

❀ The Reblooming Iris ❀
RECORDER



Dr. G. Percy Brown



In Memoriam

REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY

No. 1

April, 1972

THE REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

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The Reblooming Iris RECORDER is the new name for the Reblooming Iris Society's Bulletin which will now be published tri-annually (March, July and November). It is free to all members of the Reblooming Iris Society.

MEET YOUR NEW R.I.S. PRESIDENT



Wynnaline Stinson was born on a farm in East Texas, December 11, 1926 and from this early rural life learned the pleasure in growing things.

When they purchased their home in 1955, she brought from the adjoining farm to their Dallas place, the old white specie irises, later acquiring *Golden Bow* and some of the other intermediate irises which were sold in the department stores. This was her experience with irises until a neighbor moved into the area with some of the newest tall bearded available in the early 1960's. He shared his increase with Wynnaline and she learned of the modern iris, but not of reblooming irises until one fall (through unseasonable weather) *Golden Bow* put up a marvellous row of blooms. She began acquiring reblooming irises and has now a fine selection of the newer rebloomers.

In 1965 Wynnaline joined the Iris Society of Dallas and has served as Secretary of Region 17 (Texas) from 1966 to 1972. In 1969 she became an AIS judge and has been active in local iris activities, having served as Program Chairman and President of the Iris Society of Dallas.

She is a Charter Member of the Reblooming Iris Society, having been at Denver, Colorado, in 1967, when it was organized. Wynnaline belongs to most of the other sections of AIS but her hobby is hybridizing reblooming irises.

She is employed by Glenn Justice Mortgage Co., Inc. as an Assistant-Secretary in the FHA/VA Loan Closing Section. She has a son still at home and a married daughter and one grandchild. Welcome Madam President!

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Wynnaline Stinson

I am honored and very happy to have been elected your President. Being a Charter Member of the Reblooming Iris Society, I have watched the progress of the RIS since its founding and think we have a fine organization. We certainly have some fine reblooming irises now and an awards system is under study.

I have had a letter from England in which affiliation by ten members is requested and this is being worked out. I would like to solicit seeds which were hand pollinated to send to these members this fall. They are working under the handicap of the lack of newer reblooming irises for parents. The seed should come from reblooming irises by the newer and better spring bloomers or vica versa, or from a cross of two of the better reblooming irises. I will make one box for the Chairman of the group to divide among the members and all donations will be greatly appreciated.

Our fall weather was very unusual this past year and we had no freeze until after Christmas. Needless to say, I had a "spring" season. Rebloom was magnificent, with HALLOWEEN PARTY being open on Christmas Day.

The Median Iris Society has announced that their October 1972 issue will be on Reblooming Medians and if you have any comments on varieties, I am sure our Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Richard Gibson, would be pleased to receive them. This will be an interesting issue as many medians { standard dwarfs, intermediates, and border bearded} are now being hybridized to rebloom. (By explanation, Mr. Gibson is guest-editing this issue of THE MEDIANITE.)

It was with deep regret I learned of the death of Dr. G. Percy Brown in December 1971. The reblooming iris was developed by Dr. Brown to stand the extreme cold of the northern part of our country and we have all suffered a great loss.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possibly can make it to attend the National AIS Convention this year in Portland, Oregon, so that we may have a quorum for a Board Meeting and work to solve any problems we may have.

MEET THE EDITORIAL STAFF



Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg, Professor of Music at Radford College, Radford, Va. First President of R.I.S. (1967-1971). Hybridizer and introducer, specializing in remontants.



Margaret Zurbrigg, Elementary Music Supervisor. Daffodils and chrysanthemums compete with the beardless iris for her attention.



Ann Dasch, (Mrs. Robert E.), homemaker and part-time artist, chairs the AIS Youth Committee while raising two young irisarians of her own.

EDITORIAL



Under doctor's orders, Edwin Rundlett, the founding father of the REBLOOMING IRIS REPORTER, and its editor since its inception, was forced to resign from his post. AIS members will be pleased to know that he agreed to carry on the excellent work he has also been doing as Director of the Reblooming Robins, and we are grateful for this. RIS and its Board of Directors thank Edwin most profoundly for his work over the past decade, work that brought honor to us when he was awarded the AIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL at the Golden Anniversary Convention in New York City in 1970.

Your new editor does not have as much free time as he would like to have for this task, and has induced his better half, Margaret, to set up and type for photo-offset the material for the publication; and Mrs. Robert (Ann) Dasch of Timonium, Maryland, for all art illustrations. We hope that this will prove an interesting edition and one worthy of succeeding to Edwin's. He had requested permission to retain the name REBLOOMING IRIS REPORTER, but he has approved our choice of REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER, which was the closest possible, and carries, of course, the same initials RIR. We are further indebted to Edwin for a very fine article involving considerable research, prepared for this issue, and offer personal thanks for this favor and mark of approval.

If you have experiences and information having to do with reblooming irises that you would like to share with the rest of the membership of RIS do write to me. We will acknowledge all letters.

Lloyd Zurbrigg, Editor-in-Chief

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. G. Percy Brown, 1888-1971

With deep regrets, we must announce that Dr. G. Percy Brown of Barre, Mass., died in the Memorial Hospital at Worcester, Mass., on December 24, 1971. Funeral service was on Monday, December 27, 1971, in the Barre Congregational Church with the Rev. H. Milton Bartlett officiating. Burial was in the Glen Valley Cemetery.

Dr. Brown had been in failing health the past years because of a heart condition, but kept his iris interest until the end by means of moderate gardening, and by belonging to three Remontant Iris Robins.

Born in Barre, Mass., son of Dr. George A. and Susan E. Brown, he was a lifelong resident of the town, except for the summer months spent at Central Village, near the sea. In 1911 he received his B.A. degree from Yale and in 1915 his M.D. from Harvard. He returned to Barre to serve under his father as Assistant Superintendent of the Elm Street School and Home for the Feeble-Minded. This school was the first in the nation to conduct experimentation and research on methods of teaching the mentally retarded. In 1947 Dr. Brown retired from the school, at which time it was closed.

He was a member of the Barre Congregational Church, Mt. Zion Lodge of Masons, the Knights Templar, the Barre Library Association, Historical Society, and was a former director of the Barre Savings Bank. He is survived by his widow, Mary (Hicks); a son, Durant H. of Westport Point; and two sisters of Ft. Myers, Florida.

(Editor's Note: His widow, Mary, has written telling of her late husband's great pleasure in the award bestowed upon him by the American Iris Society.)

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY HONORS THE LATE DR. G.P. BROWN

Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg

This fall the A.I.S. Board of Directors awarded the DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL for hybridizing to Dr. G. Percy Brown, our Dean of Remontant Hybridizers. It was fortunate that this honor came before he was stricken with his final illness.

For over thirty years Doc Percy pursued an independent course from almost all other iris hybridizers, concentrating on the hardiness of the plant, and on its ability to produce more than one crop of bloom per year. His single-mindedness has produced for us a great pool of valuable genetic material that has been put to use by other hybridizers in the past decade, and especially during the past four or five years. The irises themselves are growing from coast to coast and have out-performed those of any other single hybridizer by a wide margin.

Doc Percy did some outcrossing to once-blooming irises, yet without losing sight of his goal of hardiness, vigor, and twice blooming. Thus we find FALL PRIMROSE, the winner of last year's RIS Symposium, is from REDWYNE, a red iris of the late Mr. McKee, and the pollen of AUTUMN TWILIGHT (Dr. Brown's own given parentage). FALL MELOLITE, popular with hybridizers for outcrossing, is from a reblooming seedling crossed with the Dykes Medal winner, CHERIE.


Among his very few non-remontant introductions were TINTED PORCELAIN and its seedling, CHARTREUSE CHALICE, which was out of NEW HORIZON. I grew both of these varieties, liking the former particularly and was intrigued with its parentage, an outcross from ALLUMEUSE, a famous SNOW CARNIVAL, one of the very best white selfs of its day. CHARTREUSE CHALICE was taken along into his remontant line, adding with such fine irises as HAPPY BIRTHDAY, RUSSET WINGS, FAIR DAY, JANE PHILLIPS, and MISSOURI. The pedigree of AUTUMN SENSATION seems of special interest. Its pod parent was from SNOW CARNIVAL X (amoena x GREEN DRAGON), while its pollen parent was from FALL FAIRY X PLANET. PLANET was a very bright recessive amoena from Mr. McKee. Dr. Brown thought AUTUMN SENSATION a big step ahead in the reblooming amoena, and I agreed,

and used it in hybridizing more than any other of his introductions. As might be expected, it gives a rather wide spectrum of colors in its offspring, along with marvellous hardness.

Of late Doc Percy has been using the iris LUGANO very frequently in his crosses, and it produced a high quality of bloom for him. Among these, SEPTEMBER CHEREAU has been one of the most popular, both as a garden subject and as a parent. The late Lloyd Austin was one of the first hybridizers to see the value of Dr. Brown's iris breeding, and he made many crosses with the types of rebloomers suited to the California climates, introducing many of these in his colorful catalogs, and proving to the indifferent iris world that rebloomers were financially successful.

I received my last letter from Doc Percy, dated November 27, 1971, stating he had to cut down on his iris garden size due to his age. However, he was keeping up with the three

Robins he was in and had just received word that he had been given the AIS Hybridizers Medal, which pleased him greatly. This honor closed the last chapter of his life's work.



E R R A T A

In the report of the Nominating Committee, I was in error in stating that our President Robert Hubley, had resigned, and I apologize for any misunderstanding caused by my wrong use of the word. Bob declined to accept nomination for another term. I had not thought in using the term that he would fail to fill out his term as President. I knew that he would. As most of you know, Bob is the new RVP for Region 15. We congratulate him on this honor and will follow his term of office with great interest and expectation.

Lloyd Zurbrigg, Chairman of
Nominating Committee

SIBERIAN

REBLOOMERS

Bill Gunther

Reblooming Siberians were first brought to my attention when one of my own seedlings surprised me by doing just that. This seedling is the result of selfing my clone of ROYAL ENSIGN and it demonstrates the value of selfing - when it can be done - as a method for study of the genetic characteristics of plants of unknown parentage or, for that matter, those of known parentage. Since ROYAL ENSIGN does not rebloom for me, the fact when selfed some of its seedlings do, is very strongly suggestive of the idea that reblooming in this case is a recessive trait.

The reblooming seedlings from this selfing were every bit as strong or stronger than their parent, ROYAL ENSIGN. In my experience, rebloomers of any kind seem to have vigor in larger amounts than do the once-a-season bloomers which makes logical good sense since producing bloom stalks represents one of the major effects of the plant. This particular result fits in very neatly with some other evidence I have collected which has convinced me that Siberian Irises come from strong inbred lines of plants in much the same manner that wheat and oats come from the selfing of strong closely inbred lines. The theoretical position I have taken concerning this is presented in an article in the Bulletin of the American Iris Society, No. 202, July 1971, pg. 65-72.

The significance of strong inbred lines of Siberians is made a bit more clear by referring to the usual results from inbreeding. In a majority of cases the results of close inbreeding result in expressions of pity. This is particularly true for the progeny of inbred humans and in my own experience has almost been true for the progeny of inbred tall bearded irises. In contrast, no one can look at my inbred Siberians and say anything about their being "poor inbred things".

The blue Siberian plant, MY LOVE, reblooms for me in the same way as do my ROYAL ENSIGN seedlings. When ROYAL ENSIGN



rebloom seedling pollen was placed on the flowers of *MY LOVE* the resulting progeny included a number that have rebloomed. This result again supports the idea that the reblooming of my seedlings is the result of the action of recessive genes. But my results also suggest something more and that is that multiple genes must be involved since if a single set were responsible, all of the *MY LOVE* X *ROYAL ENSIGN* rebloom seedlings should have been rebloomers, which was not the case.

Siberian irises in my garden rebloom in a different way from the tall bearded ones. The Siberians complete their first full flush of bloom at the regular bloom period and then in a couple of weeks they begin to throw new bloom stalks. Thus far the rebloom period of time has been extended over four to five weeks but the plant that had twenty bloom stalks in the regular season produces five or six more in the new period. It seems to me that the Siberian way of reblooming could be superior to that of the tall bearded provided plants can be bred to improve the quantity of bloom in the second stage. When this is accomplished we shall have Siberians in bloom for a two months period of time.

It is hoped that any readers with experience in obtaining rebloom from Siberians will inform the editor of their results so that those hybridizers interested in this subject may have such knowledge for use.

* * *
A N N O U N C E M E N T

In the next issue of the *REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER* we would like to list all commercial growers of reblooming irises. Please drop your editor a post card if you wish to be included in this list. Requests are coming in from overseas as well as here in America.

