



# **REBLOOMING** *iris recorder*

Reblooming Iris Society

No. 2

Aug. 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.

# the president's Message

Bloom season is over and seed pods have been gathered and planted here. Plants ordered are arriving (with many generous extras) to be planted, and so the work continues for the coming year.

The Portland AIS Convention was the best I have ever attended. The RIS meeting had a standing room only crowd to hear Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg speak on his experiences in hybridizing for reblooming irises. This fine and most interesting speech is also carried in the July issue of the AIS Bulletin. Our new Membership Chairman, Dudley Carson, had iris paintings and note papers for sale and many members came home with souvenirs of his beautiful works. Present also was Ben Hager, our Western Director, and Mrs. Zurbrigg, our Assistant-Editor of the Recorder, as well as Mrs. Ann Dash, our artist Assistant-Editor. Mr. Hager brought large buckets of Japanese irises to the convention. These were beautiful to see and a fine idea to fill the bloom season between our reblooming time of spring and fall. We missed Robert Hubley, who had gone overseas to work for 18 months.

Among the reblooming irises seen at the convention were Cascade Pass, a white by Ruby Cooper; Summer Sunshine by Jim Gibson; and Cloud Baron of Chet Tompkins', done in medium blue. Most of those at Schreiners had finished blooming.

I am working with the Samuel Park Iris Garden Committee to begin a display bed of reblooming irises this fall and want to thank those who have sent rhizomes. This park is maintained by the City of Dallas and the iris planting is sponsored by the Iris Society of Dallas. This planting is a memorial to Mrs. Elizabeth Bergin, a former RVP of Region 17. Anyone desiring to contribute rhizomes should send them to my address (see Officers listing) for delivery to the Park Department. Don't forget to send your seed contributions for our English friends.

Each year one of the Section presidents (or their representative) is among the AIS Nominating Committee members who select the nominees

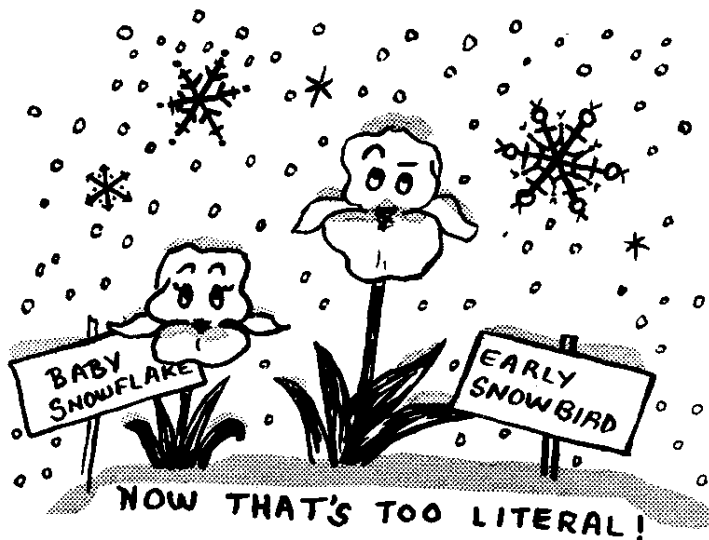
for the AIS Board of Directors elected at the fall meeting of AIS. In 1973 I will be serving in this capacity and would appreciate suggestions for presentation at the spring meeting in Philadelphia.

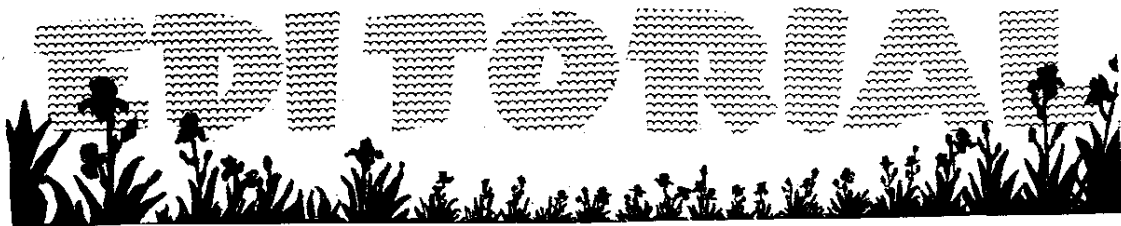
We welcome our first life membership by Hazel E. Carson of San Diego, California. This was recently approved by our Board of Directors at \$50.00 single life and \$60.00 family life membership.

