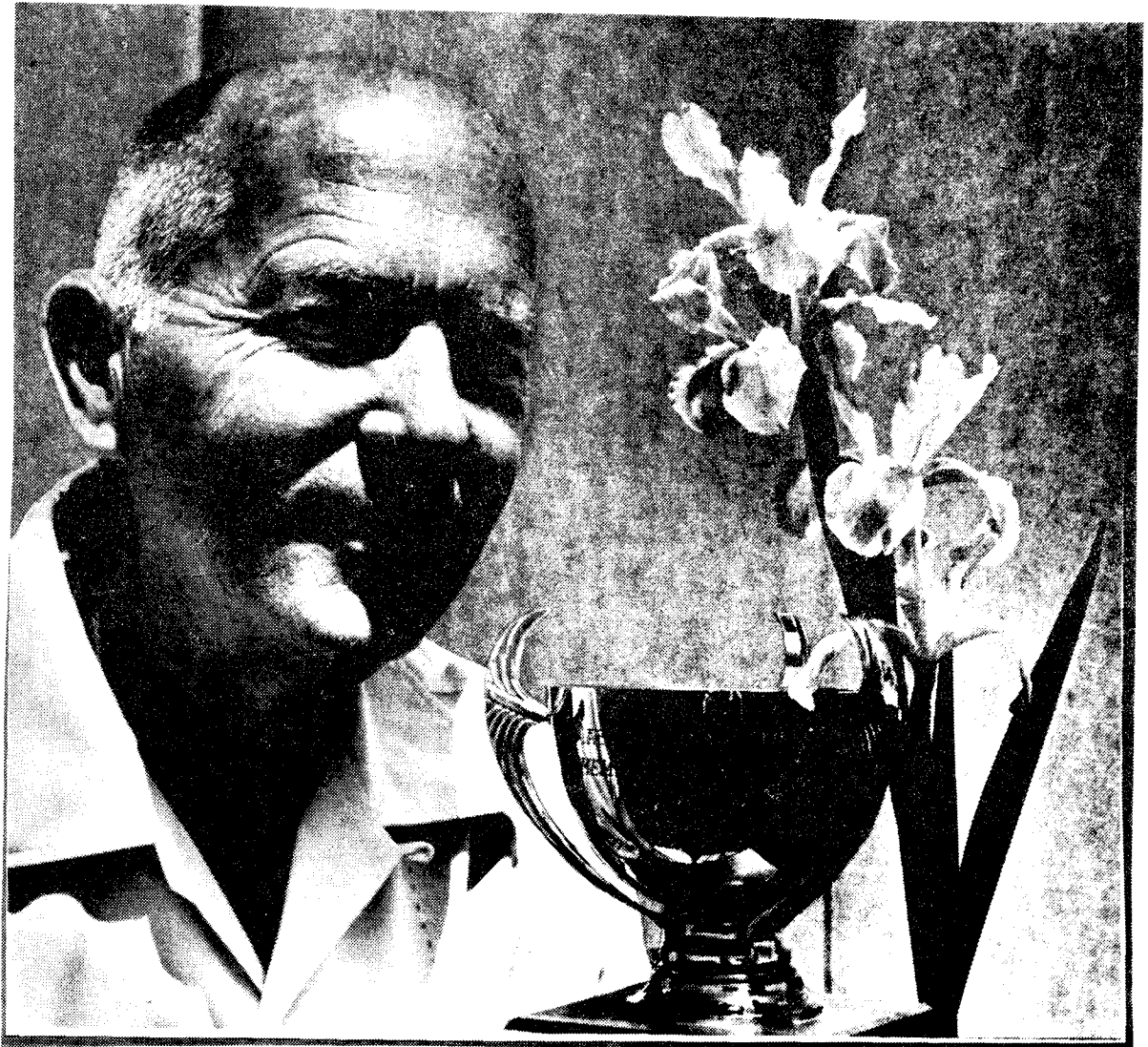
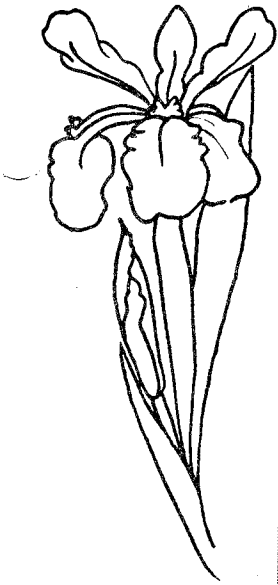


SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

SPURIA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER



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JULY  
1968  
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THE HYBRIDIZER, THE TROPHY, AND THE IRIS.  
( a composite photo by Mackintosh )

The sun-tanned hybridizer is Ben Hager , of the Melrose Gardens, Stockton, California . The shining bowl is the Eric Nies Trophy which was awarded during the Berkeley Convention. The beautiful iris is the spuria ELIXIR, which won the award for Ben. On page 7 of this issue is additional information about this photograph.

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER - - VOLUME 12 # 38 - - JULY 1968

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SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY INFORMATION

Membership: A Section of the American Iris Society under approved by-laws.
American members of SIS must be members of AIS.

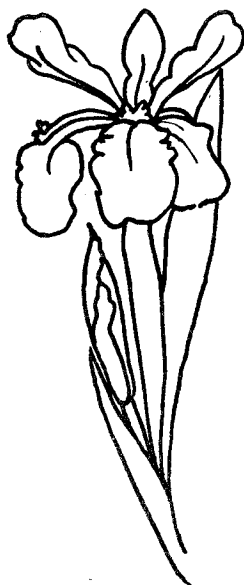
Dues: Annual: Individual \$1.00 Family \$1.50
Triennial: Individual \$2.50 Family \$3.50
Supporting annual membership \$3.00

Notices of dues payable are included with A.I.S dues notices.

Please inform the Membership Chairman of changes of address.

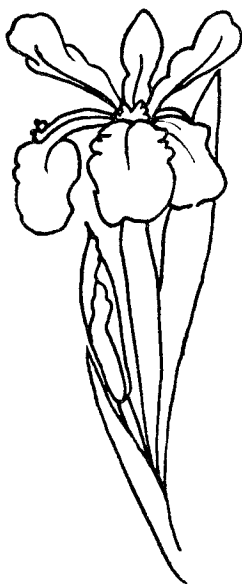
NEWSLETTER: Published quarterly: July, October, January, and April.
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communications regarding the newsletter to the editor.