FLASH!

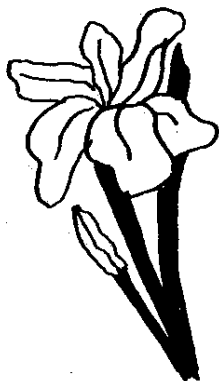
A REBLOOMING SPURIA

(Copied by permission from the Spuria Iris Soc. Newsletter)

This spuria is Walker Ferguson's seedling number 11-19-71. Parentage is *Iris halophila alba* X BLUE ACRES. It first rebloomed during August 1971 and it was during that month when this stalk, with seven blossoms open, was photographed (see next page). Also during August, this iris was judged in the garden by five judges. There is reason to anticipate that the AIS High Commendation Award will go to seedling 11-19-71 at the time of the next judges ballot.

Three months later, in November 1971, the same clump which rebloomed in August, rebloomed again. A stalk of this rebloom was entered in the seedling class of San Diego's Fall Iris Show, November 1971. It was the only spuria in the show and at that show it was voted an AIS Exhibition Certificate.

Seedling 11-19-71 has a white blossom with a very unusually small yellow signal. The falls flare well, but they show their species parentage by their lankiness. Walker Ferguson made the cross of *Iris halophila alba* X BLUE ACRES as part of his quest for a spuria with a white blossom without a yellow signal. His goal (complete elimination of the yellow signal) had not yet been reached, but if by accident his efforts have brought forth a spuria which will rebloom reliably, then his quest was far more successful than had he realized his hoped-for goal.





Walker Ferguson,
Escondido, California.
Hybridizer of first
reblooming spuria.



Ferguson Spuria,
Seedling 11-19-71.
First reblooming
spuria known.

REFLOWERING GARDEN STRAINS

Roy Davidson
(Copied from SIGNA)

Just as the remontant bearded irises have been developed from those few individuals which showed a few autumn flowers, so also might it be quite possible to encourage development of many kinds of beardless sorts into reblooming strains. Here on the Pacific coast we occasionally get reflowering on *Tenuis* and *innominata*, often the same plants repeating for several years while others right beside them show no such inclination. Jean Witt has reported reblooming 40 chromosome Siberians. Mr. Thaxter has reported that his Russian *setosa* did it again for the third season, and Lorena Reid observed that with her in irrigated nursery rows in the open, *I. tenuis* is a reliable rebloomer through September, though it shows no such inclination in the wild.

As with the bearded rebloomers, culture is undoubtedly an important factor, as well as is the genetic inclination to want to produce a second flowering. The ability of a given plant to recycle its growth pattern may be encouraged by certain practices; alternation to the fertilization regime, withholding water and altering the amounts of light at various times of the growth cycle; any of these might contribute.

At least two different bearded irises were known to Gerarde who illustrated them in his Herball of 1957 as *I. biflora* and *I. violacea*; some forms (or hybrids) of *I. olbiensis* have also demonstrated reflowering tendencies. Bearded garden plants in many sizes and an extraordinary range of coloring have been recently added to the fall-blooming class. Many of these, especially those of lesser stature, are reliably remontant when grown properly in colder areas, while in Californian climates it is usual to have some irises in flower every day of the year and of all statures and colors. But another class can possible evolve too. A strain of remontant spurias could come ^{from} *I. autumnalis*, a plant of the *I. halophila* complex designated for its fall blossoms.

If a reflowering tendency of any plant can be strengthened by cultural practices and multiplied by breeding procedures, a new and valuable race may come about to gladden the days of autumn in the Iris Garden. Walker Ferguson has obtained reblooming spurias which may perhaps trace back to this.



I. innomata



I. tenuis

Above pictures by
Lorena Reid.

REGION 6 THIRD ANNUAL FALL MEETING

Bloomington, Indiana - Sun. Oct.10,1971

The third annual Region 6 Fall Meeting and Judges Training Session met at the reblooming iris garden of Dr. Raymond G. and Hazel Smith in Bloomington, Indiana on Sunday, October 10,1971. About 28 persons, most of them AIS judges attended from Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. The session was organized by RVP Harold Stahly and the sessions were conducted by Dan and Jayne Overholser, the able and talented Judges Training Co-Chairmen of the Region.

Ray Smith had cleared the machinery out of his workshop and had set up a display bench covered with white paper along one side where 30 specimens of his latest named varieties and new seedlings were displayed almost like a miniature show. One of the most interesting features of the sessions was the give-and-take of several of the more experienced judges as, under the clever prompting of the co-chairmen, they were induced to comment on the various varieties. Queen of the Show by vote of the judges was a small flowered but beautifully branched tangerine-bearded pink plicata seedling.

Varieties of other hybridizers which attracted much favorable comment included Zurbrigg's *NORTHERN SPY*, Rundlett's *VIOLET VIRGO*, and Gibson's *CAVENNE CAPERS*.

Each family in attendance was awarded as a door prize a rhizome of Smith's light pink *LACED DUET*, which, as usual, was one of the outstanding sorts, though now far outshone by one of its children named *RETURNING GLORY*, as well as by a very wide and flaring cream-brown plicata appropriately called *MOONLIGHT DUET*.

REGION 14 FALL IRIS SHOW

Santa Clara, Calif. - October 24, 1971
Richard Gibson

The first Region 14 Fall Iris Show was staged in Santa Clara, California on October 24, 1971 in conjunction with the Fall Meeting and proved to be quite a success. About 50 stalks were entered, some of very good quality. They ranged from an "Old Purple Flag" to the 1971 introductions and from *I. unguicularis* to tall bearded.

Because there is no real "peak" season for the rebloomers in the fall, few stalks were entered at their peak. Three failed to open and at least one had only the last bloom left. The quality of the stalks was not that of a spring show, but the blooms were as beautiful as those of April or May. DARK-TOWN, EARLY SNOWBIRD, GRAND BAROQUE, GRAND ROMANCE, RARE TREASURE, and VALHALLA were excellent specimens, several with three blooms. The older JOSEPH'S MANTLE was also a fine stalk. EARLY SNOWBIRD, an entry of Melrose Gardens was judged Queen of the Show. BRIGHT EYES, by Joe Ghio, was Runner-Up.

The medians were a significant part of the entries. Five PREAMBLE (though my notes say four), two CHIMERA and seven other varieties won five blue ribbons, two seconds, five third places and one Honorable Mention which was better overall quality than the TB's.

A program of 130 slides from major hybridizers of 1972, 1973 and even later possible introductions was shown. This is an ideal way for buyers to get a preview of what is to come. By making notes of those that appeared best on the screen, spring "shoppers" have a "be sure to see" list. Inquiries can be made to determine where those that seemed desirous can be seen locally. Of interest to the rebloomer enthusiasts was one of Jim Gibson's (didn't get the name or number) that will be introduced.

(Editor's Note: Almost certainly the iris referred to is Jim's SUMMER SUNSHINE, a 1972 Introduction.)

REGION 15 FALL IRIS SHOW

San Diego, Calif. - November 21, 1971

Robert Hubley

The Region 15 Fall Iris Show, sponsored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society, was held in San Diego, California on November 21, 1971.

The Silver Medal was awarded to Robert Hubley of La Mirada for the greatest number of blue ribbons. The Bronze Medal was awarded to the Cordon Bleu Gardens of San Marcos for the second most number of blue ribbons. Queen of the Show was awarded to SUMMER GREEN SHADOWS, exhibited by Jean Otto.

The name of the cultivars shown are as follows:

Aahme	Haunting Rhapsody
Autumn Afternoon	Lovely Again
Autumn Rosemist	Mishawaka
Autumn Snowdrift	Red Polish
Briny	Preamble
Cayenne Capers	Ribbons of Blue
Chabacano	September Gold
Chimera	Sky Queen
Copper Urn	Steeplechase
December Royalty	Summer Angeline
Early Snowbird	Summer Fantasy
Eleanor Roosevelt	Tecate
Flame Kiss	Summer Cavinette
Gold Bullion	White Piety
Gypsy Rings	<i>I. unguicularis</i>
Growshaw Red	Best Seedling - CASCADE PASS

REGION 15 FIRST IRIS SHOW OF 1972

Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, California
January 15 and 16, 1972 - Robert Hubley

The Southern California Iris Society held its first Iris Show this year on January 15 and 16 in the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia.

The Queen of the Show and the Lilla P. Kerr Memorial Award for the Best Reblooming Iris was won by a specimen stalk of JOSEPH'S MANTLE, which was grown and exhibited by Marie Roebuck.

The American Iris Society's "Silver Medal Certificate" was awarded to Robert Hubley of La Mirada, California, for winning the greatest number of blue ribbons.

The "Bronze Medal Certificate" was awarded to Avis Jasmin of Arcadia for winning the second greatest number of blue ribbons. Avis Jasmin also won the "Best Arrangement of Show" in the Artistic Section.

CASCADE PASS, a seedling of the late Ruby Cooper, was judged "The Seedling Most Worthy of Introduction".

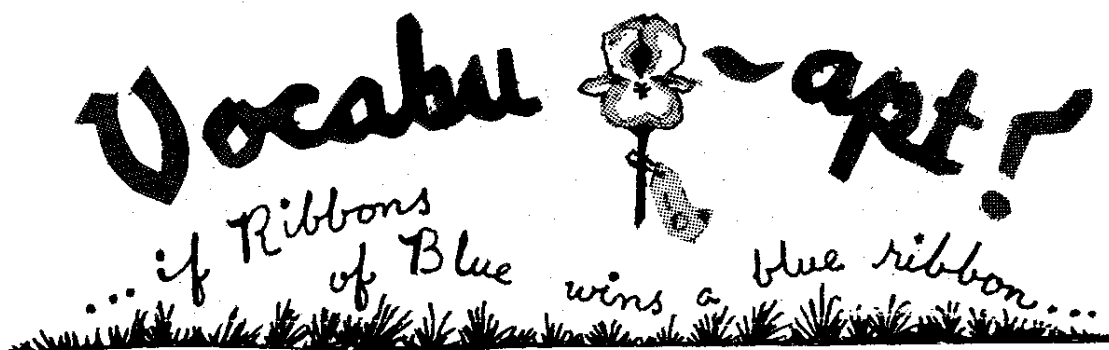
The following cultivars were exhibited in this show:

Aahme	Dark Mystery	Helen Keller
Autumn Afternoon	Early Snowbird	Halloween Party
Autumn Rosemist	Epic	Jet Black
Beau Catcher	Emma Louisa	Joseph's Mantle
Blue River	Fall Gold	Kazak
Bronze Flush	Fall Fire	Lois Craig
Chant	Fall Majesty	Lalitha Mallette
Copper Urn	Flame Kiss	Major Red
Cayenne Capers	Gold Bullion	Marakoesh
Chabacano	Glorious Two Timer	Mishawaka
Dark Brilliance	Grand Teton	Magnet
Decolletage	Germain Pink	Pin Up Girl
Double Duty	Greene County	Preferred Man

Royal Band
Red Polish
Sky Queen
Summer Angeline
Steeplechase
Swiss Majesty
Sudden Spring

Summerose
Tan Sun
Western Hills
Xmas Fires
How Now
Ellen Manor
Conrad

Eleanor Roosevelt
Tecate
September Gold
Ultra
I. unguicularis
I. unguicularis
DECEMBER JOY
I. Sib. COOL SPRING



ANNOUNCEMENT

The October 1972 issue of THE MEDIANITE, the official publication of the Median Iris Society, will feature Reblooming medians. Many of the experiences of your reblooming irises are of real interest to other growers and prospective growers. Please write about them so they can be included. Technical articles are also needed on all phases of reblooming median growing: breeding, fertilizing, spraying, etc.. Please let me know what your subject will be and the approximate number of words. If a short statement, please write it and send it as soon as you can.

Very little has been done to promote reblooming median iris. We need to know all that has happened that can be of value to others. This issue will hopefully kindle real interest in persons who are not yet reblooming devotees. You can perform a real service by sending your article to the "guest editor", Richard E. Gibson, 5613 Tahama St., Sacramento, California, 95841 before July 10, 1972.

REGION 19 FALL IRIS MINI SHOW

Princeton, N.J. - Saturday, Oct. 9, 1971

Frank Jones

The first Reblooming Iris Minishow, sponsored by the Garden State Iris Society, Region 19, was held in the Mac Millan Building of Princeton University on Saturday, October 9, 1971. It met with great success, mostly due to Gene Wild's careful planning and good management as well as Norman Noe's well-organized slide show and the fine fall blooming iris brought in by six of our members.