The term of office of the president has been changed from January 1 through December 31 to July 1 through June 30 each year so the Nominating Committee report will be carried in a later issue of the Recorder as my term of office will end June 30, 1973, rather than January 1, 1973.

Let's continue to solicit new members for the RIS among our friends and those with whom we come in contact that show an interest in growing irises or other plants.

*Wynnaline Stinson*  
President





Another spring season has come and gone. For most of the nation it was not a very good one, and in some places downright near-disaster. The Pacific Northwest seems to have done best, and certainly there was a wonderful display of tall bearded iris at the Portland Convention. This was truly an unforgettable experience, and four perfect sunshiny days helped make it top-notch.

The Eastern half of the nation continues to get unprecedented amounts of rain. As we write, a stationary front has parked along the eastern side of the Alleghany Mountains and we are "enjoying" our third consecutive day of rain with no change in sight. Fortunately, we did have almost three weeks of sunshine in July, a record since 1970!

Reports from many areas indicate bloom on newly-set plants at 10% or less. An open winter with hot January weather up in the 70's was suddenly ousted by a giant Canadian high pressure area that sent the thermometer plunging to record lows. These conditions were approximated in the eastern half of the nation. But Porterville, California has had unprecedented frosts that ruined the bloom crop almost completely. Therefore, those among you who had good bloom count your blessings. One garden here in Radford had excellent bloom on new plants because my garden help had exaggerated the height of elevation of the rows. We were skeptical about putting the baby seedlings atop eight inch to a foot high ridges - but luck was with us as the phenomenal rain-fall made such sharp drainage the ideal conditions! Some of the drastic weather may have prompted the new vein of irony in Raymond Smith's current article.

We invite you to send in articles of interest for our next issue, which will be in March, 1973. This will give you time to evaluate fall bloom. We especially urge each of you who has had any good experiences with reblooming medians to write them up and send them to our Secretary-Treasurer, Richard Gibson, who is going to edit our

next issue, which will be a joint issue with the Medianite. Since there are fewer reblooming irises among the Medians, we need each of you who can to report to Richard.

Our cover girl is your editor's niece, Margaret Zurbrigg, now Mrs. Burn Purdon. She was married on June 5, 1971, on her parent's Silver Wedding Anniversary. She wore her mother's wedding gown of ivory satin and carried, at her own request, a sheaf of irises from her uncle's Virginia garden. At the top of the bouquet is BILLOWING SAILS, and at the base is PACIFIC PANORAMA. The amoena is MISS INDIANA, and at the center were blooms of WINTER GARDEN, whose tone of yellow warmed the whole ensemble into harmony with the ivory of the wedding gown.

The list of commercial gardens selling reblooming irises is as complete as we could make it, but we feel some may have been overlooked. Please inform us.

A suggested area of discussion for the March 1973 issue is germination. Many among you want suggestions for improving this aspect of your hybridizing program. Good varietal comments are always interesting.

Back in February your editor began to seek a special postage rate for the Recorder. After four months - long after that issue was sent to you - we were acknowledged by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization. It was taken almost for granted that the Postal authorities would then grant the special rate, to be used on this current and the fall issue. Alas, the word has come through from them that they consider us "primarily a social organization". Your editor will write once more, in the hopes that our purposes can qualify for the special rate, but we will be unable to hold this issue back any longer.

Lloyd Zurbrigg, Editor



REPORT OF THE TREASURER  
1971

Dear Members:

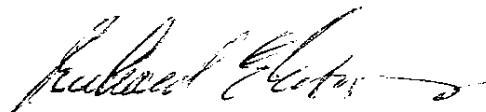
It is always pleasant to hear that an organization of which you are a member is in excellent financial condition. The accompanying year-end reports bear out this fact for you.