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## SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

SPURIA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY



### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mrs. Joseph P. Crawford  
R. F. D. 2, Box 35  
Purcell, Oklahoma 73080

*This is my first message to you as President of the Spuria Society. I hope you are as excited as I am about the progress we have made in fifteen years. We launch upon a new fiscal year with a standard of excellence established that will be a challenge to us. We remember our past officers who built up this organization, and we extend to them our appreciation. We assure the membership that your new officers will now carry on; we will serve the society with all our talent and ability.*

*We recently concluded a most successful A.I.S. Convention. The Spuria Society congratulates Region 14 for a job well done; we extend our thanks for their hospitality and for arrangements for the spuria meeting. It was good to greet old friends - and to welcome into membership in this society many new friends.*

*This was the year we saw many spurias in bloom at the national meet. Mr Matt McHugh, of Missouri (our new Slides Chairman) and Oren Campbell, of Arkansas (our new Associate Editor) took photographs to help keep our collection up to date. Thanks to both. But we know that they cannot do the whole job alone, & we know that other members also took pictures of spurias. If you took photos of spurias, and if some of your pictures turned out well, please give your society a chance to use them. Please submit any good color slides to your Slides Chairman for his review, and please submit any good black-and-white photoprints (contact size is O.K.) to the Newsletter Editor for screening. See page two for addresses. With each photograph, please include name of the photographer and the name of the spuria - or a caption for the photograph.*

*Newsletter editor Bill Gunther hereby is congratulated for his distinguished work on the issue for last April, and on the beautiful color cover for that issue. The newsletter is our greatest task. For it, there is need of news from all regions. Please submit to him reports (with black & white photos if available) of your experiences in growing, showing, and hybridizing spurias.*

*During the big spuria meeting at the AIS Convention 33 new members joined the Spuria Society. And so many others have joined at other times that our total membership as of this issue is up to an all-time high of 398 members. If you are not certain of the duration of your own membership, you may refer to page 2 for dues amount and for address, then send payment for membership extension to the Secretary-Treasurer. He then will send you a new membership card which will indicate the new date to which your membership is paid up.*

*Iris enthusiasts are excited about recent spuria introductions which are new in color and/or form. Sources for obtaining descriptive literature and price listings are noted on the back of this newsletter. Now is the time to request listings and to submit orders; do you have at least one truly modern spuria?*

*Join a spuria robin for fun and information. Write to Mrs Staton Nunn, Robin Chairman, for details. Robins are free. Her address is on page two.*

*May each of you have a safe and very happy summer.*

*Ila Crawford*  
Sincerely, Ila Crawford

Sunday, April 28, 1968

# Spurias Just Enjoy That Valley Heat

By ADA PERRY



tenths of the spuria seedlings will be white and yellow. What she and other hybridizers are looking for a real orange, a dark red that doesn't "go purple" and a white without that yellow "signal patch".

She believes spurias in the garden should be in clumps by themselves to show them off, and demonstrates by enjoying a huge clump of her white and yellow Imperial Song that is off against a fence between two shrubby plants.

Eleanor McCown's progressed all this way from a clump of the old Iris ochroleuca "which you can't kill" given her by a Holtville woman. It looked good and in an old Milliken iris catalogue the similar but more interesting spuria irises looked even better.

She ordered and planted three: Lark Song, White Heron and Wadi-sem-zem. Lark Song finally died out but left a seed pod fertilized by one of the other two.

So Eleanor planted the seeds and three seedlings survived, one to become her Imperial Song.

If you like, here is her list of what she finds reliable in older varieties of spurias: White Heron; Cherokee Chief, bronze; Premier, a small purple; Driftwood, a top rated bronze, and Perky Maid, mustard yellow with brown or purple lines.

If you "feel" your soil before watering you're on the right track. There was Eleanor gouging the dirt between irises and trying to decide whether to water that day or hold out for an iris group to come the next day.

She floods the beds and "you can't walk in there for a day or two in spite of paths." In her area the "flood" occurs every five days from June through September, other months as needed.

Next weekend you will see "Iris On Stage" at the Conference Building in Balboa Park, which is the theme of the '68 spring iris show sponsored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society.

To get something on iris "back stage" I recently played hop-scotch with Federal Boulevard in San Diego to see Ray Hiser's iris planting at 1812 Republic St. Then I sailed through a 30-mile-an-hour wind and a clear day to Holtville in Imperial Valley to see Eleanor McCown's garden. She's Imperial Valley's contribution to iris growing and gardening, too, I'd say.

Inside the windbreak trees around the comfortable, beautiful house standing in desert fields that grow cotton, flax, alfalfa, milo and lettuce for Frank McCown is a most enchanting oasis of flowers of many kinds. They zoomed in on me, touching off an exciting tour of the whole garden. I'll tell you about it in a later.

Mrs. McCown's beautiful iris are the concern of this story, and spurias are what she specializes in. There's too much wind for the wider, more fragile petals of the bearded kinds.

Her success with spurias is such that she has hybridized four new varieties which are registered and introduced. They are Imperial Song, Imperial Burgundy, Imperial Flight and Imperial Night.

This year Highline, a lavender, will be introduced after being tested, exhibited and registered. The area of the farm is known as "the high-line" in Imperial Valley.

"It is just pretty", says Mrs. McCown, "I think the arrangement ladies will like that. The flowers aren't very large the largest flowered spurias are slower to grow and bloom and open up, and four at a time will open in this one."

Mrs. McCown has a little trick, approved by show judges, to open more flowers at a time on a spuria stem. She snaps off the top bud. Then the buds below open in unison.

She believes haste makes waste in introducing a new seedling. So she tries to test hers two or three years by moving them about in her garden and observing how they hold up and react during that time. It takes two to three years to get bloom from her seed pods of crosses.

Her seedling beds are full of holes where she's dug bloomed plants.

"Why are you digging that one up?" asks her son. "It's so pretty."

"Yes, it is pretty," says Mrs. McCown. "But there are so many others that are prettier."

The iris hybridizers' name for a seedling bed is the "dog patch"!

Mrs. McCown says nine-

THE SPURIA IRIS MONNIERI by Dr. Lee Lenz  
( extracted, with permission, from Aliso , Vol 5, No. 3 )

An interesting, but poorly understood yellow flowered , 40-chromosome taxon is *Iris monnieri* , described in 1808 by de Candolle . The original plant was discovered growing in the garden of M. Lemonnier at Versailles , where it was called " Iris de Rhodes " , the name referring , presumably , to its place of origin . Dykes was of the opinion that it was probably not a good species as evidenced by the fact that the majority of seedlings raised from self-fertilized flowers resemble *I. ochroleuca*. According to him, *Iris monnieri* is distinguished from both *I. ochroleuca* and *I. crocea* by color differences , and in the case of *Iris crocea* also by shape of the sepals, which are orbicular in *Iris monnieri* and lanceolate with crimped edges in *Iris crocea*.