Most of the iris were brought by Emma and myself. Not only because of the quantity, but also because of quality, the Jones' iris received most of the awards: 4 firsts, 2 seconds, 3 thirds, and 1 Honorable Mention. To add to all these honors, the Queen of the Show was given to a perfect stalk of my border rebloomer, Jones J-68-A. Norman Noe was the other main competitor who took 3 seconds. In all there were sixty entries. One attractive trophy went to Norman Noe and five to the Jones' family.

As stated above, Norman Noe had prepared a list of the slides to be shown, with full information about each iris. Those attending were able to make notes on their copies of this list as the show progressed.

Even though many people visit our garden each fall, several members expressed their amazement at the fine quality that is beginning to be evident in the newer fall blooming iris: broader and more flaring falls, crisper standards, and greater variety of color. As Norman Noe pointed out, much of this progress is the result of hybridizing by Edwin Rundlett and we are proud that he is a fellow member of Region 19. Hopefully, this first Fall Show will be followed by many more, as more irisarians in this area discover the enjoyment of iris blooming at the end of the summer, as well as at the beginning.

The clerk's records show the following entries of iris by color alone: 3 blue, 2 red, 1 pink, 7 white, 33 yellow, 6 plicata, 6 bitone and 2 border. The Awards were as follows (* denotes a trophy award):

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>VARIETY</u>	<u>RIBBON</u>	<u>GROWER</u>
red	J-68-45 (Jones)	2nd	F. Jones
pink	*R-64-23-48-R (Rundlett)	1st	F. Jones
white	Autumn Mists (Jones '70)	2nd	N. Noe
yellow	* J-69-X9 (Jones)	1st	F. Jones
	* Summer Green Shadows (Brown '65)	2nd	F. Jones
	J-69-49 (Jones)	3rd	F. Jones
	J-69-74 (Jones)	HM	F. Jones
plicata	Da Capo (Zurbrigg '69)	2nd	N. Noe
bitone	*Emma Louisa (Buckles '69)	2nd	N. Noe
SDB	* Twice Blessed (Dennis '66)	1st	F. Jones
Border	* J-68-A (Jones) Best of Show	1st	F. Jones
	* * *		

THE FORT WORTH TEST GARDEN

Clarence P. Denman, Chairman of Local Test Garden Comm.

As explained in the Reblooming Iris Reporter of September 1971, the Test Garden is being phased out because of unfavorable conditions beyond our control. All but about two dozen varieties were removed in the early summer. Those left were recent additions or for other reasons had not rebloomed in the Test Garden. They were left to have an opportunity to rebloom in the fall of 1971.

The varieties which did rebloom in 1971 were:

AUTUMN MISTS (Frank Jones '70)
 DEEP DAWN (Tompkins '64)
 DOUBLE MISSION (Jeffries '70)
 EARLY SNOWBIRD (R.E. Gibson '71)
 EDNA WEED (Weed-Fuhrman '65)
 HAUNTING RHAPSODY (Ghio '68)

Seedlings: B-L-66-201 Mrs. W.D. Brady
 J-68-F Frank Jones
 J-69-44 Frank Jones

All remaining plants will be removed in the near future and the Test Garden discontinued.

REGION 17
HONOR GIVEN TO FORMER SECRETARY-TREASURER

IRIS GARDENER DEVELOPS NEW REBLOOMER by Pat Castillon
(Copied from Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Nov.19,1971)

Dr. Clarence P. Denman has "invented a better mousetrap" by developing an iris that, he says, is the biggest re-bloomer in existence. Now he is waiting for the world to beat a path to his door and pay \$35.00 for one of the plants.

The superior white iris will be registered with the American Iris Society and introduced to commerce in January. He has named the iris BESS BERGIN, in memory of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Bergin of Dallas, who for three years was president of the Texas Region of the American Iris Society. One of the first of the new plants dug from Dr. Denman's garden has been planted in the Elizabeth Bergin Memorial Garden in Samuel Park in Dallas.

Dr. Denman of 4214 Calmont Street, has specialized in reblooming iris, varieties that bloom in the spring, as all iris do, and rebloom in the fall, as only a few do, Denman is striving to increase both the number of reblooming varieties and the quality of blooms.

He is one of the few local residents who has iris in bloom now. The plants will continue to produce blooms until a hard freeze. "It has to be less than 29 degrees to freeze iris blooms", he said, "I've had blooms at Christmas time".

As he has in past years, he will furnish blooms to decorate the tables at Fort Worth Iris Society's annual Christmas party, the first week in December if the weather co-operates.

Most rebloomers are smaller than the regular iris Dr. Denman explained, so his creation is a giant step ahead in size and quality. The bloom of the new iris is seven inches in diameter and has petals three and a half inches wide and sturdy enough to withstand Texas winds.

Dr. Denman described his new flower's family tree. "It is a daughter of SNOW GODDESS and granddaughter of SNOW FLURRY, which has so many outstanding descendants that it has been

called the world's most famous breeding iris. Its other parent is a sturdy hybrid iris named ECH-CHAMS-HARRA, which has three-fourths of its ancestry of aril iris stock from the Near East".

He made the cross between the parent varieties five years ago and has had blooms for the past three years.

Dr. Denman, professor emeritus of the University of Texas at Arlington, is a past president of both the Men's Garden Club and the Fort Worth Iris Society. He is an accredited judge of the American Iris Society. Gardening has been his hobby practically all of his life, he said, but he started concentrating on iris about 15 years ago. He calls his wife his own best judge because she passes on the merits of his bloom.

Soon he plans to introduce another rebloomer that he hybridized and calls *ARTISTIC GOLD*. The name is a tribute to its prize-winning qualities. "At a flower show one year I had to enter the artistic division for flower arrangements. So I cut a perfect stalk of my yellow iris, put it in a container and it won a Tricolor Award. So for that reason I call the iris *ARTISTIC GOLD*".

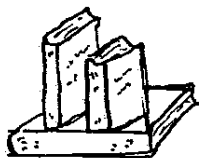
Among his current and future projects are attempts to cross a tall bearded iris with the Louisiana iris to get the vigor and blight resistance of the native swamp iris and the beauty and size of the tall bearded species.



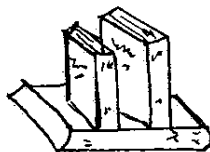
Two views of *BESS BERGIN*, 1972 Introduction of Dr. Clarence Denman of Dallas, Texas. 23



Dr. Clarence P. Denman, retired history professor and iris hybridizer, shows a new variety he has developed, a large white iris he has named BESS BERGIN. The scene looks like April but actually is November, since the flower blooms in both spring and fall.



THE EARLY HISTORY OF "RE"
Edwin Rundlett



Most fanciers of remountant or reblooming irises are anxious for the time to arrive when this class of iris can compete well with the regular bearded sorts for awards. Unless AIS and RIS officers can agree upon the proper definition of the "Re" that appears in the annual Registry Lists and the decennial Check Lists, they may have a long wait. This effort of mine is to speed such agreement. History is the best guide.

Ardent researchers should read IRIS CHRONICLE, No.21, compiled by Ida Balzen, Eula Shields and Harriet Segesemann of the Historical Robins of the AIS. This issue is all about the old iris *Florentina*. Only one quote will be ventured here. It is from "A new herball or historie of plants", by Dodoens, translated by Henry Lyte of London, 1595. "The Irises or floure Deluces, do most commonly floure about May; and the smaller somewhat before the others; and the narrow leaved floure Deluce last of all. But in Portingall and Spaine they floure at the latter end of Autumne, a little before Winter."

A wonderful article starting on page 35 of the 1955 IRIS YEARBOOK of the British Iris Society, convinces me that the species referred to above was *Iris subbiflora*. The article is entitled, THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF EUROPEAN AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SPECIES OF BEARDED IRIS, by the past-president of AIS, Dr. L.F. Randolph. Fine maps are provided showing the distribution of species.

The famous British irisarian, W.R. Dykes, in his THE GENUS IRIS, wrote the above species, "This Iris was first observed by Clusius in the neighborhood of Coimbra in Portugal about 1565 and described and figured by him as *Iris Lusitanica seu biflora* on pp. 282-3 of his HISTORY OF RARE SPANISH PLANTS (1576). He there states that he found plants in November and gave it the name of *biflora* on account of its habit of flowering in the autumn as well as in spring."

I'm fully convinced that this old description is the

origin of the habit of AIS officials of using the expression, remontant or rebloomer, in other words, "Re". This species had a very limited range, always close to the ocean and in a mild climate. Though there is a record in Randolph's GARDEN IRISES of a successful cross with *Marcrantha* pollen, *Iris subbiiflora* does not figure in the ancestry of modern remontants. Breeders have let it severely alone.

THE GENUS IRIS contained a determined but futile effort by Mr. Dykes to trace the origin of *Iris germanica*. The conclusion was that it is a stubbornly sterile hybrid distributed widely by Mohammedans and others who liked to use it on graves because of its wide adaptability to soils and climates. Classed with it were other 44-chromosome cultivar "mules" such as *Florentina*, *I. albicans*, *I. kochii* and *Kharput*. Definitely the origin was not German, but rather some place as mild in climate as the shores of the Mediterranean. More chromosome study is needed. Dr. Mitra, working with Dr. Randolph at Cornell University, felt that these natural hybrids resulted from crosses between 48-chromosome tall and some 40-chromosome dwarf species. See his fine article in THE BOTANICAL GAZETTE, Vol. 117, No.4, June 1956. Of these cultivars, *Kochii* is known to be remontant in some mild climates, though not recorded as such by the AIS.

Dykes, writing at his home near London, remarked in his HANDBOOK OF GARDEN IRISES that in climates milder than his, such as that of California, *I. germanica* is capable of almost continuous growth and perpetual flowering, for "blooms", wrote he, "appear at odd times almost throughout the year". Robin letters have confirmed this numerous times in letters to me. These irises are intermediates both in season and stature. I've been stressing tall bearded in recent years, so have sidestepped this vexing fact. Furthermore, I've tried hard to obtain a race of fertile remontant tall bearded and have been, along with several others, somewhat successful. Dead-end breeding is to be avoided. But I wonder now whether sex infertility favors both remontancy and great adaptability to varied soils and climates. If so, I might have been wrong in stressing fertility. Yet how are we to improve iris quality without large progenies of seedlings? Developing pollenless sorts might be a step in the right direction. Surely that is possible.

Let us trace "Re" through early AIS history. The first IRIS CHECK LIST consisted of Bulletin No.4, January 1922. The Check-List Committee consisted of John C. Wister, R.S. Sturtevant and E.H. Krelage. This list included, as far as possible, all species and varieties then in American commerce. *Iris germanica* was stated to be a synonym of *Florentina blue*. *Florentina alba* was also listed, but nowhere was the time of blooming of any variety given.

The second CHECK LIST was Bulletin No. 8, October 1923, while Mr. Wister was still President and Mr. Sturtevant still Secretary. It consisted of a reprint from the Iris portion of STANDARDIZED PLANT NAMES with permission of the American Joint Committee on Horticultural Nomenclature, Harlan P. Kelsey, Sec. Still no mention of times of iris blooming. Regarding *Florentina*, it reported, "The name *I. florentina* has been applied to various forms of *Iris*. According to strict usage it is not a proper designation of any species of this genus. *I. florentina* of Bailey's Cyclopedia is a hort. var. of *I. germanica*." So says the GREEK HERBAL OF DIOSCORIDES which was first translated by a Byzantine A.D. 512. Fascinating reading in the English translation reprinted in 1968 by Robert T. Gunther through Hafner Publishing Co.

After Bulletin 8, Bulletins 14, 18, 22 and 26 listed all the introductions and registrations in the interval covered by them. Still no mention of flowering periods. The same is true of the 1929 CHECK LIST edited by Mrs. Wheeler H. Peckham while Mr. Wister was still President and Charles E.F. Gersdorff was Registrar.

On page 3 of Bulletin 38 "pay dirt" began appearing. The brothers Sass and Sherman Duffy wrote a meaty article entitled "Comments on Intermediates". In it is a report that Sass Brothers attempted to find *plicata* intermediate, so produced thousands of seedlings containing *pumila* "blood" combined with that of the tall; at first diploid tall, and later tetraploid tall. The *pumilas* used were really *chamaeiris* types. This work extended over 20 years. Out of it came a race of fall bloomers and a few that blossom off

and on all season in their climate near Omaha.

Hans Sass remarked, "One of the first pumila hybrids we received came from the late Rev. C.S. Harrison of York, Nebraska. It was a blue variety labeled "Crimean Hybrid" and proved to be a variety that bloomed again in the fall. We later had many fall blooming dwarfs in the garden and by breeding these with AUTUMN KING one is sure of getting some fall blooming intermediates. AUTUMN QUEEN is of such parentage and not only blooms again in the fall, but is apt to bloom any time through the season." His brother Jacob added, "ULTRA, nearly ultramarine blue, blooms again in the fall."