It was not a good year for our membership total as there were only 237 members at the year-end. No one has analyzed the reason(s) for this that I know of. I sent a card to those who did not renew their memberships and got few replies. Several replied that they were reducing their iris activity and rebloomers were part of that reduction. No other explanations were given. There must be some basic reasons not expressed. If you know of any of the reasons, please write our President so she can take action to reverse the trend.

A brief explanation of some of the disbursements. The Directors Expenses were primarily organization at the beginning of the year and the Nominating Committee expenses in October. Office Expenses were for bookkeeping materials and for membership cards, both sufficient for about three years. Promotion was devoted to application blanks for new members.

You will notice a \$231.65 operating gain during the year. The Editor plans on publishing three issues of the Society's Bulletin, to be titled the REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER, hereafter, so the gain is expected to be small, if any, during the coming year. Other member benefits are being considered to place the organization at approximately the break-even point operating under the present dues schedule.

If I can be of any service, please do not hesitate to write. Best wishes for several good iris seasons during 1972.



Richard E. Gibson  
Secretary-Treasurer

Editor's Note: This report was mislaid at the time of the April issue.

REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY  
Financial Statement  
as of December 31, 1971

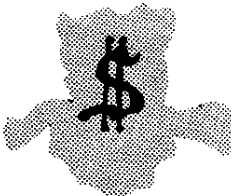
ASSETS:	Cash in Bank - Commercial Account	\$228.49
	Cash in Savings and Loan Association	<u>\$720.93</u>
	TOTAL ASSETS	\$949.42

LIABILITIES:

	Reserved for Reblooming Iris Recorder	\$266.50
	REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY Surplus	<u>\$682.92</u>
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$949.42

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements  
January 1, 1971 to December 31, 1971

	<u>Commerical Account</u>	<u>Savings &amp; Loan Acct.</u>
Cash, January 1, 1971	\$696.84	
Receipts: Membership Dues	\$679.00	
Interest Income		\$20.93
Disbursements:		
REBLOOMING IRIS REPORTER	\$309.50	
Directors Expenses	45.27	
Office Expenses	37.02	
Postage	34.19	
Promotion	<u>21.37</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$447.35	
Operating Gain	\$231.65	<u>\$231.65</u>
		\$928.49
Transferred to Savings and Loan Ass'n.		<u>\$700.00</u>
TOTALS, December 31, 1971	<u>\$228.49</u>	<u>\$720.93</u>



Richard E. Gibson  
Secretary-Treasurer

San Diego - Imperial Counties Iris Society  
April 29-30, 1972

On April 29 and 30, 1972, the San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society held their eighth Spring Flower Show.

With a theme "Signs of the Times", the San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society transformed the Majorca (Garden Center) Room of the Casa del Prade building of Balboa Park into a close-knit series of iris gardens. They depicted the results of careful breeding of iris from the early twenties to the new introductions for 1972, with a glimpse into the future in the development of the new seedlings presented. Each garden was tended by a mannikin dressed in styles popular in that era - from the short beaded dress of the Charleston period through the ankle-length, bouffant skirted dresses, the straight lined "sack", to the micro-mini short "hot pants" of the present time. It was most interesting to view some of the old time "flags" as well as be awed by the new ruffled and laced modern iris, and yearn for the dark velvets to come in the future.

Dr. George W. Bremner was general chairman of the Show with Mrs. Eugene Cooper as Chairman of the Artistic section.

American Iris Society Judges were: Mr. Duncan Eader, Mrs. Harry Frey, Mrs. Dick Hadley, Mrs. Bernard Hamner, Mr. August Phillips, and Mrs. Barbara Serdynski. Apprentice Judge was Valera Cheneweth.

QUEEN OF THE SHOW: was awarded to a gorgeous stalk of the spuria BARITONE, entered by Mr. Bill Gunther of Del Mar, California.