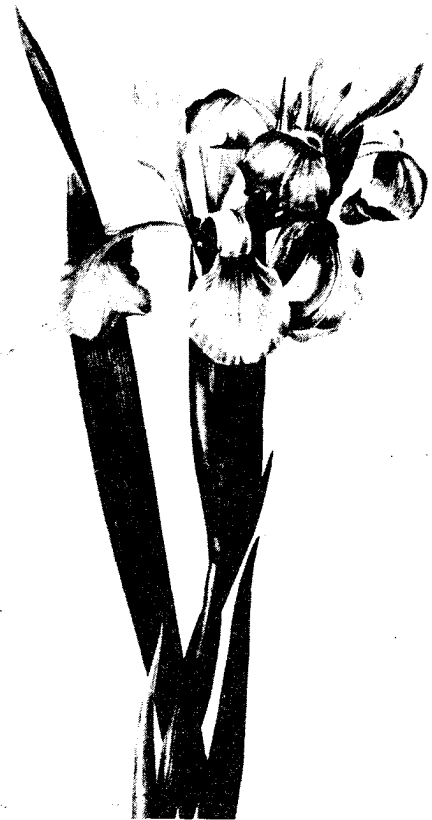
First generation hybrids between *Iris ochroleuca* and *Iris crocea* have falls somewhat tapered like those of *Iris crocea* and quite unlike those of *Iris monnieri* as shown in Pierre Redoute's painting which accompanied the original description.

Perhaps the most significant floral feature of the three is the shape and size of the style crests which are triangular and over a half inch long in *Iris ochroleuca* , and are small and deltoid in *Iris monnieri* (Dykes, 1913) . For *Iris crocea*, Dykes merely says that they are deltoid. The original illustration of *Iris monnieri* shows the crests to be short and very recurved, quite distinct from those observed by us in *Iris crocea* or any form of *Iris ochroleuca* which we have grown.

In 1948 we received seed collected in the vicinity of Ankara , Turkey , by Haydar Bagda . Plants grown from this seed ( our "Turkey Yellow" ) produce deep golden yellow flowers with sepals varying in shape from lanceolate to rounded . The most striking feature of the flowers is the very short and strongly recurved style crests, which are distinct from *Iris ochroleuca* or *Iris crocea* but similar to , though more extreme , than those shown in the illustration of *Iris monnieri*.

There are , therefore , in Asia Minor deep golden-yellow flowered spurias which in the single collection grown by us , show very short and strongly recurved style crests unlike those of the more common *Iris ochroleuca* . A plausible explanation for the origin of *Iris monnieri* would be that it is a hybrid, possibly a natural hybrid, between the white-flowered *I. ochroleuca* and one of the deep yellow-flowered irises found in Turkey.

Such an explanation would fit all the facts now known about *Iris monnieri*.



IRIS MONNIERI

When de Candolle described this species in 1808 he did not designate a type specimen but the description was accompanied by a painting by the world renowned artist Pierre-Joseph Redouté, the most celebrated flower painter in the whole history of botanical art. It is this painting which is here reproduced in black and white. (Robert C. Frampton Photo, Claremont.)

# "GOLDEN GATE IN '68" *The Berkeley Convention*

THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TEST GARDEN AT

## THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

The iris garden ( the Regional and National Test Garden) at the University of California Botanical Garden was a highlight of the AIS Convention . It boasts one of the most comprehensive iris collections existing , and it is uniquely situated in a very beautiful setting. This setting is up in Strawberry Canyon, on the Berkeley campus. Steep wooded hills surround it so completely that most visitors to the garden, from any perspective in the garden, would not believe that this is amidst the congestion of the San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley area.

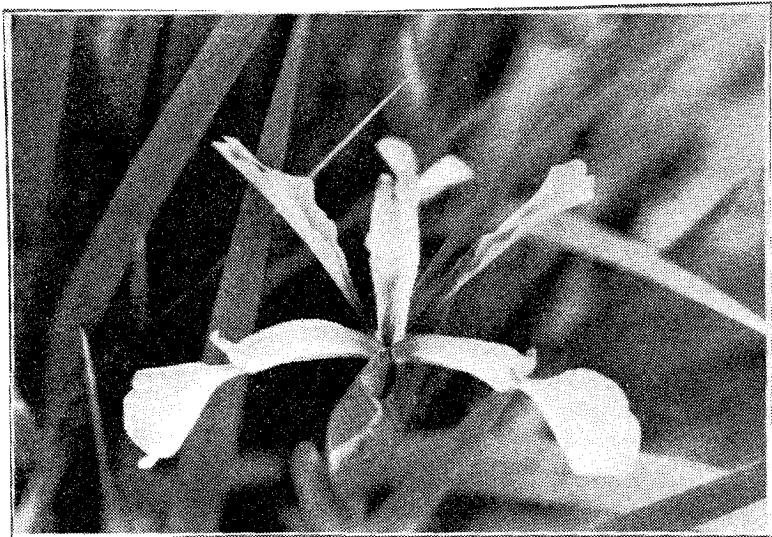


Credits to Dr. Baker, Dr. Christ, Roy Oliphant , & to Bob Oliphant for their work in establishing & in maintaining this garden is included in the current Bulletin of the American Iris Society.

The spurias in this garden are concentrated in a long sloping bed beside a terraced walkway on the northern edge of the garden. The spurias are well established and well maintained . They were in fine bloom during the annual convention. The photograph which illustrates this item shows part of the walkway, some of the many spurias, and the beautiful backdrop of large coniferous trees.

*Iris musulmanica* in bloom at the University of California garden during AIS National Convention.

Authorities disagree on whether this is a true species . Spuria Checklist indicates that it is not a species but only a form of *Iris halophila*. The A.I.S. book " Garden Irises " indicates that *musulmanica* is a good species - but that *Iris halophila* is not.



Editor's note: Above is a photograph of the spuria species *Iris musulmanica*. On page seven is a photograph of a modern spuria hybrid . Each is beautiful. The species is "spidery" to an extreme ; the hybrid is "compact" to extreme. The difference between these two extremes represents the cumulative result of man's hybridizing work with spurias . Take a moment to compare the two.