Registration and Introduction lists of the AIS for 1930 made no mention of times blooming. Bulletin No. 42, January 1932 started using a new system while Charles E.F. Gersdorff of Washington, D.C. was Registrar. Page 25, stated, "The dwarf, intermediate and tall bearded types are to be classified according to height instead of season of bloom, but the latter will be noted by the addition of the letters, E, M, F, and FF for early, midseason, late, and very late blooming habits." No mention of "Re".

This change applied to the Introductions of 1931 and not to Registrations. By memory I spotted OCTOBER MAPLES (Sass, H.P., 1931); TB-S5L which in the 1939 CHECK LIST Ethel Anson S. Peckham recorded as TB-Re-S5L. No parentage given.

On page 59 of Bulletin 48, January 1933 Mr. Gersdorff provided still further changes in classification of the bearded iris. He wrote, "The dwarf, intermediate and tall bearded types are to be classified according to height instead of season of bloom to fix the type, but the season of each type is to be noted by the additions of the letters EE, E, EM, M, MF, F and FF for extra early, early, early to midseason, midseason, midseason to late, late and very late to fall blooming." Still no "re".

President Wister in that same issue remarked, "I am drawn to the conclusion that the best way to work out a good system is to try out a bad one!" How true. From that point I scrutinized every FF with double zeal to see what evolved. The 1939 CHECK LIST gave guidance. Poor Ethel Peckham!

Little use of the FFs was made in registries and introductions recorded in that Bulletin. Two only were spotted that evolved in the CHECK LIST to "Re". Others became M1a and V1a. These two were OCTOBER OPERA IB-M-FF-S9D (Sass, H.P. 1932 & Hill, H.M., 1932). No parentage given. It became IB-M-Re-S9D. The other was OLIVE WHITE, IB-E-FF-W4 (Sass, H.P., 1932). No parentage. It became IB-E-Re-W4. Incidentally, there is a fine article by Dr. H.H. Everett on page 35 of Bulletin 46 entitled, "Intermediate and Fall Blooming Irises". But I must not wander from my theme. Each Registry and Introduction List must be screened for FFs and "Re".

Real gold turned up in our panning of Bulletin 54 of December 1934. In every instance, unless otherwise stated, the FF became Re. in the 1939 CHECK LIST. Under Registrations for 1933 we found the following:

- AUTUMN DAWN. IB-EE-FF-S7M (Niles of Los Angeles, Calif.)
(Delicatissima x) X (Sweet Lavender
x Mary Gibson).
- DORCAS HUTCHESON. IB-M-FF-B7M (McDade of Chattanooga,
Tenn.); (Amas X pumila hybrid).
- ELEANOR ROOSEVELT. IB-M-FF-RID (McDade of Chattanooga,
Tenn.); (Amas X pumila hybrid).
- FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT. IB-M-FF-B7D (McDade of Chattanooga,
Tenn.); (Cardinal X Autumn King).
- FROST QUEEN. IB-M-FF-WW (Sass, H.P. & Hill, H.M., 1933
near Omaha, N.B.); (Autumn King X).
- KING JUNIOR. IB-M-FF-B3M. (Sass & Hill, 1933, near
Omaha, N.B.); (Autumn King X).
- LAURA HUTCHESON. IB-M-FF-B3D. (Sass & Hill, 1933 near
Omaha, N.B.); (No parentage given.)
- SEPTEMBER SKIES. IB-M-FF-B7D. (Sass & Hill, 1933 near
Omaha, N.B.); (No parentage given.)

From Bulletin No. 56 of March 1935 we panned the following gold. Registries are far more important to breeders than introductions since they indicate climate of origin. Originators naturally select as parents irises adapted to their own climate. Heredity is important but heredity cannot act in wrong environments.

AUTUMN ELF. IB-M-W6. (Dr. G. Percy Brown, Barre, Md.);
(Gertrude X probably Gracchus).
AUTUMN FROST. TB-EM- F-W4 (Schreiner, 1934, then of St.
Paul, Minn.); (No parentage given).
AUTUMN GLEAM. IB-M-FF-Y4M (Sass, H.P., 1934, near Omaha,
N.B.) (pumila X mesopotamica).
AUTUMN HAZE. TB-E-FF-S9M. (Sass, H.P., 1934 near Omaha,
N.B.); (out of two seedlings).
CONSTANCE SCHREINER. IB-EE-FF-B3M (Mickle-McDade, Progress,
Pa.); (no parentage given).
OCTOBER BLAZE. TB-EE-FF-R7M (McDade of Chattanooga, Tenn.);
(No parentage given).
SOUTHLAND. IB-M-FF-Y4D (Sass, H.P. near Omaha, N.B.);
(pumila X seedling of King Tut).

Here is the reward of searching through the list of 1935
Registrations in Bulletin No. 60.

BLACK MAGIC. IB-E-FF-B1D (Wayman of Bayside, N.Y.); (No
parentage given).
SANGREAL. IB-EM-FF-Y4L (Sass, J. near Omaha, N.B.); (Card-
inal X Autumn King).
WHITE AUTUMN KING. IB-EE-FF-W (Sass, H.P., near Omaha, N.B.);
(Autumn King X).

Listed as Introductions of 1935 or before are:

AUTUMN SUNRISE. IB-FF-B1M. (Lane of Western Grove, Ark.);
(No parentage given).
MARTIE EVEREST. TB-EE-EF-B1M (Kirk-McDade, Chattanooga,
Tenn.); (No parentage given).

A slight change in the wording of the classification of
irises for registration by Mr. Gersdorff on page 78 of Bull-
etin No. 63, October 1936, reads this way. "The season is to
be noted by the addition directly after the type letters, of
the letters EE, E, EM, M, MF, and FF, or any combination thereof
to care for twice or long blooming varieties, for respectively
extra early, early, early midseason and midseason which in
connection with the type letters IB may readily be analyzed as
the former intermediate class, midseason to late, late and very
late to fall blooming." Still no "Re" in use by Registrars.

BERTA-MAY. TB-FF-W9D. (Gersdorff, Washington, D.C.);
(Mildred Presby X Virgo).

EPHESIA. TB-FF-S8M (Gersdorff, Washington, D.C.);
(Ochracea X Chasseur).

GOLDEN CATARACT. IB-EME-FF-Y4D (Met.-Dys., 1936 of
San Dimas, Calif.); (probably Crimson King
X Mirasol).

Mr. Gersdorff's registration rules of the Bulletin
of October 1936 continue in use for registrations in
1937, Bulletin 67. We continue sifting for "gold".

AUTUMN NIGHT. IB-EE-FF-B7D (Martin, F., Omaha, N.B.);
(no parentage given).

MONETA. TB E-FF-R3D. (Dean, 1937 of Moneta, Calif.);
(No parentage given).

PRINCESSE PIERRE VOLKOWSKY. IB-E-FF-S3M (Vilmorin-
Andrieux, Paris); (No parentage given).

SUREFIRE. IB-E-FF-Y4M (Nicholls, Ithica, N.Y.);
(Yellow Bird X Autumn King).

The Registration rules of October 1936 still hold
for registrations of 1938, Bulletin No. 71. We continue
our quest for "re".

EVELYN PULLAR. TB-FF-B1L (Pullar, 1938); Cooley, 1938;
(Bruno X) begins blooming after
usual fall bloomers where extreme cold
does not prevail, and through mid-
winter well into spring.

To my mind, this could not be called a remontan. In
the 1939 CHECK LIST the FF is changed in this instance to
Win. If there were a special class of winter bloomers
created outside of the realm of rebloomers or remontants,
most of our problems of classification would vanish, and
people throughout most of U.S. would stop sending their
savings down the drain, hoping for remontants and finding
that they will not rebloom according to the accepted AIS
definition.

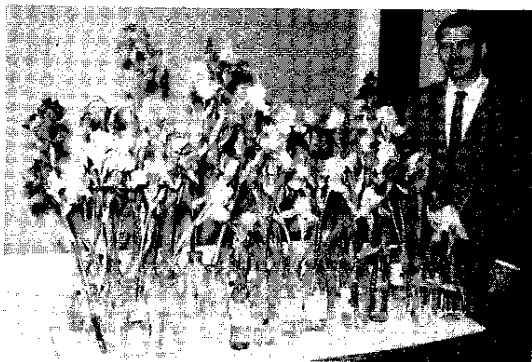
Ah, Eureka! In fine print on page 76 of the AIS
Bulletin No. 75, December 1939, Mrs. W.H. Peckham, Recorder
of Introductions and Bibliography, gives some changes in
seasonal abbreviations to clarify for readers the complete
list of such abbreviations. Here they are: "E for early;
M for midseason; La for late (formerly F); Re for remontan,

spring and fall blooming (underlining is mine), formerly FF; EE for extra or very early; EM for early midseason; LaM for late midseason; MLa for medium late; VL~~a~~ for very late, late June or July blooming (formerly FF); E-M for early to mid-season; E or M-La for early or midseason to late or very late (none of these fall blooming) and Win. for winter blooming (fall to spring)."

There were no "Re" introductions in 1939 and registrations of that year were slated to appear in the 1939 CHECK LIST, so did not appear in this Bulletin. Mrs. Peckham, Editor and Compiler of that weighty and important CHECK LIST (now long out of print) listed in Bulletin No.80, January 1941, the introductions of 1940. A single entry in the 1940 listing interested me, the only remontant iris, and the first such entry called "Re". Here it is.

LATE NEWS. TB-Re-B7M (Maples 1940, Bruce C. Maples of Ozark, Mo.); (No parentage given here or in the 1939 CHECK LIST but the 1949 CHECK LIST gives the parentage as Cardinal X Autumn King; which ties right into both Dr. G. Percy Brown's remontant iris pedigrees and several of H.P. Sass. See the center fold of the March 1971 REBLOOMING IRIS REPORTER.

Page 9 of the 1939 CHECK LIST gives the official AIS definition of "Re" as "Remontant or rebloomers, spring and autumn bloomers". I'll abide by that, but point out that Winter bloomers do not belong in this classification. However, I'd be somewhat lenient about the definition of spring and of fall. Others must take it from here. I've done my bit and am weary.



Lloyd Zurbrigg with some of the October bloom from his garden in Radford, va.

COLOR GROUP

SUBORDINATE COLOR TONES

PREDOMINANT COLOR

BLUE TONED

YELLOWED TONED

PINK TO RED TONED

COLOR TYPE SELF FEATH-ERED BITONE OR BICOLOR SELF FEATH-ERED BITONE OR BICOLOR SELF FEATH-ERED BITONE OR BICOLOR

WW

WHITE

W1

W2

W3

W4

W5

W6

W7

W8

W9

BLUE

B1

B2

B3

B6

B7

B8

B9

RED

R1

R2

R3

R4

R5

R6

R7

R8

R9

BLEND (squalens) S1

S2

S3

S4

S5

S6

S7

S8

S9

YELLOW

Y2

Y3

Y4

Y5

Y6

Y8

Y9

Symbols: E, early; M, midseason; L, late. Season of bloom symbols follow classification.
L (light); M (medium); and D (dark) refer to tint or shade and appear last.

REBLOOMERS BY CHANCE

Dave Niswonger

My experiences in breeding remontants have been accidental. I had watched with a great deal of interest when LEORA KATE and EMMA LOUISA showed up for Gene Buckles. It was a delight to take a trip down to Gene's each fall to see the performance of the stock that Gene was developing. It was almost unbelievable that these two varieties would make as nice stalks in the fall as in the spring with good branching and three to four blooms open at one time. My seedling patch is thirteen miles in the country and Gene's experiences told me that I should make a point to check over the seedling patch each fall. In the fall of 1969 it happened!

But before I get into that I should mention that after Gene's death I evaluated the seedlings that Gene had selected and kept some of the seedlings as possible introductions or ones that warranted further use in hybridizing. Out of all the seedlings he had kept, there was only one from EMMA LOUISA which was 69-23: Favorite Topic X Emma Louisa. I brought this one home and it rebloomed in mid-October. EMMA LOUISA had started reblooming around the first of October and bloomed for one month from various stalks. So apparently, EMMA LOUISA passes along the trait quite easily. This seedling is quite interesting with slightly bluer standards and red plum falls similar to EMMA. There were some haft markings like EMMA'S.