A.I.S. SILVER MEDAL: was also won by Mr. Gunther.

A.I.S. BRONZE MEDAL: was won by Mrs. Wayne (Lois) Weaver of Lakeside, California.

BEST SEEDLING OF THE SHOW: was won by Mrs. Shirley Alexander of Carlsbad, California, with a deep velvety burgundy-red tall bearded iris No. B.C.-2.

BEST SPURIA: was BARITONE, entered by Bill Gunther.

BEST SPURIA SEEDLING: was won by Walker Ferguson of Escondido,  
California with a burgundy seedling No. 71-8-B.

BEST WHITE: won by HENRY SHAW, entered by Shirley Alexander.

BEST RED: won by a specie Louisiana *I. Nelsonii Homachita*. entered  
by Bill Gunther.

BEST PLICATA: won by SPACE SHIP, entered by Mr. Wm. H. Leslie of  
San Diego, California.

BEST PACIFIC COAST: was a seedling No. VC-70, entered by Mrs. Valera  
Cheneweth.

BEST OF JUNIOR DIVISION: won by STEPCHILD, entered by Miss Kathy Small.

BEST OF JUNIOR ARRANGEMENT: Artistic Division - won by Miss Kathy Small.

The Artistic Judges were: Mrs. John Farleigh, Mrs. Albert Lawrence,  
and Mrs. E.A. O'Bleness of the Southwestern Judges Council.

BEST ARRANGEMENT: went to Mrs. J. Otto Crocker.

BEST AMATEUR ARRANGEMENT: awarded to Mrs. Eleanor McCown from  
Goltville, California.

Mrs. Thelma Carrington presented an interesting educational table  
showing the development of the iris.

Ray Chesnik and Bob Brooks of Cordon Bleu Farms transformed the  
patio of the Casa de Prade into an Iris Flower Garden with dozens of  
gorgeous tall bearded and spuria blooms that inspired the public to  
go with the "Signs of the Times" and plant iris - - all kinds of  
glorious, gorgeous IRIS.



## PREVENTING REBLOOM

Raymond G. Smith

Any good grower of reblooming irises has learned many of the common ways of preventing irises from reblooming. They are exactly the ways that are frequently used to prevent regular irises from blooming, namely growing too long in the same soil, over-crowding, under-fertilizing, under-watering, under-cultivating, under-weeding, and competition with other plants. All these methods are widely known and widely practiced. But in an age that emphasizes minorities of all sorts, it seems appropriate to list some of the more exotic and therefore lesser understood and less widely practiced ways. If you are disturbed by splashes of color upsetting the nice even golds and browns of autumn, and long for the good old days when bloomstalks didn't appear when they weren't supposed to, then you may desire to adopt some of the following surefire gardening methods.

One of the best ways of preventing rebloom is to set seeds on every bloomstalk. Even letting bloomstalks and bee pods remain uncut may help a great deal. I really don't know why this is -- it really can't be sustenance requirements, for a single feeder root appears to be adequate to mature a pod of seeds. I have long suspected that it is because the maturing pod triggers an enzyme that inhibits flower bud formation. But it works with many varieties. Try it and you will like it!

Another effective method is over-fertilizing. Many people have discovered that too much nitrogen can persuade the plant to produce lush fans, susceptible to soft rot, but not everyone realizes that too much of the so-called safe fertilizers such as super phosphate can stunt plants and make them respond poorly. Fertilizing too soon after transplanting, before the roots have developed sufficiently to function well is often effective. Too much trace minerals often helps, perhaps because some minerals in over abundance lock up others in the soil. But whatever the reason, you can often succeed in preventing rebloom by over-feeding.

Another good method is over-watering. This is especially fine if you transplant in extremely hot weather, for you can often make the entire top and sometimes even the whole rhizome disappear. This has proven 100% effective in preventing rebloom. Actually irises, even rebloomers, don't seem to require nearly as much water as many

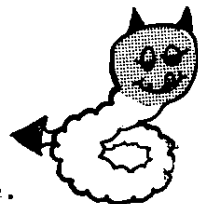
persons believe, and a heavy mulch will save water, save work, and frequently save the rhizome. It is interesting to speculate upon why lush-growing water-logged plants are as much more disease-prone. Perhaps it is because the enzymes that provide the plant with its natural disease barriers are much more diluted and consequently much less effective in this condition.

