

GLOSSARY

AIS (The American Iris Society) - Formed in 1920, the AIS is an organized group of people interested in the culture and preservation of iris and in the development and research of iris species and cultivars. The AIS welcomes all people regardless of race, religion, socio-economic status, ethnic background, gender, or sexual orientation.

AIS Check Lists - A book that compiles a decade of the registrations and introductions (R&Is) of iris, which have been previously published annually in the R&Is. See **AIS R&I**. Entries in the Check List may differ from their original description in the AIS R&Is due to typographical corrections, wordsmithing (changes to improve clarity), or a hybridizer's revision of the original description. Some entries in the R&Is might have been deleted in the Check List by hybridizer request.

AIS Iris Encyclopedia ("The Wiki") - An online database of iris and other information related to the AIS. Resources include a library of over 2,500 articles, more than 200,000 images of iris, a list of awards and winners, cultivation and distribution information, a list of hybridizers and much more.

AIS R&I (Registrations & Introductions) - A booklet that is published or is posted online annually that contains the names and descriptions of all iris registered and/or introduced during that year.

Amoena - A flower color pattern with white standards and colored falls. (An iris with white falls and colored standards is called a **reverse amoena**.)

Aril - The small white collar surrounding the hilum or region of attachment to the capsule of seeds of *Oncocyclus* and *Regelia* iris.

Aril Iris - A group of pogon iris species found in semi-arid to desert climates from Central Asia to the Middle East. *Oncocyclus* and *Regelia* are two subgroups.

Arilbred Iris - The hybrid iris from the cross of an aril iris species with an eupogon iris.

Band - See **Border**.

Beard - A cluster of hairs along the center of the falls, emerging at the base of the falls and extending about a third of the length of the falls on bearded iris.

Bicolor - A flower color pattern where the standards have a DIFFERENT color than falls of the flower and the falls are darker than the standards. (An iris with darker standards and lighter falls is called a **reverse bicolor**.)

Bitone - A flower color pattern where the standards and falls of the flower have different amounts of the SAME color and the shade of the falls is darker than the standards. (An iris with darker standards and lighter falls is called a **reverse bitone**.)

Blade - Each leaf in the iris clump.

Blend - A flower color pattern where the combination or mixture of two or more colors are present in the same parts of the flower.

Binomial - The scientific name of a species that consists of two words: the genus and specific epithet. Scientific names are italicized or underlined, and the genus is capitalized while the specific epithet is not. Examples of binomials are *Iris setosa*, *Iris tectorum*, *Homo sapiens*, and *Iris aphylla*.

Border - The edge of the falls is pale or a different color than the rest of the perianth (standards and falls). When the border is narrow, it can be called a **halo** or **rim**. When the border is very wide it can be called a **band**.

Broken Color - Random splashes of color on the standards and falls of a flower.

Chimera plant - A plant with a mixture of two or more genetically different types of cells that produces a random streak of color on a standard or fall, a single dark standard or fall, or one half of the flower a different color or white. Another example of chimera is the flower where different parts of the flower are diploid or tetraploid.

Claw - The narrow base of the standard and fall of spuria iris flowers.

Clump - The rooted group of interconnected rhizomes from one iris parent. After being divided into separate rhizomes, the clump has reproduced asexually, each rhizome being a genetically identical clone.

Complement - The quantity of genetic material. For example, an arilbred iris must contain one-quarter or more of aril species complement.

Crepe - A flower texture that looks like seer-sucker material. The surface has randomly indented and raised areas that produces an uneven surface.

Crest - The elevated, often toothed ridge on the haft (shoulder) of the falls. The crests help the standards shield the stigmatic lip from rain and wind that could dislodge pollen.

Cultivar (Cultivated Variety) - A plant variety usually developed by selective breeding. The cultivar name usually is enclosed in single quotation marks. For example, 'Bottle Rocket', or *Iris laevigata* 'Violet Constellation'.

Diamond Dusted - Tiny, raised cells on standard and fall surfaces that act as prisms, reflecting light to create the appearance of diamond dust on the flower.

Diploid plant - A plant with two sets of chromosomes. Compare to **Tetraploid**.

Distinctiveness - Unique characteristics that set the iris apart from other iris, often making the iris recognizable without its name plate.

Domed - The standards of an iris flower that are arched upward and rounded inward to create a dome over the top of the flower.

Emma Cook Pattern - A flower color pattern with a narrow border of blue on the falls and none on the standards.

Eupogon - The group of iris whose beards consist of multicellular hairs. Examples are tall bearded and miniature dwarf bearded iris. Compared to pogon iris which have beards consisting of unicellular hairs.

Falcate - Shaped like a sickle, hooked.

Falls - The lower three petals of an iris flower. Falls can hang down, curve under, arch, flare or extend horizontally. Botanically, falls are sepals.