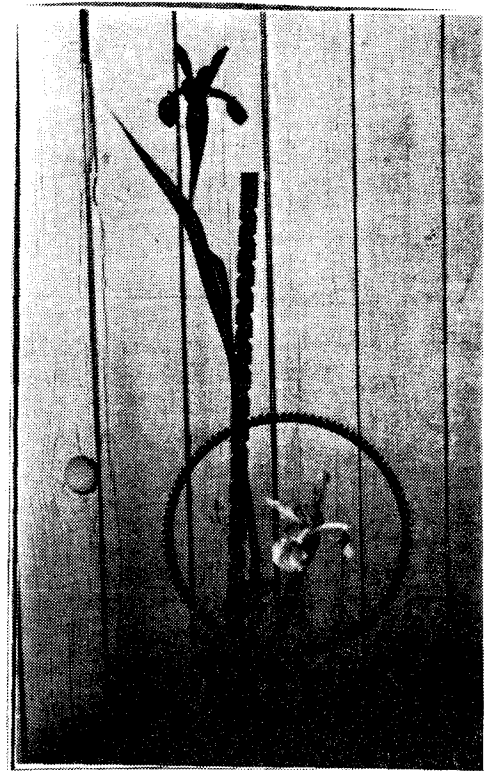
# "GOLDEN GATE IN '68" *The Berkeley Convention*

## MELROSE GARDENS

309 BEST ROAD SOUTH, STOCKTON, CALIF. 95206

For the convenience of AIS Convention visitors the Melrose Gardens had a special group of the most modern spurias, including guests, planted at the front of the gardens, near the spaces where the convention buses parked. These new spurias were in full bloom on Wednesday, the day the convention visitors toured the Melrose Gardens. This grouping included introductions of Walker Ferguson, Marion Walker, Ben Hager, and Eleanor McCown. It also included seedlings such as Hager's S279A, which is pictured below. Further back in the fields were long rows of older cultivars, and of other spuria seedlings.

Scattered around the refreshment building were a number of spuria arrangements. One of these was composed of two spuria stalks, a machined cog-wheel, and a notched steel wire-stretcher. This creation attracted particular admiration & attention, and it surely would have won any sweepstakes poll for popularity. All credits for the design and assembly of this work go to Elizabeth Bayer, of Stockton. A photograph of her stunning art-piece is reproduced at right.



Ben Hager's seedling S279A shows that spurias need not be "spidery". Flared standards, style arms, and falls are unified. This flower exemplifies the new "compact" shape in spurias. *How do the judges like this new trend ???* The answer is on page 64 of your July 1968 AIS Bulletin. Seedling S279A won High Commendation with the most votes of any spuria seedling in competition. Of the 189 irises of all kinds which won HC only three received more votes than Ben's spuria; those 3 were TBs.

The cover photograph for this issue is a composite. It was made from 2 other photos which were professionally combined by Betty Mackintosh, staff photographer for California Garden magazine. Miniatures of the photos which Betty used are reproduced at right. The picture of Ben Hager with the Eric Nies trophy was snapped in Stockton; the picture of ELIXIR and a different trophy was taken in San Diego. Details of latter on page 12.

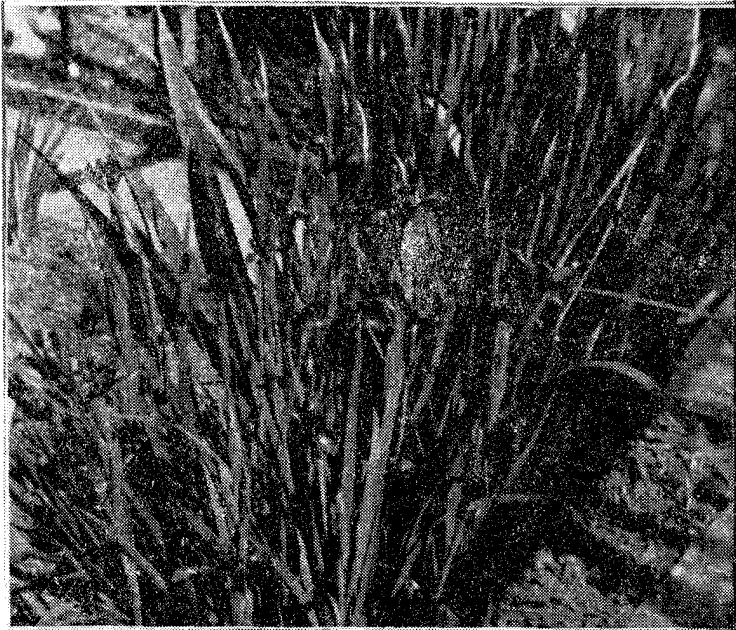


# SPECIES NOTES

by LOIS HALE

Mrs Lois Hale  
6 Fourth Avenue  
Blacktown, New South Wales 2148  
Australia

The spuria species *Iris maritima* was given to me only three years ago as a very small start of a plant. It liked my garden and responded by increasing. And this season I counted 23 bloomstalks on it , each bloomstalk with at least 4 blossoms.



I took a colored photo of the clump in bloom. In the color slide the blue blossoms show up beautifully against the green foliage; there are at least 13 blossoms which show up very clear in the slide . I knew you could not use colored slides in the Newsletter so I had a black-&-white photoprint made from the colored slide . In the black-&-white print the blue and the green colors are not distinguishable so the blooms blend into the foliage and become difficult to see . But I decided to send it just the same, as a gift. To provide a comparison with the higher U.S. prices , the cost of getting the black-and-white negative made from the color slide - here in Australia - costs only 32¢ US money. Photo prints cost only 9¢ U.S. money.

This photo is good verification that *Iris maritima* grows well in Australia. But it is not native here; it comes from France. There is no species in the genus *Iris* which is native to Australia or to any other place in the Southern Hemisphere. Irises simply did not exist anyplace south of the equator until men brought them here and planted them here.

-----

*Iris graminea* did not bloom during the regular spuria season, but now , December the 10th , it is blooming . This species is noted for its reblooming tendencies but this year it is doing something which I never have seen before ; it is now blooming in rotation . The first bloomstalk came up on the western side of one plant , followed each successive day or so by a new stalk , next to the last one, proceeding around the plant . It never has done that before . This species also shows almost unpredictable variations in its vegetative cycle , even between the different parts of the same plant . On one of my big clumps, the foliage on half the clump died down completely , then new foliage in that sector came up and now is several inches high --- while the foliage on the remainder of the same clump still hasn't died down . Another nearby plant of the same species still has the old foliage , but it also has new foliage springing up between the old fans. Not far distant are two other plants of *Iris graminea* which were completely dormant for weeks on end, with no green showing , - but now they too have new sprouts up.

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*Iris spuria lilacina* is another "species" which is not stable . I have both *Iris lilacina* and the spuria hybrid PREMIER in bloom now - but my *lilacina* is less a lilac color than is PREMIER . *Lilacina* is not standardized ; it varies greatly from garden to garden . In the USA, the Melrose Gardens distributes a "Lilacina" commercially -- but their catalogue description of it merits the first prize for undisguised hedging . It says "This may be 'spuria lilacina', we don't know, but it is pretty..." !!!