Transplanting itself can frequently serve to prevent rebloom. Certain varieties simply don't like to be transplanted. It takes them a couple of years to reestablish. Other sorts are stimulated by the transplanting process, and will send up dwarfish stalks and flowers within a couple of weeks of resetting and long before a good root system has been established. So careful transplanting can frequently solve your problems of too much bloom.

Another somewhat exotic method is that of carefully exposing the tops of all sizeable rhizomes in a clump. The sun apparently ripens exposed rhizomes and stimulates flower bud formation. Thus all rhizomes will bloom and the plant will bloom itself out.

The reverse method of rhizome exposure, and fully as effective, is that of mulching too deeply and too close to the rhizomes. Whenever a rhizome is covered, especially by compacted mulch or soil, it spends its energy in rising to the surface. It sends up a slender rootstalk up which the old rhizome climbs until it regains its proper level. Under these conditions it has neither time nor energy to expend in the nonsense of blooming.

There are certain varieties which, especially in dry weather, can become infested with borer and not succumb to rot. The pink larva hollows out a home in the rhizome; the fan, except for appearing rather dry and somewhat stunted, seems no worse for the experience. But the rhizome doesn't bloom.



Selecting the best time for transplanting is frequently a problem. Most rhizomes will live, regardless of the time of transplanting, but rebloomers prefer to be transplanted almost at the time that the last flower appears. If transplanting is done too late, fall bloom is not much inferior, but the plant does not get well established and spring bloom frequently suffers. Of course it is possible to transplant too early as well. If one cuts off the increases before the rhizomes

have a chance to become sufficiently sizeable to have a full complement of roots, the growth rate is substantially retarded. There just doesn't seem to be enough rhizome surface to provide new root buds.

One way that growers specializing in spring bloomers have found to hold back the rebloomers is to let the surface of their garden soil become compacted by the feet of many visitors. Perhaps it is the gardening of the soil. Perhaps it is the loss of moisture through rain runoff. Perhaps it is the loss of subsoil moisture by capillary action and evaporation. Perhaps it is the lack of aeration and its consequent effect on the growth of aerobic bacteria that supply sustenance to iris feeder roots. Most likely it is a combination of all of these. But whatever the cause, compacted garden soil effectively prevents rebloom.

Of course the reverse can also be very effective. Over cultivation resulting in too much soil turnover -- too much exposure to the sun, especially in dry weather can do the job for you. If you destroy too many feeder roots, the plant seems to go into shock resulting in the drying of the fans, beginning at the center, a sort of pseudo-scorch. If you leave such plants alone, they frequently snap out of it the next year and begin sending up tiny fans that thrive and appear to be none the worse for the experience, but you will have effectively killed a couple of years of bloom.

These, then, are some of the lesser known ways of coping with undesirable rebloom on irises. Perhaps a caveat is in order, for what works in my soil, climate, and growing conditions may not work in yours. Each person has to discover his unique ways of dealing with his special set of problems. My soil is hard, sticky clay, deposited over unglaciated beds of limestone. It is low in humus and low in sand. There is practically no winter snow cover in this section of Region 6 on the USDA Zone Hardiness Map (#814). Our winter temperatures frequently reach zero to 10 degrees and this means much freezing, thawing and heaving. My beds are on ground higher than the surrounding county area, but drainage is good. They have no protection from buildings, trees, or hills. We have an average of 180 frost-free growing days. So what works here may not work for you. But anyway, best of luck to you in preventing, or at least minimizing that nasty old rebloom!

VARIETAL COMMENTS  
Clarence P. Denman

(The following comments are based on observation made in Ft. Worth, in North Central Texas, where the average length of the freeze-free period is 249 days.)