Now back to the story in the latter part of September 1969 I was out to check the seedling patch and there was a beautiful stalk with three blooms open on a one-year plant. It was numbered 1-70 to start off the seedlings in 1970. The following spring it bloomed again and I ended up with five rhizomes. Four were sent to hybridizers interested in the remontants and I kept one but waited until late to move it, hoping to keep it from reblooming but it bloomed anyway which caused it not to bloom this spring. This fall it bloomed with three bloom stalks on September 15 and did so for the other hybridizers at approximately the same time. It is out of LILAC TREAT X LOVELY RIPPLES which is a sib to LILAC TREAT. I kept two others out of this cross for their exceptional quality but they show no remontancy at this time. The quality of the individual flower is not as good as LILAC TREAT nor the two sibs but it makes a nice stalk, well branched, with several blooms open at one time and very

make some in 1972.

1971 was an unusually good year for me and during this year four other rebloomers showed up which had previously been selected on the basis of quality. This was actually the first year they were left alone so they could rebloom. I might say that we had good rains in August but they did not have any rain at all six weeks prior to reblooming. Here they are:

Sdlg. 5-70: (Sdlg. 3-62 x Lilac Treat) X LILAC TREAT. This is a lilac with a red beard very similar to LILAC TREAT. It rebloomed October 15. Sdlg. 3-62 is out of the following: Sdlg. 2-60: ((18-54: (New Snow x Chantilly) X Sdlg. 1-58: (McClan's Pink Sdlg. out of Hall's pinks x Ballerina)) X PALOMINO. This seedling was a white with an orchid glow and a red beard and very nice branching.

Sdlg. 26-70: Hinkle x-4 which is a violet sib to Royal Egyptian X Sdlg. 9-65 which happens to be out of 32-63 X RIPPLING WATERS. Now 52-63 is a deep violet that came from two yellows: Anembo x H53-27E which is a yellow sib to Valimar. 32-63 was the only violet out of over one hundred seedlings from this cross. If you're still with me, 26-70 is a light lilac bitone with the standards darker than the falls and very nicely branched and a marigold beard. One of the parents, 9-65, won an Exhibition Award this year. This one rebloomed October 15.

Sdlg. 1-68: Sdlg. 9-65 X LILAC TREAT. This has been one of my favorite seedlings but I have moved it so often this is the first chance it has had to let me know that it will rebloom. It is probably too late for points further north than southeast Missouri but at least it is known that it has the trait. It bloomed November 1. It is a pale blue with a lilac cast and a very red beard.

Sdlg 2-70: LILAC TREAT X RASPBERRY RIPPLES. This seedling was saved because of its nice lace and ruffles and the fact that the beard is tipped blue-violet (approx. one-third of the part showing) and the rest of the beard is red with a slight blue base. The color is medium violet and very

nicely branched with clean hafts. I might hasten to say that all of the others have clean hafts too. This one also bloomed November 1 and may be too late for "up north".

Experienced remontant hybridizers may be able to use this information to good advantage and may be able to see certain things I have overlooked but in summary I would say that:

- (1) Apparently *LILAC TREAT* carries the factor for remontancy even though it has never rebloomed.
- (2) Going back one step further, *LILAC TREAT* is out of *Rippling Waters* X *Lovely Letty*. I have heard that *LOVELY LETTY* carries the trait for remontancy but I would have to say that *RIPPLING WATERS* surely carries the trait too since 26-70 has no *LOVELY LETTY* in it. I should add that I have grown thousands of seedlings out of *RIPPLING WATERS* and remontancy has not shown in any of the others, so maybe they both carry a recessive factor for remontancy which complimented each other in the crosses involving *LILAC TREAT*.
- (3) *LOVELY RIPPLES* has never rebloomed but is much more vigorous than *LILAC TREAT* and makes larger rhizomes. Evidently, it too may carry a recessive trait which helped in causing Sdlg. 1-70 to be such an early rebloomer.

In conclusion, I must say that remontants bring a delightful end to the summer and are quite surprising to gardeners who haven't learned that they exist and it appears that the quality is improving rapidly with each season that passes. Everyone should grow some remontants!

EMMA LOUISA (Buckles '69).
Photo taken by Zurbriggs
on October 24, 1969.





AIS Editor J. Arthur Nelson seen speaking to the members of the Iris Club of Dallas which Mrs. J. Coker chaired. The tall iris on the speaker's right is BESS BERGIN, mentioned earlier in this issue.



SYMPOSIUM



Richard E. Gibson, Sec.

Thanks to all of those who sent in ballots for this year's Symposium. Reblooming irises were reported by 43 members or about 20% of the membership. Please make a New Year's resolution right now that in 1972 you will send in a ballot. 43 is not enough for a good cross-section of rebloomers throughout the nation. This fact was illustrated graphically by the vacation of one member which prevented the ballot from arriving by the deadline. The Symposium had been tallied, but it wasn't much work to add the ballot, so it is included. That one ballot had this effect: SKY QUEEN was increased from 57 to 61 points; and a tie for first place; RUTH'S LOVE went from 6th to a tie for fourth; VALHALLA jumped from 14th to a tie for 7th; FIRST SNOWFALL jumped from 16th to 10th and LEORA KATE from nowhere to a tie for 23rd. We just didn't get in enough ballots if one can cause that kind of placement changes. Do please send in your ballots, now you see how much just one can mean.

The number of categories was reduced to four for several reasons. First, there are so many kinds of weather, that it is impossible to categorize them in an ideal manner. Number of freeze-free days is the only real basis we have to go on, but does it matter much whether there are 210 or 220 days? It does if the freeze occurs in either the first or last 10 day period; but perhaps if we had watered once more in the middle of July or it hadn't been cloudy for 10 days straight in September the bloom would have been 10 days earlier. Summer growth and bloom in the great valley from Bakersfield to Redding in California is greatly reduced by the extreme heat during parts of June and September and all of July and August. A member in a milder summer that permits growth, yet with the same number of freeze-free days, will experience much better rebloom.

The reduction to four categories ^{look} is more indicative of rebloom in a certain climate if you ^{at} look at the breeder picture. Comparing the two Craig irises, SKY QUEEN and VALHALLA, it is obvious the better iris for cold weather growth is SKY QUEEN, though the number of first through fifth place votes indicates both are of high quality. LOVELY AGAIN bloom and growth characteristics illustrate the problem. The SYMPOSIUM recorded votes in all climates, especially in the colder climates. However, I had bloom in Sacramento almost continuously from July 27 to Christmas in 1970 and have had July and August bloom two other years. Yet, in a robin letter from Seattle the writer bemoaned the fact it didn't grow well and refused to bloom, just the opposite of the pattern of most varieties.

The categories were not determined scientifically and, after the discussion above, I doubt that they can be. However, the following categories were used:

	<u>1971 REBLOOMING IRIS SYMPOSIUM</u>	<u>1971 REBLOOMER CONSUMER REPOR</u>
Less than 190 days	SEVERE	A
190 - 229 days	COLD	B
230 - 269 days	MILD	C
270 days and over	WARM	D

If some of you with 250 days freeze-free don't think you are in a MILD climate after that awful storm last winter or heat wave last summer, it is just a matter of semantics - and I had to call it something.

The division of the Point Total by the Vote Total will give an indication of how well the variety has been voted. The first seven choices were given points in inverse order; a first place got 7 points, seventh place got 1 point. You do not expect older varieties to rank high compared to the newer varieties. This is borne out by comparing the old favorite FALL PRIMROSE to a new fall favorite EMMA LOUISA. The result of the division for the former is 2 and for the latter almost 5. This will not always hold true because of the difference in likes and dislikes of the members, the few ballots received and the stress one person places on

reliability of rebloom as compared to quality of flower.

A comparison of the four annual SYMPOSIUMS have some obvious conclusions and also raises many questions. Note the consistency of CAVENNE CAPERS and SKY QUEEN as the favorites. Other consistencies include LOVELY AGAIN, FALL PRIMROSE (though it slipped this year). FIRST SNOWFALL, AUTUMN TWILIGHT, SUMMER WHITEWINGS and LEORA KATE. But where did RUTH'S LOVE and VALHALLA come from, they aren't new introductions- why the sudden favor? Where are the favorites of a few years ago? BEAUCATCHER, BIG SUR, BLUE SURPRISE, GIBSON GIRL, AUTUMN BRONZE, CHANT, and SEPTEMBER CHEREAU. Maybe we have different people voting each year, or at least enough to make a big difference. Send the Editor your comments, perhaps all of us together can make some real sense out of it.

Two members in a 200 freeze-free climate voted the Siberian VIOLET REPEAT, Brummitt'67, a third and a fourth place. Another vote for the Louisiana PEGALETTA, Holleyman'63 in a 249 day freeze-free climate was cast. There was a comment that it was probably spurious bloom.

Many of the comments of the SYMPOSIUM are applicable to the 1971 REBLOOMER CONSUMER REPORT and will not be repeated. Irises receiving two or more votes were tabulated. Those not on the SYMPOSIUM that received first place votes are SUMMER BLUE, KING'S CHOICE, RIP VAN WINKLE, SUMMER DARKNESS, RED POLISH, SEPTEMBER CREAM, HAUNTING RHAPSODY.

WINTER REBLOOMING IRIS SYMPOSIUM

With so few votes for this type of iris, a symposium is of questionable value. But one thing is undisputed: RUTH'S LOVE is the unchallenged leader in this field. It was first in 1969, 1970 and 1971. JOSEPH'S MANTLE edged it out of first place in 1968 and settled for second. No other variety showed any strength worthy of mention.

There were 13 ballots, most of them voting for only a few. Freeze-free days were from 249 to 365.

1971 REBLOOMING IRIS SYMPOSIUM

RANK	POINTS	VARIETY	TYPE				OF			TOTAL VOTES
			SEVERE	COLD	MILD	WARM				
1	61	CAYENNE CAPERS	1,4	5,6,6	1,6,7,7	1,1,1,1,4,8,9	20			
1	61	SKY QUEEN	1	3,7,8	1,2,4,4	1,2,4,4,5,6,7	18			
3	29	EMMA LOUISA	1,2,6	1,1		8,9	6			
4	28	JOSEPH'S MANTLE			4,5	1,3,3,4	9			
4	28	RUTH'S LOVE				1,2,2,2	7			
6	26	LOVELY AGAIN	1,4,4	3,4	9	6	9			
7	24	FALL PRIMROSE	3,4,7,8,4		3,8	3	12			
7	24	VALHALLA			1	2,2,3,9	5			
9	23	DA CAPO	5	3,4,4,5	4		7			
10	22	FIRST SNOWFALL		1	1,6,7	3	7			
11	21	EARLY SNOWBIRD			1	1,1	3			
11	21	HALLOWEEN PARTY		1,1		1	3			
13	20	LACED DUET	1,1,2				4			
14	19	G. PERCY BROWN	2,7	2,2			4			
14	19	HELEN TRIGG	2	2	4	5	7			
16	18	GRAND BAROQUE	2	2,8,9		2	5			
17	17	AUTUMN TWILIGHT	1	4	2		7			
18	15	GOLD OF AUTUMN		4	1,4	8	7			
19	14	AUTUMN ELEGANCE	1,1				3			
19	14	FALL MAJESTY	3,4			3	5			
19	14	SEPTEMBER BUTTERCUP	3,4,8	3			5			
19	14	SUMMER WHITEWINGS	3,3,6		6		7			
23	13	LEORA KATE	8	8	7	1,3	7			
23	13	SUMMER FANTASY	5,5,6,9,8,9			4,7	9			
23	13	SUMMER PINK	8		1	2	6			

RANK	POINTS	VARIETY	SEVERE	TYPE	OF	WEATHER	TOTAL
							NOTES





SYMPOSIUM COMPARISON

<u>IRIS</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
CAYENNE CAPERS	1	1	2	1
SKY QUEEN	4	3	4	1
EMMA LOUISA			16	3
JOSEPH'S MANTLE	6	23	20	4
RUTH'S LOVE				4
LOVELY AGAIN	10	4	3	6
FALL PRIMROSE	2	2	1	7
VALHALLA				7
DA CAPO			6	9
FIRST SNOWFALL			6	9
EARLY SNOWBIRD				11
HALLOWEEN PARTY				11
LACED DUET			16	13
G. PERCY BROWN				14
HELEN TRIGG	15			14
GRAND BAROQUE			11	16
AUTUMN TWILIGHT	10	10		17
GOLD OF AUTUMN		19	6	18
AUTUMN ELEGANCE			13	19
FALL MAJESTY		13	20	19
SEPTEMBER BUTTERCUP				19
SUMMER WHITEWINGS	8	18	9	19
LEORA KATE	20	19	5	23
SUMMER FANTASY		5		23
SUMMER PINK				23
ALPENROSE				26
BOUNTIFUL BEAUTY				26
JULY BEAUTY	12			26
SWISS MAJESTY			12	26
DOUBLE MAJESTY				30
SECOND LOOK				30