EXTRACTS from the spuria robins and from other mail:

Jocelyn O'Neil, Farleigh, Forbes Road, Cowra, N.S.W., Australia

"Among those of my spuria seedlings which I have kept is a blue seedling with long branches which fan out each side to make an attractive flat spray. I do not think, however, that this spuria is of real show-type, to be registered!"

Eleanor McCown, P.O. Box 186, Holtville, California 92250

"I had a yellow spuria seedling that grew eight feet tall. I wondered what it would have done over on the coast, where most varieties grow even taller than here. But personally, I think that excessive height is one of the things that hybridizers should breed down. Most spuria cultivars already are too high for the average small home garden."

Jean Pryce-Jones, 8 Mary St., Longueville, N.S.W. 2066, Australia

"I planted seeds of three spuria species on Sept. 28, 1967. Iris notha was the first to sprout; it came up on November 1; Iris musulmanica sprouted on November 7, - but Iris halophila did not push up through the soil until the 20th of March, 1968. Patience is a very essential prerequisite for gardeners!"

Frau Lisa Gabler, 3401 Niedernjesa, West Germany

"Just now (June 26, 1968) Iris ochroleuca gigantea opens its flowers. It is easy to grow here in the middle of West Germany. So is Iris spuria subbarbata and Iris graminea. Last fall I got three spuria hybrids: NEOPHYTE, ROYAL TOGA and GOLDEN LADY - because I wanted to try the new hybrids in my alkaline soil. I planted them in a brown peat mixed with a good compost and they have thrived well. GOLDEN LADY and ROYAL TOGA each have a bloomstalk -- but today still in bud stage. I am crazy about spuria hybrids since I saw the color slides which Mr Hubert Fischer showed us two years ago during our German iris society meet. I am glad that the spurias do well here, and I want to get more of them."

Roy Davidson, 911 Western Ave # 200, Seattle, Washington State 98104

"The spuria MONTEAGLE has been growing at my parent's farm in Colton, Wash. for many years, but this is the first season I have been there to see it in bloom. MONTEAGLE takes longer than most cultivars to get established into a clump, but its bloom is beautiful, and judging by this year's display it is a very good iris."

Dr. Gordon Loveridge, 77 Warrimoo Ave., St Ives, N.S.W. 2075, Australia

"At the finish of the last bloom season I registered seven spurias. The names are WARRIMOO, SEPIK DELTA, BUSH FIRE, SAIDA LAKE, JAQUINOT BAY, SAIDA CHARM, and SURF BEACH. All of these new spurias have good substance, & most of them have five or more blossoms per bloomstalk. Each of these new spurias has been sent to the USA - including to Milwaukee, where I hope they will be in bloom for the 1969 AIS Convention. They also have been sent to New Zealand, & some are being distributed in Australia by the Blyth's Nurseries."

(Editor's note: WARRIMOO was judged the Best Seedling at the fall iris show in San Diego in 1967. Photographs of it appear on the front cover of the Oct. 1967 issue, and on page 6 of the January 1968 issue, of the Spuria Newsletter. Descriptions of all these new spurias will be included in a spuria checklist supplement which hopefully will be distributed with the Oct. 1968 Newsletter.

Lucy Delaney, 13 Gladstone Road, Richmond, Nelson, New Zealand

"AZURE DAWN and TWO OPALS flowered well. Iris kerneriana sent up flowering stalks for me for the first time, but for some reason they rotted at the base and I now think that the whole plant is dead. Iris graminea flowered well, as always. Spuria lilacina bloomed with its lovely color, and there now is a pod of seeds developing. When they are ripe I'll send them to whoever wants them!"

NOTES FROM LUBBOCK, TEXAS

by Barbara Benson

BENSON AND BENSON  
ATTORNEYS - AT - LAW  
512 CITIZENS TOWER  
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79401

Have you ever heard of variegated spurias?? I have one volunteer plant which I am sure is a spuria which appears to be truly variegated . For some time I suspected virus, but this looks like none of the virused plants I have ever seen . The striations are clear, distinct, well-marked , and run from bottom to the top of the leaf. The increase are beautifully variegated too, and the effect is quite ornamental . None of my iris buddies seem to believe it is a virus . The green part is a good deep clear green , and the striations are a nice cream-white , with no translucent streaks . The plant is slender leafed and lord knows where it came from. But I will keep you posted on how it does.

I have a theory that the fine foliage on the Washington blues is due to the *Iris halophila* influence . The form *halophila alba* is obviously very closely related--fine color, width, & etc . The seedlings of *Iris halophila sogdiana* are showing the same tendencies. *Iris aurea* also grows like this, apparently. And some of the new plants from Ben Hager look this way. They are indigenous to the colder areas of Asia Minor and on into Russia. They do not start into growth until quite late, and do not fold up foliage-wise until a hard freeze.

Ruffled Moth has flecks . Does it strike you that the flecking may be of two sorts: (1) virus (not the trouble here) and (2) genetic (like in arilbreds ) The genetic type of flecking could be weather-induced. We've had a very cold wet winter and spring = no flecking on hardly anything. I have suspected the variety Color Guard as being the unstable culprit, because all the varieties I know in spurias which do fleck seem to have Color Guard back somewhere in their parentage. This could easily be an inherited trait.


Of my seedlings , one has eggplant-colored falls . Another I call "Sunshine Grape" . Another I call "Velvet Dancer". The latter hasn't much form, but it is the most lustrous velvety royal-purple you ever saw. The falls are velvet on both sides. The standards are the same glowing color, very shiny . We had a day with temperature 95°, 45 mph wind, and only 4% relative humidity - and that spuria neither faded nor burned . However, its shape is rather narrow & the falls recurve somewhat. Signal is almost 3/8"vertically & 1/2" wide . It draws each and every garden visitor just like a magnet - even the completely uninitiated . It is darker than anything else I have , or have seen , in the line of spurias. Really, it is so dark that it even water-spots a little. It is wind resistant too - the standards never blow away (a nasty problem here).

DAWN CANDLE is showing off superbly with twelve bloomstalks and 4 blooms per stalk. BARITONE is half a foot taller than anything else, and it has perfect foliage and five bloomstalks. PLENTY OF SUNSHINE has 8 bloomstalks, with the terminal plus four other placements on most stalks . Only two bloomstalks on WINDFALL but it is lovely beyond description. CAMBRIDGE BLUE has a terminal and five lower blooms , four of which are perched like birds up and down the stem . ROYAL TOGA (much like PREMIER) and FAIRY WAND are trying to out-bloom each other and it is nip and tuck who will win. GOLDEN LADY is putting out a terminal and five . RUFFLED MOTH is going to bloom on every fan , and I have my "proliferation treatment" ready--to try to stimulate proliferations on it. NEOPHYTE is doing very beautifully. So is ESSAY. So is ELIXIR.