At the top of the list of white rebloomers should come **EARLY SNOWBIRD**. It is a good iris from all standpoints and has the added advantage of being the only reblooming white of good quality which has fertile pollen. This opens a vast field to hybridizers who would like to make more effective use of the large number of outstanding whites which have no pollen. Also near the top should come **BESS BERGIN**, which is probably the largest white which is likely to rebloom over a very large area. It has sturdy stalks and sturdy blooms. **FIRST SNOWFALL** is still good but its stems and those of its progeny are inclined to be rather short at some seasons.

**SKY QUEEN** is a reliable rebloomer of good qualities which probably produces more blooms than any other blue of quality, especially in the summer months. It is a fast increaser and needs to be divided more often than other varieties. **BLUE SURPRISE** is still a good quality iris except for its poor branching. **BIG SUR** is a reliable rebloomer of quality here except that its substance is only fair at best. **SEA DOUBLE** is a blue rebloomer of high quality but it has not yet proved to be a heavy rebloomer here in regard to the total number of blooms for the year.

**ARTISTIC GOLD** and **GOLD DOUBLET** head the list in their color class, for each presents an abundance of blooms almost continuously during the growing season. The form of their blooms is only fair by present-day standards. **GOLD DOUBLET** is the taller and has the darker blooms, but some of its stems are curved. Both are remarkable for the number of increases put out at the base of most bloom stalks, hence there are only slight losses from "blooming out". These two with **BORDER DUETTE** and **YELLOW DUET** carry an abundance of yellow in the garden between peak bloom periods. **VILLA GOLD** is a brilliant yellow which deserves more applause than it has received. **TWICE BLESSED** and **BRIGHT EYES**, especially the latter, are outstanding yellows of the dwarf reblooming class.

**HELEN TRIGG**, **SUMMER PINK** and **BEAU CATCHER** are peach pinks of somewhat similar color patterns. Each bloomed well here in late March and

early April and each is repeating in mid-June. Each has a good record of fall bloom here also. *BEAU CATCHER* has narrow hafts and poor substance which it passes on to its progeny, hence it is being discarded here. *SUMMER PINK* has good form and substance in its bloom, but most of the buds hug the main stem with almost no branching. *HELEN TRIGG* has fair branching but its standards are open and the falls are not flaring; but the petals have good substance which is almost rigid, hence the blooms stand up in rain and wind. It is a heavy bloomer here. One stalk now has six open blossoms and three or four open blooms at a time are not uncommon. *CHABACANO* has a nice pink blossom, but its foliage is somewhat lacking in vigor. *PINK DUET* and *FALL MAJESTY* are reliable pink rebloomers of good quality but are not heavy bloomers. *LORNA LYNN* seldom reblooms and *HIGH NOTE* is not a regular rebloomer.

*LOVELY AGAIN* should have been named *Lovely Again and Again*, for it blooms several times each year. It has fair branching, form of bloom, and substance. It is lavender which shades into a lighter color near the throat. These factors seem to be dominant for they appear in many of its progeny. *VALIANT ORCHID* is a large rebloomer with good form, substance, and branching. During some years it blooms almost every month of the growing season. *FAREWELL* is a pinkish-lavender with good form and substance which it passes on to its progeny. *PURPLE DUET* can be relied upon for frequent blooms with good characteristics. *VALHALLA* is a remarkable purple iris which reblooms here if the freezes hold off until mid-December. Almost every bloomstalk is a show specimen with wonderful branching and three or more blooms open at a time.