1971 REBLOOMER CONSUMER REPORT

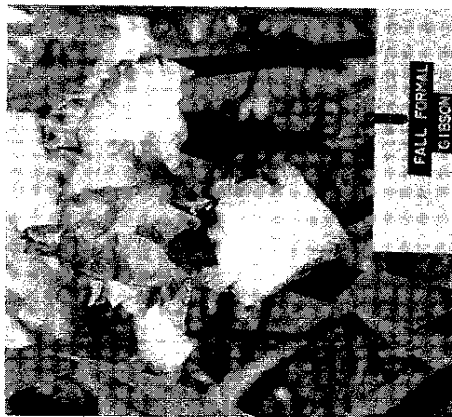
VARIETY	TOTAL PTS.	*	*	*	*	*	HYBRIDIZER	A	B	C	D	TOTAL VOTES
* * *	* * *	* * *	* * *	* * *	* * *	* * *						*
AHEAD OF TIMES	3						Henkelman '70		2			2
ALPENROSE	12						Schreiner's '59		1	3	2	6
ALTA ROSA	2						?				2	2
AUGUST INDIAN	2						G. Percy Brown '56	1			1	2
AUTUMN AFTERNOON	5						G. Percy Brown '54	1				2
AUTUMN BRONZE	0						G. Percy Brown '55	2		1		2
AUTUMN CHAMELEON	6						R.G. Smith '65	2		1		3
AUTUMN ELEGANCE	14						R.G. Smith '67	2		1		3
AUTUMN HAZE	0						H.P. Sass '34	1		1		2
AUTUMN MISTS	5						F. Jones '70		2	1		3
AUTUMN NIGHT	10						R.G. Smith '67	1		2		3
AUTUMN SNOWDRIFT	6						G. Percy Brown '54	2	2	1		5
AUTUMN SUNSET	0						G. Lapham '39	1			2	3
AUTUMN TWILIGHT	17						G. Percy Brown '48	2	3	1	1	7
AUTUMN VELVET	3						L. Austin '62	1		2	1	4
BEAUCATCHER	10						T. Craig '55		2	4	4	10
BLUE EVERBLOOMER	0						L. Austin '64			1	2	3
BLUE SURPRISE	4						L. Austin '57			2	3	5
BOUTIFUL BEAUTY	12						L. Austin '64				2	2
CAYENNE CAPERS	61						J. M. Gibson '59	3	3	6	8	20
CHABACANO	0						R. Craig '68			1	1	2
CHANT	0						T. Craig '60			1	2	3
CHESTNUT CHEEKS	1						L. Austin '64			1	1	2
CUPID'S DART	5						T. Craig '53				2	2
DA CAPO	23						L. Zurbrigg '68	1	4		2	7

VARIETY	TOTAL PTS.	HYBRIDIZER	A	B	C	D	TOTAL PTS.
DEEP DAWN	6	C. Tompkins '63		3	1		4
DOUBLE DATE	0	E. Rundlett '55		1		1	2
DOUBLE DUTY	0	L. Austin '59		2		1	3
DOUBLE MAJESTY	11	R.G. Smith '64	3		1	1	5
DOUBLE MISSION	7	R. Jeffries '70		1	1		2
EARLY SNOWBIRD	21	R.E. Gibson '70			1	2	3
EDENGLO	0	L. Zurbrigg '68		2			2
EMMA LOUISA	29	E. Buckles '68	3	3			6
EPIC	0	S. Babson '64		1	1	1	3
FALL BEACH PLUM	0	G. Percy Brown '64		2			2
FALL BLUEBIRD	0	G. Percy Brown '60	2				2
FALL BLUE CONTRAST	4	G. Percy Brown '66	2	1			3
FALL FAVOR	0	W. McGarvey '65		2			2
FALL FORMAL	5	J.M. Gibson '70		2			2
FALL GOLD	4	Z. Benson '59			4		4
FALL MAJESTY	14	R.G. Smith '65	2	1	1	1	5
FALL PRIMROSE	24	G. Percy Brown '53	6	3	2	1	12
FALL YELLOW SUPREME	5	G. Percy Brown '66	1	1			2
FAREWELL	3	T. Craig			3		3
FINAL FLING	3	H. Wright '64		3			3
FIRST SNOWFALL	22	L. Austin '62		1	4	2	7
FLAME KISS	8	G. Plough '57		3		1	4
GIBSON GIRL	0	J.M. Gibson '46	2		1	2	5
GLORIOUS TWO TIMER	4	L. Austin '64			1	1	2
GOLD OF AUTUMN	15	L. Austin '60		1	5	1	7
G. PERCY BROWN	19	R.G. Smith '67	2	2			4
GRAND BAROQUE	18	L. Zurbrigg '68	1	3		1	5
GREEN HOPE	0	G. Rees '54	2				2
HALLOWEEN PARTY	21	J.M. Gibson '70		2		1	3
HAUNTING RHAPSODY	10	J. Chio '68			1	3	4

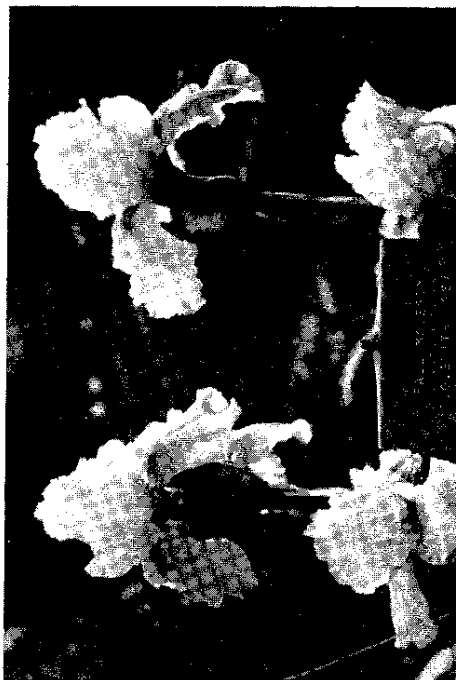
VARIETY	TOTAL PTS.	HYBRIDIZER	A	B	C	D	TOTAL PTS.
HELEN KELLER	8	G. Hinkle '62				2	2
HELEN TRIGG	19	L. Zurbrigg '66	1	3	2	1	7
JET BLACK	4	R. Brizendine '61	1			1	2
JOSEPH'S MANTLE	28	T. Craig '48			5	4	9
JULY BEAUTY	12	National '43	2	2	2	1	7
JULY SUNSHINE	10	G. Percy Brown '64	3	3			6
LACED DUET	20	R.G. Smith '67	3		1		4
LEORA KATE	13	E. Buckles '63	1	2	2	2	7
LITTLE STRANGER	0	A. Obermeyer '70		2			2
LORNA LYNN	9	G. Plough '60	1	3	2	1	7
LOVELY AGAIN	26	R.G. Smith '63	3	3	1	2	9
MAJOR RED	8	D. Lyon '63				2	2
MANY MOONS	1	H. Wright '67		3			3
MEMPHIS LASS	2	W. Schortman '57		4			4
MENOMINEE	2	Wise '49	2	1	1		4
NAPPANEE	3	Wise '49	1	2	1		4
NORTHERN SPY	4	L. Zurbrigg '60		2	2		6
OCTOBER SHADOWS	0	G. Percy Brown '50	1			2	3
PINK DUET	2	R.G. Smith '65	1	1	1		3
PIN UP GIRL	0	L. Noyd '55		2	1		3
POLAR KING	0	Donahue '32	1			1	2
PORT WINE	0	H.E. Sass '50		2			2
PRIDE OF SUMMER	6	L. Austin '64	1			1	2
PURPLE DUET	4	R.G. Smith '65		1	1	1	3
RED MANTLE	1	Slamova '61			2	1	3
RED POLISH	7	T. Craig '67		3			3
RENAISSANCE	0	F. Cassebeer '64		2			2
RETURN ENGAGEMENT	1	R.G. Smith '62	1	4	1	1	7
ROYAL BAND	2	T. Craig '50			1	2	3

VARIETY	TOTAL PTS.	HYBRIDIZER	A	B	C	D	TOTAL POTES
ROYAL SUMMER	6	C. Applegate '70	1	1		1	3
RUM JUNGLE	6	L. Roach '60		4		1	5
RUTH'S LOVE	28	N. Sexton '61			1	6	7
SECOND LOOK	11	T. Muhlstein '70				2	2
SEPTEMBER BUTTERCUP	14	G. Percy Brown '61	3	2			5
SEPTEMBER CHEREAU	0	G. Percy Brown '65	2	2		1	5
SEPTEMBER CREAM	7	G. Percy Brown '58		2			2
SEPTEMBER GOLD	6	G. Percy Brown '65	1	2	1		4
SEPTEMBER PASTEL	5	G. Percy Brown '56	2				2
SEPTEMBER SAILOR	0	G. Percy Brown '59	3	1	1		5
SEPTEMBER SPARKLER	5	G. Percy Brown '43	1	1		1	3
SKY QUEEN	61	F. Craig '62	1	4	4	9	18
SPRING GODDESS	0	Mrs. J. Coker '67			2		2
STEEPLECHASE	3	T. Craig '57			3	1	4
STORMY ECHOES	0	E. Crouch '68		1	1		2
SUDDEN SPRING	6	M. Framke '65			1	2	3
SUMMER ANGELINE	3	G. Percy Brown '64		2		1	3
SUMMER BLUE DRESS	5	G. Percy Brown '65	1	2			3
SUMMER DARKNESS	7	G. Percy Brown '67	1	1			2
SUMMER FANTASY	13	G. Percy Brown '64	4	3			9
SUMMER GOLDDLOCKS	0	G. Percy Brown '62		1	1		2
SUMMER GREEN SHADOWS	4	G. Percy Brown '65	2	1			3
SUMMER INSPIRATION	0	G. Percy Brown '61	3	1			4
SUMMER PINK	13	El Dorado '63	1	2	1	2	6
SUMMER TABLETIME	0	G. Percy Brown '62	1	1			2
SUMMER WHITEWINGS	14	G. Percy Brown '60	4	2	1		7
SUNNY ECHOES	0	E. Crouch '67		2	1		3
SWEET TOMORROW	3	D. Lyon '55			3		3

VARIETY	TOTAL PTS.	HYBRIDIZER	A	B	C	D	TOTAL PTS.
SWISS MAJESTY	12	L. Zurbrigg '69		3			3
TAN SUN	5	M. Burnett		2			4
TOURNAMENT QUEEN	11	Milliken '46			1	2	3
TYROLEAN BLUE	10	Schreiners '63			2	1	3
VALHALLA	24	T. Craig '62			1	4	5
VALIANT ORCHID	2	R. Stanley '61			2		2
VILLA GOLD	5	J.M. Gibson '64			1	1	2
VIOLET VIRGO	0	E. Rundlett '63	1	2	2		5
WESTERN HILLS	8	T. Muhlestein '51		2	1	2	5
WHITE DUET	7	R.G. Smith '65	1	3			4
WINTER FLAME	5	L. Austin '53			2	2	4



FALL FORMAL (J.M. Gibson '70)



FALL MAJESTY (R.G. Smith '67)

FIRST ANNUAL
1971 REBLOOMING MEDIAN IRIS SYMPOSIUM
Richard E. Gibson

For the first time, the median iris have their own reblooming symposium. Not very large, but several interesting facts are revealed. Both *PREAMBLE* and *BRIGHT EYES* received twice as many votes as any other variety with 13 and 14 respectively. The second grouping is *TWICE BLESSED* and *FINE PRINT*, 6 and 7 votes, respectively. Points earned indicates the preference of *PREAMBLE* over *BRIGHT EYES* and *TWICE BLESSED* over *FINE PRINT*. Only three others received as many as 4 votes, too few from which to draw conclusions.

The dates of introduction of the 30 listed disclose that over 2/3rds of them have been introduced in the last 12 years. Only *BRIGHT EYES* and *ELEANOR ROOSEVELT* (*BLACK MAGIC*) could be considered "old favorites". Only 6 of those listed were produced by hybridizers specializing in reblooming types. Obviously, these hybridizers have not bent their efforts toward median rebloomers. Here is a wide-open field for those interested.