The blue species *musulmanica*, *halophila*, *sogdiana*, *carthalinae*, & *demetrii* are small sized but fine, and apparently happy.

We are quite busy with a murder trial this week, and an immigration trial in Federal Court next week, so all for now.

Sincerely,

  
Mrs. Charles Benson

A REPORT FROM EL PASO, TEXAS

by Mrs Robert L. Bruce

Because I am interested in spuria irises I keep adding a couple varieties to my garden every fall , and now have fourteen named varieties plus four seedlings from Mary Redford, of Arizona , and one seedling from Mrs. W. J. Davis, of New Mexico . These are fed and watered and talked to regularly.

There are many more spurias in the local iris Display Garden.

Although Shelford Giant & *Iris monnieri* bloomed beginning on April 11 here last year , that early date for spurias is very unusual locally. Our customary spuria bloom starts in May and extends into July . Wakerobin, which usually is considered an early bloomer, opened on May 5 last year here.

This year , the annual show of the El Paso Iris Society was held on April 27 and April 28 at the Chelmont State Bank, in El Paso. Because we would like more of the iris growers in El Paso to become interested in


spurias, we entered an educational exhibit on spurias at that show. Title of the exhibit was "Spurias Around the World", to harmonize with the theme of the show which was "Around the World with Irises".

Because this year's bloom season for local spurias came after the date of the show, and because we wanted some truly modern spurias for the display, a box of spurias in bloom was sent to us by airmail from Escondido, Calif, by hybridizer Walker Ferguson, for the exhibit . A picture of the exhibit accompanies this report.

The exhibit was awarded the American Iris Society's Bronze Medal, for its educational value. The AIS judges who made the award were Mr W. K. Patton (Matador, Texas); Mrs Vernon Keesee (Lubbock, Texas); Mrs Henry L. Shields ( Bayfield, Colorado ); Mrs Grady Knight (Lubbock, Texas); and Ted Harris and Mrs Harlan Shields (both of El Paso) . The Chairman of the Iris Show was Mrs. John Welch ; Chairman of the Educational Exhibit was Mrs. Robert L. Bruce.

Everyone seemed to appreciate the spuria exhibit , and it definitely did arouse a great deal of interest in growing more spuria irises here in our city . Several of the members of the El Paso Iris Society now really are "talking spurias" - and placing orders.

Very sincerely yours,



Mrs. Robert L. Bruce  
7413 North Loop Drive  
El Paso, Texas 79915

# "Iris On Stage"

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN MAGAZINE of  
June-July 1968

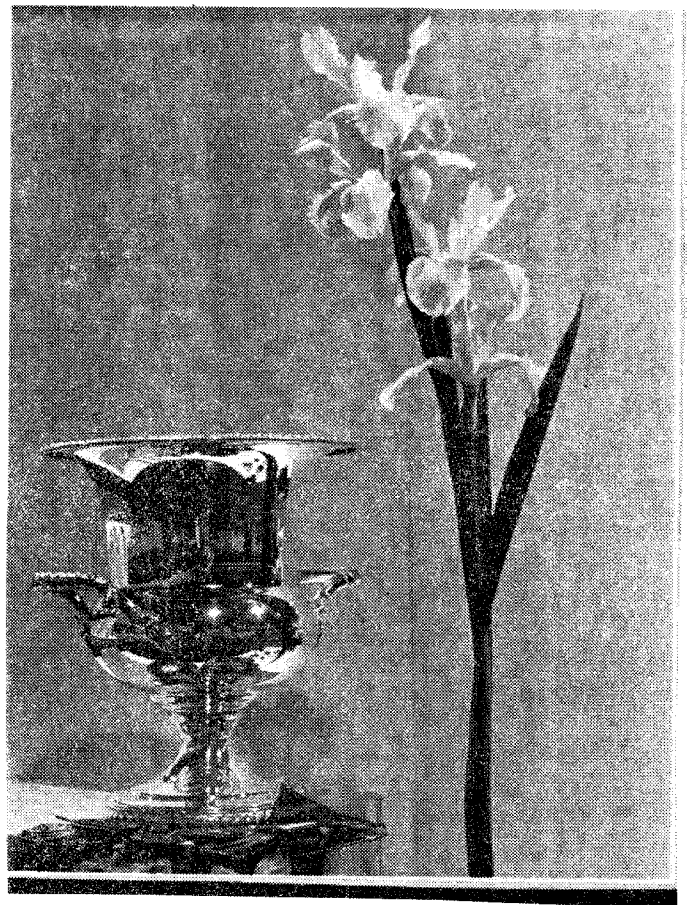
## A REPORT ON THE FIFTH SPRING IRIS SHOW SAN DIEGO

by Penny Bunker

Photos by Betty Mackintosh



"Highline Lavender"  
A 1968 introduction  
by Eleanor McCown



Best Spuria of Show, "Elixir" (hybridized by Ben Hager) and grown by Mrs. E. Owen.

"IRIS ON-STAGE" was presented by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society on May 4th and 5th, 1968 at the Conference Building, Balboa Park in San Diego.

Director Dr. George Bremner with his assistants, Mr. Ray Hiser and Walter Bunker with their "grips", Messrs. George Alexander, Robert Plott, Wayne Weaver, and Walter Gorrell, transformed the show house into a huge stage. After passing through a blue and white Austrian draped arch, a blue net sky filled with floating spun-glass clouds and hovering nets birds of varied hues provided cover for the caste of prize performers (blooms).

The largest group of entertainers were the tall-bearded beauties, but a striking spuria ballet, presented by Mrs. Frank McCown, swayed beside a reflection pool.

Louisianas, Siberians, and Pacific Coast Hybrids played their part in the colorful display of this cultivar show.

American Iris Society judges for the Horticultural section were appointed by Mrs. Barbara Serdynski of Los Angeles, Vice-president of Region 15. Judges were Mrs. Bernard Hamner, Perris, California; Mrs. Sereno Brett, Santa Barbara; Mrs. William Hawkinson, La Puente; Mrs. Clarence Joris, San Bernardino; Mr. Edward Murray, Morris Arboretum; Mrs. Fern Pilley, Valley Center; and Mr. Arthur Day, Chula Vista.

*Queen of the Show* — was a soft violet tall-bearded "Marie Phillips" entered by Mrs. Wayne Weaver of Lakeside.

*A.I.S. Silver Medal Winner* — most first place winners — won by Mrs. Raymond Otto, also of Lakeside.