Fancy - An extreme plicata-type color pattern having a riotous mixture of colors.

Flared Falls - A flower where the falls extend horizontally from the center of the flower.

Flexuous - Curving or undulating.

Floriferousness - About flowers. Floriferousness can be increased through the duration of each bloom, the number of buds per stalk, and/or the number of stalks per plant.

Flounce - An appendage extending from the end of a beard with ruffles that gives the appearance of a flouncy petticoat.

Form - Refers to the shape of a flower. Form can also refer to a particular kind of plant, for example, a color form of a species.

Genotype - All the genetic information of an organism, whether expressed or not. All the information carried on the chromosomes of a particular individual. Compare to **phenotype**.

Genus - A unit of classification consisting of one or more similar species. For example, *Iris* is a genus that consists of more than 100 species. Genus names are italicized or underlined.

Glaciata - A flower color pattern lacking any anthocyanin (blue, black, or red) pigments.

Ground Color - The base color of the standards and falls produced by carotenoid pigments (cream, yellow, pink, peach, red-orange, and orange) or lack of pigment (white) that is under the dots and stippling on the standards and falls. Ground color is usually mentioned with the plicata color pattern.

Haft - The top part of the falls where it inserts into the flower base. Also called the shoulder. The haft is the constricted part of the standards and falls near the center of the iris flower.

Halo - See **Border**.

Historic Iris - An iris introduced thirty (30) or more years ago.

Horn - An extension protruding from the end of the beard into a point. Found on "Space Age" iris flowers.

Horticultural Division - The division in an iris show for correctly named and registered iris cultivars and species that may or may not have been introduced.

Hybrid - The offspring of genetically unlike parents.

Increases - A term that refers to the number of additional rhizomes emanating from the original parent rhizome. Increases are an example of asexual reproduction.

Inflorescence - The total cluster of flowers on a branch or stalk. For example, the expected inflorescence of a tall bearded iris is seven flowers produced by seven buds per stalk.

Interspecies hybrids - The plant that results from the cross of two different species. Synonym = species cross.

Introduced Iris - An introduced iris is one that has been registered and offered for sale to the public and recorded by the AIS registrar. Compare to **Registered Iris**.

Lace - The edges of the standards and falls are serrated or notched, giving the appearance of lace.

Lanceolate leaf - A leaf with the shape of a lance head: long, tapering to a point at its apex.

Luminata - A color pattern on iris where the style arms are white or yellow against a darker colored standard and fall producing the effect of a light inside the iris.

Matte - A flower surface texture that is flat, non-reflective, or non-lustrous.

Mutation - An inherited change within a chromosome of an individual.

Nectaries - The area at the base of the falls on each side of the beard where nectar is produced. An iris flower will have six nectaries. Nectar attracts pollinators.

Neglecta - A flower color pattern of blue or blue-violet bitone.

Node - Areas of the stem where leaves and new growths or increases are produced.

Novelty - Iris cultivars with unique and unusual features. For example, six falls on the flowers, irregular color patterns, having too many or lacking flower parts, and “space age” appendages on the beards.

Oncobred - A hybrid iris from *Oncocyclus* and *Eupogon* parentage typically showing resemblances of both parents.

Oncocyclus (O) - A group of species of aril iris. See the chapter, “Terminology of AR & AB” for more information.

Oncogelia (OG) - A hybrid iris involving the cross of a species of *Oncocyclus* and *Regelia* that has a predominately *Oncocyclus* phenotype. *Regelia* is abbreviated “G” when hybridized with *Oncocyclus* iris.

Ovary - The seed-bearing structure at the base of the flower. After fertilization, the ovary matures into a seed pod that contains seeds.

Pallida - This is the name of a European species of diploid, tall-bearded iris, *Iris pallida*, with self-colored, lavender-blue flowers borne on closely branched stems. Garden varieties with other characteristics of this species are described as pallida-type iris.

Perennial - A plant that lives for two or more growing seasons.

Perianth - The collective term for the petals or standards and falls of the iris flower. For example, the perianth of ‘Dusky Challenger’ is a ruffled, rich purple.

Perianth-tube - The slender tube in the iris flower connecting the ovary with the separate perianth parts.

Petaloid - A structure that resembles a flower petal.

Petiole - The stalk that connects the blade to a stem.

Phenotype - Appearance. The set of observable characteristics of an individual that are the result of the interaction of its genotype and the environment. Compare to **Genotype**.

Plicata - A flower color pattern where a lighter ground color is stippled, dotted, or stitched with a darker color.

Pogon - A word of Greek origin meaning “beard.” Pogon refers to the group of iris with beards consisting of unicellular hairs. Oncocylus and Regelia species are in the group of pogon iris. Eupogon refers to an iris with a beard consisting of multicellular hairs.