BABY SNOWFLAKE (Peterson '63)

1971 REPORT OF MEDIAN IRIS REBLOOM - Richard E. Gibson

VARIETY	HYBRIDIZER	A	B	C	D	TOTAL VOTES	TOTAL PTS.
AMBER RAYS	E. Roberts '68				1	1	5
AUTUMN ORANGELITE	G. Percy Brown '61	2	2			4	15
BABY SNOWFLAKE	Peterson '62		2		1	3	6
<i>I. balkana</i>	Darby		1			1	3
BLACKFOOT	?	1				1	0
BLONDE DOLL	Goett '62		1			1	4
BORDER DUET	R.G. Smith '66			1		1	3
BRIGHT EYES	Darby '57	4	2	1	7	14	27
CHIMERA	L. Zurbrigg '60				3	3	13
DEAD SEA SCROLLS	L. Zurbrigg '60		2			2	3
DETERMINATION	?	1				1	3
DRUMMER BOY	Schreiners '63			1		1	4
EBONY EMBERS	Brizendine '64			2		2	7
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT	McDade '33	3	1	1		5	8
EMBROIDERY	Keppel '70				2	2	9
FINE PRINT	Keppel '68	1	2		4	7	17
FOOTNOTE	Keppel '68				1	1	1
GLIMMER	Greenler '66				1	1	0
HONEY TALK	A. Brown '69		2			2	8
lt. de CHAVIGNAC	Berry '41	1				1	0
PETKIN	L. Zurbrigg '69		2	1	1	4	15
POLAR FLAME	R.G. Smith	1			1	2	0
PREAMBLE	Keppel '66	3	3	1	6	13	37
PRISSY	Venable '60		1		1	2	4
SANGREAL	Horton '40	1				1	5
SOUTHLAND	H.P. Sass '34	2				2	4
SPRING'S RETURN	Z. Benson			3		3	8
TECATE	G. Corlew				1	1	2
TWICE BLESSED	Dennis '65				1	6	22
ULTRA	H.P. Sass '26				1	1	4

1977 REBLOOMING MEDIAN CHRIS SYMPOSIUM

RANK POINTS VARIETY SEVERE TYPE OF MILD WEATHER TOTAL VOTES

1	37	PREAMBLE, Keppel '65	1,2	1,5	2	1,1,2,3,4	13
2	27	BRIGHT EYES, Darby '57	4,4	2,3	5	1,2,2,5,5	14
3	22	TWICE BLESSED, Dennis '65	1,3	1,2	4	3	6
4	17	FINE PRINT, Keppel '68	1	4		1,3,3,4	7
5	15	AUTUMN ORANGELITE	1,1	1			4
		G.P. Brown '61					
5	15	PETKIN, Zurbrigg '69		1,1	5	2	4
7	13	CHIMERA, Zurbrigg '60				1,1,3	3
8	9	EMBROIDERY, Keppel '70				1,2	2
9	8	HONEY TALK, A. Brown '69		2,2			2
9	8	SPRING'S RETURN, Z. Benson '62			1,3		2
9	8	ELEANOR ROOSEVELT	1	3			5
		McDade '33					
12	7	EBONY EMBERS, Brizenidine '64			1,4		2
13	6	BABY SNOWFLAKE, Peterson '62				1	1
14	5	AMBER RAYS, E. Roberts '68				1	1
14	5	SANGREAL, Horton '40	5			2	2
16	4	BLONDE DOLL, Goett '62		2			1
17	4	DRUMMER BOY, Schreiners '63			2		1
18	4	PRISSY, Venable '60				2	2
19	4	SOUTHLAND, H.P. Sass '34	2				2

SCLEROTIUM ROLFSII

Clarence P. Denman

Purpose of this Article ... *Sclerotium rolfsii* is the name of a fungus which causes one of the worst plant diseases encountered by gardeners. The author of this article is not a specialist who is trained in the field of plant diseases but merely an irisarian who is sufficiently concerned about serious losses from this disease to try to do something about it.

The justification for this article is that information on the topic has not been readily available and the author wishes to share with others some of the information which he has gleaned regarding what is known about this fungus and what can be done to combat the disease.

Origin of the Name... This fungus has probably ravaged plants for centuries, but the first person to study it and describe it was an agricultural scientist name Rolfs, who in 1892 wrote about its causing a blight on tomatoes in Florida. In 1911, another scientist writing about it gave it the Latin name, *Sclerotium rolfsii*. (*Sclerotium* refers to the hardened mass about the size of a mustard seed which contains the "spores" which may transmit the disease to other plants).

By 1966, there were almost 2,000 publications dealing with this fungus, principally in technical terms in scientific journals, when Mr. Robert Aycock, Professor of Plant Pathology at the North Carolina State University published his summary of these studies in a bulletin entitled "Stem rot and other diseases caused by *Sclerotium rolfsii* ...". Most of the information in this article is drawn from Professor Aycock's bulletin.

This fungus is called by a number of terms such as southern blight, mustard seed fungus, crown rot, *Sclerotium delphii*, etc. Investigations have shown that the fungus has somewhat different forms under varying conditions. There may be good reasons for designating these forms as a separate genus as *Pellicularia rolfsii*, but in this article we shall use the term in more widespread usage of *Sclerotium rolfsii*.

Distribution The disease is distributed around the world in tropical and subtropical countries where there are high temperatures during the rainy season. It is common in the southern part of the U.S., in the Caribbean countries, Central and South America, the Mediterranean countries of Europe, practically all of Africa, Israel, India, China, Japan, Phillipines, East Indies, Australia, and Hawaii.

In the U.S. there are heavy losses in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas and California. There are losses, but not severe, in New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Washington and Oregon.

The fungus has its maximum growth in temperatures from about 78 degree F. to about 95 degree F. and little or no growth in temperatures from about 104 degree F. or above or at about 50 degree F. or below.

How the Fungus is Spread and Possible Methods of Control

(1) Removal of Dead Plant Tissue Although classed as a soil borne fungus, it may be spread by wind or water or it may be carried from place to place in various ways. It is a parasite and grows on the dead tissue of other plants. Therefore, one of the means of controlling the disease is to remove dead plant tissue from an area of several inches around growing plants. If weeds are not controlled by a herbicide or hoed when very small they should be removed from the area when hoed to avoid additional dead tissue for the spread of the disease. Another method would be to use a turning plow instead of our rototiller plows so the dead material can be turned under and covered with five or six inches of soil.

Whenever the organism reaches a bit of dead plant material and the weather is hot and humid, it grows by sending out a mesh-like patch of filaments and forms tiny sclerotia. On these may be seen tiny drops of a fluid which contains oxalic acid. When this acid, joined by an enzyme, touches a living plant several layers of cells in

newly killed tissue. As the filaments move inward, other cells are killed in advance so that the filaments move only into dead tissue. They may continue to grow until parts or all of the plant are destroyed.

(2) Prospects for Plant Resistance to the Disease

Agricultural scientists have been able to produce resistant strains of tomatoes, cantaloupes, milo maize, etc. but in so far as is known there are no resistant strains of irises of the genus iris, sub genus iris, which consists of all the bearded or eupogon irises which we know as tall bearded, median bearded, aril and arilbred irises. Of the other sub genera, the Dutch irises are highly susceptible, and the spurias are very susceptible in their first year or so of growth. The reficulatas and stylosas are susceptible but their growth and bloom come prior to warm weather. The Louisianas and Siberians are apparently wholly immune. Would it be possible to cross the bearded irises with the Louisianas and secure progeny which could thrive and reproduce themselves as well as be immune to *Sclerotium rolfsii*? In the meantime, can we find varieties of bearded irises which are less susceptible? It seems that the varieties with the smaller foliage offer less shade and other conditions favorable for the growth of fungi, whereas varieties with lush growth seem at times to be perpetual harbingers of the disease.

(3) Prospects for Control of the Disease through Crop Rotation:

There are so many plants which are susceptible to the disease that it is sometimes a problem to find enough resistant strains to make a thorough rotation. Among ornamentals which are susceptible to a greater or less degree are African violet, amaryllis, begonia, caladium, calla lily, carnation, dahlia, chrysanthemum, columbine, cornflower, cosmos, elephant's ear, forget-me-not, gladiolus, gourd, hollyhock, hydrangia, iris, larkspur, marigold, narcissus, orchid, oxalis, pansy, petunia, rose moss, snapdragon, sweet pea, sweet william, verbena, violet, and zinnia. Among vegetable and field crops the susceptibles include barley, bean, carrot, celery, cauliflower, corn, cow pea, cucumber, collard, eggplant, kale, lettuce, millet, musk melon, oats, onion, okra, pepper, potato, radish, rice, rye, sorghum, soybean, squash, strawberry, sugar cane, sweet

potato, tomato, turnip, watermelon and wheat. Furthermore, if a successful rotation is obtained with crops which are immune to the disease while alive, the fungus can grow on the dead tissue of plants on the ground even if those plants were not susceptible while alive. Still worse is the fact that scientists have found that the fungus can exist in the soil for a year or more without favorable conditions for growth.

(4) Prospects for Control through Chemicals... The organism can be destroyed by fumigation with methyl bromide, but that is very expensive and the treated soil will be free of fungus only until new infestation is brought in by a flash flood or other means. The preparations of high mercury content which are capable of killing the fungus have been outlawed and removed from the dealer's shelves.

Fortunately, within the last few decades some new fungicides and fungistats have been introduced which make a practical control possible. It is known that in controlling fungal leaf spot in irises and the black spot on rose leaves that the desired results can be obtained only by spraying with the respective fungicides in advance of the coming of the spores so the plant is protected from invasion by the fungi. The chemicals used do not kill the fungi already attacking the plants, and may more appropriately be called fungistats. The same principle may be applied to efforts to control the *Sclerotium rolfsii*.

The chemical usually recommended for controlling *Sclerotium rolfsii* is Terraclor, a product of the Olin Chemical Company. It is available as a 75% wettable powder, as 10% granules or as a liquid containing two pounds of the technical material per gallon and called Turfcide. There is also a liquid Green Light product containing Terraclor and known as Brown Patch and Calillia Petal Bright Spray. The Olin Company also offers Terraclor Super-X, which is composed of Terraclor with another fungicide added. The added fungicide is called Terrazole, and is a specific for the fungi which cause rhizoctonia, damping off, and several molds. The Olin Company's Terrazole is also placed on the market by the Mallinkrodt

Chemical Works under the name Truban. The advantage of using Terraclor Super-X would come in its broader spectrum. By controlling these other fungi there might be a reduction in dead plant material which might facilitate the invasion by *Sclerotium rolfsii*. Mr. Ben Hager of the Melrose Gardens in California says in his 1971 catalog, regarding the use of Terraclor when planting spuria irises, that there is a sure cure for both Mustard Seed Fungus and Rhizoctonia in Terraclor and Terraclor Super-X. "Use the latter if you can get it. It is new. It takes very little, but it MUST be incorporated BEFORE PLANTING into your soil as it is not translocated by moisture." Mr. C. Wendell Horn, Extension Plant Pathologist of the Texas A & M University also recommends working Terraclor into the soil. Additional instructions for the use of Terraclor are given on the containers of the product.

Since receiving such information and a supply of Terraclor I have dusted plants with the 75% wettable powder before setting them in the ground. I have also worked the 10% granules into the soil and sprinkled more on top. For plants already established I have used a plan somewhat similar to that used for peanuts. That is, I sprinkle the 10% granules in a band on each side of the plants, work this into the top layer of soil and then sprinkle more on top. Any moving of the top soil thereafter is done in such a way as not to bring untreated soil into the area of the plants. My early experience with cotton and corn farming was to throw loose soil to the plants and keep a loose (dust) mulch on top to hold the moisture in the soil underneath. In iris gardening I formerly used the same procedure and was rather proud of the dust mulch when it was dry enough to attract doodle bugs! My new practice is to pull the soil away from the plants and then spray the base of the plants and surrounding soil with a mixture of one tablespoonful of the 75% wettable powder to each gallon of water. A spreader sticker is necessary to distribute the chemical and make it stick to the plant. Such treatment should be an adequate preventative of the disease if used before the fungus attacks. If the plants are already infested, stronger measures are needed. I have tried digging out the rotted tissue with a melon baller and dusting the exposed surfaces with the 75% wettable powder, plus sprinkling the surrounding soil with the 10% granules. (The melon baller has a fair-

ly sharp cutting edge and a strong handle and is better than a sharpened spoon with a weaker handle.)

Constant watching is necessary in order to detect the disease before it makes much progress. In the spring when there is rain for several days and then a downpour of several more inches within a few hours, the plants become water-logged and the bloom stalks may turn to mush. The fungus gets into the decomposing stalk in some way and the rotting may work itself down into the rhizome if the bloom stalk is not removed in time. Another danger is that some plants may be set in slight depressions in the rows. The ground looked level when planting, but after a heavy rain it can be seen that soil has washed into the areas around some plants. These plants need to be raised. If water stands for hours in any part of the garden after a flash flood perhaps the best procedure would be to plant that part of the garden in Louisiana irises. Some of the newer varieties of Louisianas compare favorably with the tall bearded irises in size and color, but unfortunately they bloom a little later than the tall bearded and usually do not make it to the iris shows.