*A.I.S. Bronze Medal Winner* — won by Mr. William Gunther of Del Mar, California.

*Best Spuria Iris* — Owen Perpetual Trophy — won by Mrs. Archie Owen with "Elixir", a gorgeous yellow spuria that won the Eric Nies Award for Mr. Ben Hager of Stockton, California in 1967.

*Best in Junior Division* — Bunker Perpetual Trophy — "Crinkled Sunset" entered by Miss Vikki Otto.

*Best Seedling of the Show* — Carrington Perpetual Trophy — won by Mr. Walker Ferguson, Escondido with a lovely white spuria seedling.

*Best Spuria Seedling* — new Walker Ferguson Award from the San Diego Society — won this first time by Mr.



*Best Arrangement of Show, with yellow spurias, by Margaret Erickson.*

Walker Ferguson with a white Spuria "68-12".

*Best Bearded Seedling* — won by Mr. Ray Hiser of Spring Valley.

*Best White Bloom* — "Silver Wedding" enter by Mr. Art Day, Chula Vista.

*Best Plicata Bloom* — "Rococo" enter by Mrs. Wayne Weaver, Lakeside.

*Best Beardless Specimen other than a Spuria* — "Orchid Sprite", a Pacific Coast Hybrid enter by Mr. William Gunther, Del Mar.

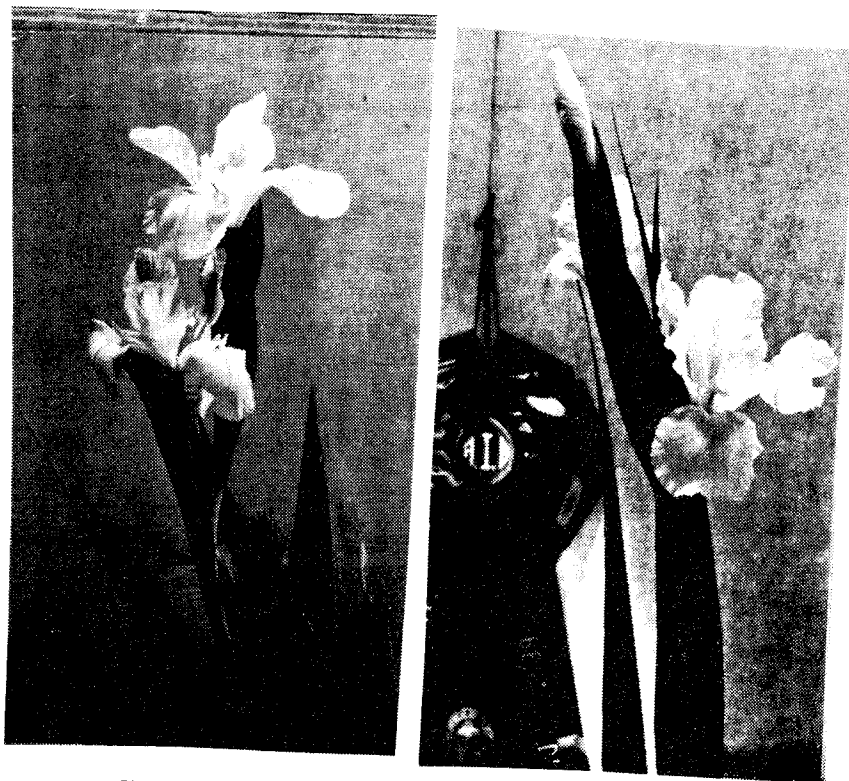
A special Educational Certificate was awarded Mrs. N. Reavis Carrington for her exhibit showing the hybridizing of the tall-bearded iris.

The Artistic Section was under the direction of Mrs. J. Otto Crocker with assistance from Miss Pat Jacobsen and Mrs. Margaret Erickson. Certified Artistic Judges were Mrs. John Marx, Mrs. Roland Hoyt, and Mrs. H. B. Cutler.

Little Miss Polly Adams won the best of Junior Arrangers featuring their interpretation of various Show tunes such as "Dance Time" or "Mary Poppins" or singing "Hello Dolly".

Mrs. Margaret Erickson won best of Show in Artistic with her arrangement in "As The World Turns".

With beautiful San Diego weather, many patrons viewed the show and we were flattered with some 30 "foreign state" travelers coming from the National Convention in Berkeley to see "Iris On Stage". Thus the curtains closed on the fifth Spring Show of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society. ■



Walker Ferguson, of Escondido, exhibited his 1967 spuria introduction "Fairfield," and he won "best spuria seedling of show award" for his seedling 68-12. (at right)



*Spuria Hybridizer Eleanor McCown of Holtville, California stands by a corner of her award-winning educational display, "Spuria Ballet."*

DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

by JACK RILEY

REGION 20  
 JOSEPH O. (JACK) RILEY  
 4284 Hooker Street  
 Denver, Colorado 80211

About half the spurias located in the Denver Botanic Gardens had to be moved within the last couple years. The ground under them had become so very heavily infested with bindweed that the only solution was to move the spurias and then treat the bindweed. This being so, about half our spurias are well established while the other half are recovering from the transplanting.

Patently , it is not fair to evaluate performance of different varieties by a comparison of a well-established clump with a recently-transplanted one . But nonetheless, for interest and information, I have tabulated below those spuria varieties which we have in the Denver Display Garden , and following each name is the average number of flowers per stalk for that variety during the current blooming season . I checked several bloomstalks of each variety to get a good average count . Those varieties which have a zero following the name are those which did not bloom for us this season:

AUTUMN GLOW-----2	CHEROKEE CHIEF-3	GOLDEN AGATE---4	PASTORAL-----0
AZURE DAWN-----3	DRIFTWOOD-----3	GOLDEN LADY----3	PREMIER-----5
BLACK POINT-----4	DUTCH DEFIANCE-0	<i>I. ochroleuca</i> --4	RUSSET FLAME---0
BLUE DISPLAY-----0	EL CAMINO-----5	<i>I. spuria notha</i> -0	THRUSH SONG----2
BLUE ZEPHYR-----4	FAIRY LANTERN--0	KATRINA NIES---3	VIOLET VEIL----0
BRONZE BUTTERFLY-4	FAIRY LIGHT----3	LUMIERE-----4	WAKEROBIN-----0
CAMBRIDGE BLUE---5	FIFTH SYMPHONY-3	MORNINGTIDE----4	WHITE HERON----3
CANARY ISLAND----0	GOLD NUGGET----0	MOUNT WILSON---3	

I can not comment on increase - for the reason that I did not check the spuria display very closely last year - I was recovering from the National Convention.