Pollen - The male gametes or their antecedents of a flower.

Position - A specific place on the bloom stalk where flower buds emerge.

Purple-Based Foliage (PBF) - Purple coloration at the base of the leaves and sometimes on the stalk and buds. PBF is often found on historic iris.

R&Is - See **AIS R&Is**.

Reblooming Iris (RE) - An iris that blooms in the spring and again in the same growing season. See the chapter, “Reblooming Iris,” for more information.

Reflexed - A condition of bending abruptly downward and inward. For example, the falls of an arilbred flower can be noticeably reflexed.

Regelia (R) - A group of species of aril iris. Regelia is abbreviated “G” when hybridized with Oncocylus iris. See the chapter, “Terminology of AR & AB,” for more information.

Regeliabred - A hybrid iris of Regelia and Eupogon parentage typically showing resemblances of both parents.

Regeliocyclus (RC) - A hybrid iris involving the cross of a species of Oncocylus and Regelia that has a predominately Regelia phenotype.

Registered Iris - An iris whose registration application has been accepted and approved by the registrar of the American Iris Society. Compared to an **introduced iris** which is one that has been offered for sale to the general public.

Remontancy - See **Reblooming Iris**.

Rhizomatous - Producing or having a rhizome.

Rhizome - A modified creeping or underground stem with roots and buds developing from the nodes. The iris rhizome is often enlarged, serving as a storage organ.

Rim - See **Border**.

Ruffled - The edges of the standards and/or falls are wavy or ruffled.

Seed - The fertilized embryo and various surrounding structures of a seed plant. Note: Only seed plants reproduce via seeds. Some plants reproduce via spores or other structures instead of seeds.

Self - An iris with standards and falls the same color. The beard might or might not be the same color.

Sib (sibling) - Offspring from the same parents. A sib-cross is a cross between sibling plants.

Sibtosa Iris - A hybrid iris that is the result of the cross of *Iris siberica* and *I. setosa*.

Shoulder - Another term for haft which is the top part of the falls.

Signal - A patch of color at the top center of the falls, emanating from the throat. Signals are common on Louisiana iris.

Sophisticated Flower - An elegant, complex, classy, cosmopolitan flower. Compared to a flower that is simple, unrefined, plain, and quiet.

Space Age Iris (SA) - A bearded iris with a projection from the end of its beard such as a horn, spoon, or flounce.

Spathe (spathe-valve) - A bract or modified leaf subtending a flower or group of flowers. Spathes can be green and fleshy or dry and papery. In early stages of development, the spathes enclose and protect the young flower buds. Iris often have an inner and outer spathe.

SPEC - The class of iris for named species that originally were collected in the wild as a division, seedling, or seed. SPEC iris also can come from seeds of the former plants grown in cultivation (whether hand pollinated or open pollinated).

SPEC-X - The class of iris for any hybrid iris that does not fall into a conventional category such as Louisianas, Siberians, or Junos. The SPEC-X class contains more iris than interspecies crosses. See the chapter on SPEC & SPEC-X for more information.

Spoon - An appendage at the end of the beard that looks like a small spoon.

Spur - A short side stem on the main bloom stalk with only one flower.

Stamen - The pollen-bearing structure of the flower consisting of a filament and anther.

Standards - The upper three petals of the iris flower; the inner series of the perianth. Compare to **Falls** and **Perianth**.

Style arms - Small petaloids or segments inside the very center of the iris flower, over the beards.

Style Crest - A projection from the top of the style.

Substance - The inner tissue structure of the perianth (standards and falls) that determines the durability of the flower. Flowers with “good” substance will have improved longevity of color and form of the flower.

Sweepstakes - In an iris show, sweepstakes refers to the quantity of first-place ribbons won. The sweepstakes winner in an iris show, the exhibitor with the most first-place ribbons, will receive the Silver Medal, certificate, and large purple rosette. The sweepstakes runner-up receives the Bronze Medal and certificate.

Terminal Position - The upper-most position. For example, the terminal flower on a bloom stalk would be the flower emanating from the highest point on the stalk.

Tetraploid - Having four sets of chromosomes. Compare to **diploid**.

Texture - A surface characteristic which influences the impact of color of the standards and falls. Examples are matte, crepe-like, and diamond dusted.

Variegata - A flower color pattern of yellow or nearly yellow standards with darker, often red, falls.

Variation - is the appearance of differently colored zones in the leaves, and sometimes the stems, of plants. Variegated leaves occur rarely in nature.

Variety - A cultivated plant which has been given an identifying common name. Botanically, a variety can be a group of individuals within a species that differs sufficiently from the rest of the species population to be distinguished and given a Latin varietal name. A synonym for variety is **cultivar**.

WIKI - See AIS Iris Encyclopedia.