced. In a normal growing year in Pennsylvania the plants are ready to divide 6 weeks after bloom.
- (b) Rhizomes divided in late Fall are denied sufficient growing weather before Winter to establish good root structure. Fall set rhizomes are more likely to die over Winter.

## CONCLUSION

If you are just starting to grow iris, do yourself two favors:

1. Tour and familiarize yourself with other iris gardens in your vicinity. You will benefit by recognizing better varieties, bed arrangements, etc. You will enjoy the local friendships and mutual interest associations with the other iris growers.

2. If you plan to grow iris and spend your money, time, and effort for plants and bed preparation, for heaven's sake join the American Iris Society and benefit from the cultural, educational-type articles found in the AIS Bulletins and Newsletters.

Growing iris can reap great rewards. They are relatively easy to grow producing beautiful blooms. Hopefully, this itemization of mistakes and the remedial tips will help the beginner. So—Now that you know they are easy to grow—ENJOY!



Editor's Comments:

The biggest difference between treatment of irises in Pennsylvania and that in New Mexico is in planting of the rhizomes. Most growers here cover the rhizome with 1/2"--1" of soil when planting. Our intense summer sun will severely dry and partially "cook" the top of the rhizome if not covered. There is also less chance of the buds being frozen during our erratic early springs. Heavy winter mulching is a common practice in eastern areas, whereas it is not commonly done here, except possibly on late new plantings.

We in Region 23 don't have serious iris borer problems; however, we have our share of other "beasties". Spray programs to control these pests should begin at least 8 weeks prior to normal peak bloom.

I hope you caught that the fertilizing practices outlined were for a maintenance program to be applied after having corrected initial soil deficiencies as determined by a soil test. Most of our growers here choose to apply solid fertilizers costing around 25¢ per pound rather than the very expensive highly soluble types which cost about \$2 per pound. When doing so, the spring application is usually most effective when applied 6 or 7 weeks prior to normal peak bloom--the micro soil organisms require time to convert the chemicals into soluble forms which the plants can utilize.

Various fungi other than the botrytis fungus often attack the roots, rhizomes, and leaves of irises. Most of these infestations occur during periods of high moisture in the fall and spring when temperatures are above freezing. Crowded plantings are more susceptible to damage and will spread these fungi more so than will well spaced plantings. Maneb and Zineb are effective controls for some of these fungi, but it is often necessary to employ a systemic fungicide such as Benomyl (Benlate is chemically identical) to control others which have invaded the plant tissues.

My apology for the reduction to small print. I could not duplicate the different sizes of print which are integrated throughout the article.

E

WELCOME-----NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. G.M. Bradford	East Star Route	Lovington, N.M.	86260
Janet Cooper	Rt. 2, Box 148	Los Lunas, N.M.	87031
Sandra Fleming	7101 Leander, N.E.	Albuquerque, N.M.	87109
Jim & Kathy Laurenga	1430 Carol Ann Ct.	Las Cruces, N.M.	88005
Aldrinna Lu	14207 Skyline Rd, NE	Albuquerque, N.M.	87123
Jerry & Virga Morris	700 W. Coal	Hobbs, N.M.	88240
Neila MacDonald	P O Box 825	Placitas, N.M.	87043
Mamie C. Myers	2521 Westminster	Alamogordo, N.M.	88310
Glenn Neumeyer	1520 W. Parker	Las Cruces, N.M.	88001
Sidney Pike	Box 906	Las Cruces, N.M.	88001
M. Mary Romero	3200 Rio Bravo, SW	Albuquerque, N.M.	87105
Judy Zimmerman	1455 Wofford Dr.	Las Cruces, N.M.	88001

REGION 23 FINANCIAL REPORT--DEC. 1, 1985

Region Convention Fund

Balance	3/5/85	\$ 604.97	
Balance	12/1/85 (no change)	604.97	\$ 604.97
		***	

RVP Operating Fund

Balance	3/5/85	501.08	
Less RVP and Newsletter Expenses	(2/15/85 thru 7/29/85)	(171.16)	
Plus Income			

Albuquerque Iris Guild	\$100.00
Mesilla Valley Iris Soc.	250.00
New Mexico Iris Soc.	175.00
Pleasure Iris Gardens	87.00
Roswell Iris Soc.	50.00
San Juan Iris Soc.	5.00
Santa Fe Iris Soc.	25.00

Total Income	692.00	692.00	
Balance	12/1/85	1,021.92	1,021.92
		***	
Balance All Funds	12/1/85		<u>\$1,626.89</u>



REGION 23 - AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY  
BUSINESS MEETING, OCTOBER 12, 1985  
MESILLA VALLEY INN, LAS CRUCES, N. M.

Maxine Perkins, President of Mesilla Valley Iris Society, welcomed everyone to the 9th Annual Regional 23 Convention, at 10 a.m. She then introduced Floyd Stopani, the Convention Chairman.

Floyd announced that Allan Ensminger would be our guest speaker that evening, and also would conduct the Judges Training Session on Medians, Sunday Oct. 13th. The Indianapolis AIS Convention Slides would be shown that afternoon, by Howard Shockey. Tom Little would present a program about "Unusual Irises".

Floyd then introduced Howard Shockey, RVP of Region 23.