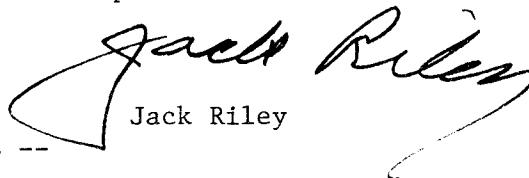
I did not note the date of the first bloom of this season , nor which variety bloomed first . But as of today - June 29 - the following late varieties still are in bloom: CAMBRIDGE BLUE, LUMIERE, PREMIER, BLUE ZEPHYR, EL CAMINO, THRUSH SONG, MOUNT WILSON, GOLDEN AGATE, *Iris ochroleuca*, CHEROKEE CHIEF, MORNINGTIDE, and FAIRY LIGHT . There is every probability that there still will be blossoms available for July 4 this year - and even later.

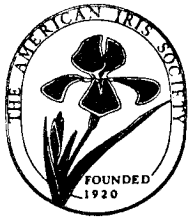
From my observations, I would rank the best performers in Denver this year now in the following order: (1) PREMIER, (2) BLUE ZEPHYR, (3) *Iris ochroleuca*, and (4) CAMBRIDGE BLUE. PREMIER has formed a clump that is at least three feet in diameter; it has bloomstalks over four feet high. The shape of the clump looks mounded, and the entire clump is literally covered with blossoms.

I believe that those varieties which bloom here could safely be designated as "cold-hardy" in the Melrose catalogue or in any other listing . Denver winters always include temperatures down to twenty degrees below zero - or colder. And the spurias in this display garden never have been mulched - even during their first winter here . So certainly they have proved themselves to be cold-hardy.

So much for the 1968 season. In event that Ila Crawford decides that I should report on this garden again next year , I am sure that I then will be prepared to give you a more comprehensive review of the spuria season in Denver.

Sincerely,

  
 Jack Riley



# THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

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Region 22

PERRY L. PARRISH, RVP  
4908 N.W. Grand Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112

## APOGON SHOW - OKLAHOMA STYLE

by Perry L. Parrish

"COLORGLOW" was the title of the ninth annual Apogon Iris Show, held May 18 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Mrs Joe (Ila) Crawford and her fellow members of the Oklahoma City Apogon Iris Unit presented the show, and it was one of the finest iris shows which I have seen.

Spurias of many varieties were the dominant iris on display, but adding to the charm and variety of the show were the Siberians, Louisianas, and Dutch.

PREMIER, with three gorgeous open flowers, exhibited by Mrs. Charles Eckerd of Oklahoma City, won the Ila Crawford Traveling Trophy as Queen of the Show. That trophy is awarded to the best spuria on display if it scores 95 points or more. MORNINGTIDE (Walker) was a simply elegant runner-up. A fine brown seedling by Walker Ferguson, and one of Ila's own seedlings, attracted much attention. Others in abundance, which shared the spuria spotlight, were the varieties GOLDEN LADY (Combs) and SUNNY DAY (Sass).

In the Louisiana Section, WHOOPEE, JOYCE, CRUSHED GRAPE, MARTHA WASHINGTON, LOUISE ARNY, and CHERRY BOUNCE were proudly wearing their beauty and adding their charms to the show.

WHITE SWIRL, ERIC THE RED, CAESAR'S BROTHER, and TYCOON were outstanding in the Siberian Section.

LE MOGUL and PRIDE OF HOLLAND were the handsomest Dutch Section competitors.

A special guest at the show was Region 22's first RVP, Miss Eleanor Hill of Tulsa, who limits her iris garden to the apogons, arils, and species. Other visitors were from Texas and from all parts of Oklahoma.

The showcase for this show was the spacious and air-conditioned Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Building. A few hundred feet away is the Spuria Display Garden. The spuria blossoms in the garden seemed to be competing with those in the indoor Apogon Iris Show.

Making a dazzling display in the garden were ELIXIR (Hager); DUTCH DEFIANCE (Nies); DRIFTWOOD (Walker); FAROLITO (Hager); PORT OF CALL (Hager); WINDFALL (Ferguson); CHUMASCH CHIEF (Walker) (a luscious brown); MORNINGTIDE (Walker); WHITE HERON and WADI ZEM ZEM (Milliken). PREMIER (Barr) was striking in a clump with about thirty bloomstalks with two and three blooms on each stalk. Other spurias in bloom were FIRST VOYAGE, SUNNY DAY, and GOLDEN LADY.

The apogons performed superbly on May 18. They were saluting the new Spuria Iris Society's President, Mrs Joe Crawford.

In the capacity of RVP of Region 20, I would like to state that this Region is proud & pleased that two of its members are officers of the Spuria Iris Society: Ila Crawford is President of that Society and Oren Campbell is the Associate Editor of the Spuria Newsletter.

With best wishes,

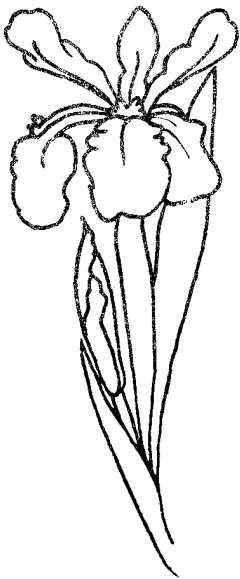
  
Perry L. Parrish

# RETAIL MAIL-ORDER SPURIA DEALERS

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- WALKER FERGUSON - 1160 North Broadway, Escondido, California 92025  
New descriptive price listing now available for mailing, free on request.  
Featuring thirty Ferguson spurias including five 1968 introductions.
  
- MELROSE GARDENS - 309 Best Road South, Stockton, California 95206  
Catalog: Two 1968 introductions by Ben Hager plus 57 other spurias.  
Also special sale listing of 26 spurias at halfprice; sale ends 8/25/68.
  
- PILLEY'S GARDEN - P.O. Box #7, Valley Center, California 92082  
Catalog and spuria list. 1968 introduction "HIGHLINE LAVENDER" by Eleanor McCown, plus 53 other spurias by many hybridizers. Free catalogue.
  
- SCHREINER'S GARDEN - 3785 Quinaby Rd., NE Route #2, Salem, Oregon 97303  
Featuring spuria introductions of Marion Walker of Ventura, California.  
Leaflet with photographs in color of some spuria varieties.
  
- TELL'S IRIS GARDEN - 425 North Fourth West, Orem, Utah 84057  
No big hybridizing catalog this year, but extensive listing of many modern irises and hemerocallis; 10¢ for postage & handling of list.

WRITE FOR PRICE LISTINGS NOW ; AUGUST IS THE TIME TO PLACE YOUR ORDER



## SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

SPURIA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

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Del Mar, California 92014