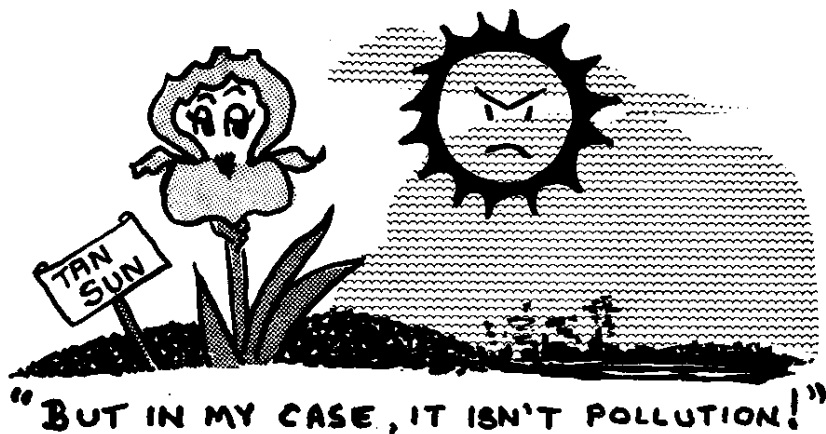
*ADAM*, *RAGE* and *CHANT* may rebloom elsewhere but they cannot be classed as rebloomers here. With a fairly large planting of *ADAM* there have not been more than a half dozen short bud stalks appearing in six or eight years and none have opened before a killing freeze. *RAGE* has never attempted to rebloom. *CHANT* had a small number of fall blooms for the first time in late December 1971. *BACCHUS* is proving to be a reliable red rebloomer here. *AUTUMN VELVET* has rebloomed in the fall for several years, and so has its descendant, *JOHN ROLFE*. *RED MANTLE*, a child of *JOSEPH'S MANTLE* is a large red rebloomer of fair reliability and form, but its color is not attractive.

*CAVENNE CAPERS* is still a good rebloomer, but during some years it has no fall bloom and during others it has extra large fall blooms. These traits are community wide on these years. *TAN SUN*, a child of

CAVENNE CAPERS, is a lovely yellow and tan which seems to have the same traits as CAVENNE CAPERS.

MEMPHIS LASS does not do well in this community, and its re-blooming progeny have not yet established records of doing well here. This applies to DOUBLE MISSION, EMMA LOUISA, and DECOLLETAGE. VIOLET VIRGO has a heavy bloom during several repeats during the growing season but for some reason the blooms do not hold long in this community. SPRING'S RETURN does exceptionally well in this region of its nativity. PETKIN and EARLY EDITION are outstanding plicatas in the border class, but we have yet to try an outstanding TB re-blooming plicata in the blue or purple class.

RAVEN WOOD is an outstanding black TB Rebloomer, and EBONY EMBERS of the median class has a record of splendid accomplishment here.



## REMONTANT IRIS AT MONTICELLO

(Written by the Editor from a letter by Steve Varner, January 1972)

My primary interest in remontants has been to observe and save my seedlings that give fall bloom here, in order to help those who are breeding remontants. I grow several named remontants and have been less than impressed with their spring bloom, and none have ever remonted under my conditions. It may be all the more significant to breeders that certain of my lines do remont here.

I am introducing seedling #712 in 1972 as *ILLINI REPEATER*. Its first spring bloom was in 1967, and it impressed me when three blooms were nicely displayed on the stalk for over three days of very hot weather without discernable decline. It has bloomed here every spring and fall since, and has rebloomed in northern Illinois and in New Jersey. It is a plum red plicata on cream, with a plum red line down from the beard. Parentage is *FULL CIRCLE X MEMPHIS LASS*.

In another line, I have two seedlings, #225 and #2230, both well formed and ruffled, blue-violet in color. These are from #146 (*VESTERYEAR x TOP FLIGHT*) X Branch 58-22. The Branch seedling is from *LAVENDULA X white seedling of Lavendula*. #225 has been useful in hybridizing. I crossed it with a bicolor seedling that had really pleased me. This bicolor, #2130, was from *WHOLE CLOTH X LAVENDULA*. It had buff standards and rose-violet falls edged like the standards. I used #2130 heavily in breeding until the whole clump was stolen the second year it bloomed! This cross of #225 and #2130 produced *CARTILLON BELLES*, which has rebloomed both here and in California the last two years.