Howard introduced Regional Officers: Susan Latimer, Assistant RVP, Irene Shockey, Secretary, and James Mahoney, Past RVP. He then introduced and welcomed our visitors from out of Region: Allan and Gladys Ensminger, from Lincoln, Nebraska, Region 21; Bennett and Evelyn Jones, Portland, Oregon, Region 13; and Lu Danielson, from Region 17.

Howard called the roll of Region 23's Seven affiliate societies: Albuquerque Aril Society - 7, Albuquerque Iris Guild - 7, Lea County Iris Society - 4, Mesilla Valley Iris Society - 17, and the Roswell Iris Society - 3.

Motion was made and passed to accept the minutes of the August 11, 1984 meeting as published in the Fall 1984 Newsletter.

Susan Latimer was asked to read the Treasurer's Report, as George Nickel, Treasurer, was not present. (See Treasurer's Report printed elsewhere this Newsletter).

Jim Mahoney, Judges Training Chairman, was asked for a report. He stated there would be a Judges Training Session, Spring of 1986 on Medians. It was stated that any affiliate societies could set up a Garden Judging School, if they wished, if AIS rules were followed. These rules require that the host society should prepare and submit the following data to the RVP at least 60 days prior to the proposed school: The place, date and time; Duration (No. hours credit); Topic for training; Instructor and/or instructors; A Copy of written test covering the training session. The RVP would then obtain approval from the AIS Judges Training Chairman. After completion of any such training school, the attendance roster along with the test papers should be forwarded to the Regional Judges Training Chairman.

The old business before the members was the need to vote on the proposed new By-Laws and/or the proposed Amendments to the existing By-Laws. After floor discussion, the vote was taken, and the result was unanimous in favor of adopting the proposed new By-Laws. Howard mentioned that the new By-Laws provide for different procedure in electing regional officers, and that information would be

published in the Fall Newsletter.

Under new business, Howard stated he had received two invitations to host the 1986 Regional Convention. One letter was received from New Mexico Iris Society, and the second was received from the Lea County Iris Society.

During the ensuing floor discussion, Bill Brown mentioned that in past years, hosting of our Convention has been in a circular pattern around the State, and that the 1984 Convention was held in Albuquerque. He further stated, that Hobbs had not hosted a Convention since 1982, and the Lea County Iris Society felt it was their turn and wished to serve as host for 1986.

Jim Mahoney made the motion that we accept the invitation from the Lea County Iris Society to meet in Hobbs in 1986. The motion was seconded and passed.

With no other new business, Howard made several announcements.

At the AIS Convention in Indianapolis, the Board authorized the investigation of pricing for a re-issue of the 1969 Ten Year Checklist. There is quite a demand for that Checklist, and the AIS Board will probably act on this in November.

The new Judges Handbook is available. Contact Jamie Heathcock, her address is in the AIS Bulletin.

The Regional 1986 Symposium results were: #1 Victoria Falls, #2 Beverly Sills, #3 (tied) Laced Cotton and New Moon, #4 Song of Norway, and #5 Vanity. The balance of the top 25 will be printed in the Fall Newsletter.

New Dates for the 1986 AIS Convention in San Jose, Calif., will be Sat. April 26th thru Wed. April 30th. The location of the convention has been changed from the Hyatt House to the Red Lion.

The AIS Awards for 1986: The Dykes, went to Ben Hager for Beverly Sills; Knowlton Medal, to M. Hamblen for Gypsy Wings (BB); Sass Medal to P. Dyer for Silent Stings (IB); Cook-Douglas Medal to William Jones for Michael Paul (SDB); the Caparne-Welch Medal to D. Sindt for Zipper (MDB); the Williamson-White Award to W. Welch for Consumption (MTB); C.G. White (AR) to L. Rich for Zemira; The Mohr Award (AB) to Ben Hager for Dune; The Nies Award to E. McCown for Imperial Gold (Spuria)

A motion was made to be dismissed - all were in favor. Howard declared the meeting adjourned, to be reconvened next year in Hobbs, N M, dates to be announced.

Respectfully submitted

Irene Shockey - Secretary  
Region 23 - AIS



## A LITTLE MIXED UP

Just a line to say I'm living,  
That I'm NOT among the dead;  
Though I'm getting more forgetful,  
And more mixed up in the head.

For sometimes I can't remember,  
When I stand at foot of stairs,  
If I must go up for something,  
Or if I've just come down from there!

And before the "frig" so often,  
My poor mind is filled with doubt;  
Have I just put food away, or  
Have I come to take some out?

And there's times when it is dark outside,  
With my nightcap on my head,  
I don't know if I'm retiring,  
Or just getting out of bed.

So, if it's my turn to write you,  
There's no need in getting sore;  
I may think that I have written,  
And don't want to be a bore.

So remember--I do love you,  
And I wish that you were here,  
But now, it's nearly mail time,  
So, I must say "Goodbye, dear".

### Sequel

There I stood beside the mail box,  
With face so very red,  
Instead of mailing you my letter--  
I opened it instead!

(The above poem was enclosed with an iris order  
from Frances Svob of Phoenix, Arizona. Does  
the shoe fit?)

## REGION 23 AFFILIATES

### President

#### ALBUQUERQUE ARIL SOCIETY

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Barbara Mann  
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Santa Fe, N.M. 87505



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- Quarterly illustrated bulletins
- Send dues to A.I.S. Membership:  
Mrs R V Ramsey  
6518 Beechy Ave  
Wichita KS 67208



HOWARD G. SHOCKEY  
RVP--Region 23--AIS  
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FIRST CLASS

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