Future Prospects... If at present there is no local dealer who handles Terraclor, you may write to the manufacturers, the Olin Chemical Company, Agricultural Div., P.O. Box 991, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72203 and find the nearest dealer who does handle the product.

In the past manufacturers have slanted their researches principally toward the uses for commercial field crops. Let us hope that they will give more attention in the future to ornamentals. It is encouraging that Agricultural Experiment Stations and their agents from the County Agricultural Agents to the team of investigators at the U.S. Government's Experiment Station at Beltsville, Md. are giving more and more attention to ornamentals.





Robin Feathers

Editorial Note: Edwin Rundlett, our Robin Chairman plucks the most interesting comments from the many reblooming robins for our reader's enjoyment.

C U L T U R E

Patricia Adams, Spokane, Wash. ... "I find that most iris that I plant even until the end of September will bloom fairly well the next year. Not 100% of course, but real good. However, those planted in October have much less chance of bloom. Very little, if any, from November planting. I find that people, nurseries too, seem to include all of Washington State as of the same climate as the Seattle area. Yet we are almost the opposite. It seems to be a common error.

I checked my iris again this last weekend and it appears that only one had heaved up (one of my seedlings). Since the ground was unfrozen at the time, I just put it back and covered it up. Most of the iris are safely tucked under their winter mulch of straw."

Charles Applegate, Perrysville, Ohio.... "If heaving is a real trouble for you, you should try mounding soil up over them several inches in very late fall - just before the ground freezes. This is mentioned in Schreiner's cultural directions that they send out with orders. I think it's very good here. ... (later, in April) ... Winter is still hanging on here. There's a chance of snow tonight. The iris show very little growth so far. But I can tell they have wintered rather well. I mounded soil up and over most of the new ones and find no heaving at all where I did this. I tried it last year with good results so I think it is a quite useful technique in cold climates like ours. When growth gets started, I'll level it down so the rhizomes are barely covered."

Edith Brown, Woods Hole, Mass..... "We have good glacial soil which drains well, but obviously it needs humus. I can really recommend sharp sand put on the rhizomes in the fall as the water will drain right through. I would not have thought of using it if I had not had to plant so late two years ago. Previously I had never had any heaving except with dwarfs, and even they didn't heave this year.

I'm becoming more and more convinced that beyond the built-in reblooming characteristic, good soil is the biggest item in rebloom. Our farm in Michigan had that in full measure, so that the Iris had never failed even with drought and neglect. Have never had twisted stalks in the fall either in Michigan or Cape Cod. The only heaving at either location has been among the dwarfs. My husband is always horrified at the amount of time I take per plant to plant. I always start with manure, cover it, then make a mound and set the rhizome on top. I believe the roots really reach for the manure and are thereby anchored. The plants always stay well until I have time to separate them."

Richard E. Gibson, Sacramento, Calif..... "Of course I have heard of succession planting of gladiolus, as I have done it myself. However, when planting iris at different times of the year - and this occurs all the time because I get rhizomes from June to October - if they bloom at all the next spring, it is within two or three weeks of the time they bloom the following year. So there is a difference, but not enough to make what one would call a succession planting.....

Failure to water or fertilize is a different matter, but this is true of all crops. If you don't water and fertilize, you don't get a good crop. It will go dormant until it gets water and will grow poorly if it does not get sufficient nutrients. This will, of course, change the season of bloom or fruiting or whatever you are measuring. But it won't change it very much. Some iris will not bloom at all if not supplied with water and fertilizer, while others tolerate such treatment much better."

I think late planting, like everything else in iris culture, depends upon your climate. I can plant late and the plant will grow, but in such cases don't look for bloom the following spring. Your comment on the "Increase always sitting up high" indicates to me too, that that is the way they want to be. I just checked mine (replanted last year) and they are all just barely covered, with only a few exceptions. I bring my mulch onto and over the rhizomes and have little trouble with rot. It is a coarse mulch and if it wasn't, it would act like more soil and that would be like planting too deeply. Mulch saves me a lot of weeding and I believe, gives superior plants. Mulch doesn't take the place of fertilizer and water, though. We have no borers here to complicate the problem."

DISEASES AND PESTS

Libby Cross, Westminster, Md..... "I had good luck in eliminating about four different kinds of rot when I uprooted the entire garden, by soaking all affected rhizomes in a solution of Ortho Garden Fungicide. Have had no loss from rot since. Of course it is quite a job to dig everything up and soak it, but well worth it if you are really climbing the walls trying to figure out how to cure rot."

Richard E. Gibson, Sacramento, Calif..... "Most of the pests that we have here attack dead plant life or live plants that are in a weakened state. Sow bugs are an example, and snails and slugs. The latter attack some varieties as if they were dead. Mulch does not harbor any pest or disease for me, and so is ideal for my garden. I can see where borers would pose a problem. I water heavily in summer - far more than you (in New York) get from rain - yet have no trouble with rot on my mulched iris."

GARDENING PHILOSOPHY

Charles Applegate, Perrysville, Ohio.... "I know it's hard to cut down (when old age arrives). I've discarded many, many iris - some that were expensive to get, but I never missed them. I think I enjoy my garden more with just those that perform well and are most attractive. You can get a lot of pleasure from just a few iris, if they are of top quality and are top performers."

CLIMATE & WEATHER

Alice Bouldin, Elon College, N.C. 9/21/71..... "We had three months of dry weather, then the rains came; over 12 inches in the last three weeks; 3 inches in about an hour. Sure had on Iris! Rot starts under the rhizomes. I don't know it until the top falls over. Makes me feel bad to see it. Lost several new ones; real good ones. Do or did soak rhizomes this year in Lysol water and then planted in sand like I've been doing for several years. Some older ones out in the field do the same way. Some of these were in the same place 3 to 5 years, so it must be the weather.

Got some scattered bloom on AUTUMN SNOWDRIFT the first week in August. More stalks coming now. RIP VAN WINKLE and PRIDE OF SUMMER are open. SEPTEMBER CREAM and RENAISSANCE bloomed a week in September. Several bloom stalks now appearing. With these rains all should bloom again."

Richard E. Gibson, Sacramento, Calif.... "Not all iris varieties are summer dormant here. LOVELY AGAIN begins rebloom the last week of July or the first week of August. It couldn't spend much time dormant, or it couldn't rebloom that early. July, August and the first 2 weeks of September will have 8 to 18 days above 100 and most of the others during that 10 weeks in the 90's. This is dry heat, but it is clear sunlight that cooks the bloom. I water all of the time, of course.

I've never heard of planting in succession like corn and beans. In the latter you are planting seeds, not a root. Iris would act more like a tree; it is time of the year - including temperature, length of day, etc. that determine when it blooms. Even in the Pacific Coastal area, Joe Ghio, of Santa Cruz, says that less than 25% of the varieties he grows send up even one stalk (of rebloom). Others may be almost everblooming, as he mentions on page 36 of the July 1970 AIS Bulletin, in discussing SPANISH GIFT AND BEAUTY SECRET."

Patricia Adams, Spokane, Wash.... "Our spring has been most unusual, as I understand it has been in many places. Due to off and on cold and hot, we are not having any one peak iris bloom season. The bloom for any one stalk is spread over a longer period of time than usual, as the warm day or two will bring out the first one or two flowers and then the weather will turn quite cold for four or five days and the stalk more or less "stands still" for awhile."

Charles Applegate, Perrysville, Ohio... (to a gardener in Claremore, Oklahoma~). "Your climate is surely milder than here. Almost everything you mention is hard to grow here. Not many western iris do well here, but varieties originating in the east always grow well."

BREEDING

Richard E. Gibson, Sacramento, Calif.... "I don't remember seeing Jim Gibson's *VILLA GOLD* but noticed that it is in the Fort Worth Test Garden and that it rebloomed in 1969 there. *CAVENNE CAPERS* is usually a little late for me. Margaret Burnett's *TAN SUN* (My Honeycomb X *Cayenne Capers*) reblooms for me better than *CAVENNE CAPERS*. It is a little more tender, though, perhaps. Maybe someone could get a line going with those three, and even *GIBSON GIRL* herself. *HENRY SHAW* seems to be a good one - like *COMMENTARY*. Lloyd Zurbrigg's *GRAND BAROQUE* is *HENRY SHAW* X a rebloomer. Are there any other single-season performers that act similarly?

Dovie Brady, Dumont, Texas "I have a reblooming seedling from a cross of *BY LINE* by *JOSEPH'S MANTLE* that reblooms real well in the state of Texas, but I would like to see if it would rebloom in the north or other parts of the country. It is a *plicata*."

Ellen Crouch, Falls Church, Va..... "Yes, I guess that in an area as large as Texas there could be a lot of variation in climate. Even so, your season (in Littlefield, N.W. of Lubbock) is apparently earlier than mine. Do try *SUMMER WHITEWINGS* at least!! It makes such a pretty plant, in addition to being an eager rebloomer. Purple leaf bases and leaves a bit greener than most. I really want to try crossing it with other things and see what happens. Doc Percy (Brown) really got something good in that one. I should try crossing it with others with purple leaf bases."

PUBLICITY

Patricia Adams, Spokane, Wash.... "The last meeting of our local Iris Society for the year 1970 was held in October. I took one stalk of one of the irises that I had in bloom, thinking there would be many others, and so one would be enough. What happened? It was the only one, and everyone was quite surprised, as they did not know I was interested in rebloomers. It seems that none of them have any, yet! Therefore, that one stalk was the interest of the whole group, as we always bring samples of whatever is in bloom at the time of the meeting. The stalk was ELEANOR ROOSEVELT."

Charles Applegate, Perrysville, Ohio.... "I certainly hope that fall shows become the rule rather than the exception. Our Region is going to have its fall meeting at Kingwood Center in 1972 and we are going to have a show in connection with it. Late September should be a good time to get a fair collection of bloom from this Region.

I think that slides are about the best out-of-season publicity we can get. Someone on the West Coast was trying to get enough commercial growers together to publish good color pictures of rebloomers for all to use. But it would be too costly, I believe, for such a short time of use. Improvements seem to come so fast that it is hard even to keep up with slides. Printed pictures can never look as good as slides. Cost of slides is very reasonable."

* * * * *

IN MEMORIUM - Mrs. Pelham V (Ruby) Cooper.

The Reblooming Iris Society has lost one of its most valuable members in the San Diego area. Ruby Cooper has been active in RIS Robins, in finding new ways of growing iris, and had recently found much success with rebloomers, growing them in redwood tubs. Cordon Blue farms of Calif. will introduce her seedling named CASCADE PASS this year. It is almost a continuous bloomer. It is hoped this iris will prove adaptable to many areas and act as a memorial to her great interest in the future of reblooming irises.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Officers, Directors & Editorial Staff	1
Meet Your New RIS President	2
The President's Message W. Stinson.	3
Meet the Editorial Staff	4
Editorial L.Zurbrigg.	5
In Memorium - Dr. G.P. Brown	6
AIS Honors Late Dr. G.P. Brown L.Zurbrigg.	7
Siberian Rebloomers B.Gunther	9
Flash! A Reblooming Spuria	11
Reflowering Garden Strains R.Davidson.	13
Region 6 Third Annual Fall Meeting	15
Region 14 Fall Iris Show R.E.Gibson.	16
Region 15 Fall Iris Show R.Hubley.	17
Region 15 First Iris Show 1972 R.Hubley.	18
Region 19 Fall Iris Mini Show F.Jones	20
Fort Worth Test Garden C.P.Denman.	21
Region 17 Honors Given to past Sec.Treas/C.P.Denman	22
The Early History of "Re." E.Rundlett.	25
Color Symbol Chart 1939	33
Rebloomers by Chance D.Niswonger	34
SYMPOSIUM R.E.Gibson.	38
Winter Reblooming Iris Symposium. R.E.Gibson.	40
1971 Reblooming Iris Symposium Chart. R.E.Gibson.	41
Winter Reblooming Iris Symposium Chart. R.E.Gibson.	42
Symposium Comparison	43
1971 Rebloomer Consumer Report	44
1971 Reblooming Median Iris Symposium , , , R.E.Gibson.	49
1971 Report on Median Iris Rebloom R.E.Gibson.	50
1971 Reblooming Median Iris Symposium	51
Sclerotium rolfsii C.P.Denman.	52
Robin Feathers	58
In Memorium -Mrs.P.V.(Ruby)Cooper.	63
Table of Contents	64



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