This fall I had some 28 seedlings bloom. I had expected their first bloom next spring. All were from *CARRILLON BELLES* or its sibling, or were closely related to it. I cut most of the stalks and brought them into the house to enjoy. (Otherwise, many would have been caught in our first hard freeze about November 1.) Most were well-branched and ruffled and of good form. Bicolors, amoenas, and blends predominated, but some violets gave me hope that remontant blues could be developed from them. It would seem that I have a "bank" of remontant-tendency seedlings that could add new genetic material to the remontant hybridizers assets. One fall bloom does NOT make a remontant, very true, but it is a strong indication of remontancy, when so many related seedlings gave fall bloom and thousands of unrelated irises and named remontants did not.

## REBLOOMING NOTES - FALL 1971

Carol Jensen

Again, we had another long and mild fall. Rebloom was very good on the named varieties considering that most were reset in the summer. A pleasant surprise was the amount of bloom on our seedlings. Some received one post feeding, a little watering and weeding, and some did not get any of this care, yet 84 bloomed. So the genetic makeup of a remontant is important to the northern grower.

Of the named varieties, those that rebloomed or fall bloomed were: LOVELY AGAIN, SEPTEMBER CHEREAU, WHITE DUET, FALL MAJESTY, SUMMER WHITEWINGS, FALL YELLOW GIANT, SEPTEMBER BUTTERFLY, EMMA LOUISA, SUMMER INSPIRATION, SPRING'S RETURN and SUMMER BLUE DRESS. Those that budded too late were: ILLINI REPEATER, PINK DUET and LACED DUET. Those we could have potted up and enjoyed inside but our sunporch was already full of seedlings whose maiden bloom we were more anxious to see.

Besides our own fall bloom we attended a fall Judges Training School held October 10, 1971 in Bloomington, Indiana. About 30 were there for the morning garden session and the afternoon bench judging. Dr. Raymond Smith had displayed 26 cut stalks in his garden house to augment our afternoon session. We took a "for fun" vote and his pink plicata 6950AR won first place. Two of his 1972 introductions were on display - MOONLIGHT DUET, a flaring and ruffled yellow-green, and RETURNING GLORY, a lovely pink.

Some of his seedlings we liked were: 92-71AF, a large ruffled white with an orange beard that stems from RIPPLING WATERS, ARCTIC FLAME and LACED DUET: a rich royal purple, 66-55CR; an amethyst colored one with a red beard, 70-06BF and several others.

After we left Smith's we drove over into Missouri. In Dave Niswonger's garden we saw EMMA LOUISA and two nice red-bearded lavender seedlings of Dave's in bloom. From Dave's we drove to Crooked Creek gardens and here we saw a bloom of one of their yellow TB seedlings and the maiden bloom of one of their Louisiana seedlings! We hope this amethyst colored seedling proves to be a reliable remontant.

In October we gave a slide show for the Wisconsin Iris Society and we were well pleased with the fine reception the slides and the few stalks of irises we took with us received. We were treated

hospitality.

We saw our last iris bloom November 22. The summer and fall bloom started July 8 so this was four months of bonus bloom. Bloom is usually staggered (as yet anyway) and reaches its peak the last two weeks in September. Each year we have more bloom than the year previous.

Most of our fall bloom comes from our seedlings and, although we have been hybridizing since 1966, we are just beginning to see a trend of where we are going. This is the first year we have had a fall bloom from a direct cross of a remontant x a non-remontant.

Our biggest surprise came from a cross of SEPTEMBER GOLD X VILLA GOLD - 48 seeds - 45 plants - 43 bloomed (maiden) last spring - 6 had 2 stalks, 1 had 3 stalks, and 1 had 4 stalks. This fall 18 bloomed plus 2 that were too late to make it and 7 of these had 2 bloom stalks. Most have the tremendous branching and bud count that is standard equipment on any of Doc Percy's creations (SEPTEMBER GOLD is Doc Percy's). However, I did not get the full solid yellow I sought in this cross. Some reds and dark yellows but the yellows all had brown flushings on the falls.

Other crosses that had interesting seedlings this fall were: DA CAPO X PURPLE DUET - some velvety red purple selfs and a fancy plic with good substance, branching and bud count; CAYENNE CAPERS X VILLA GOLD (Sibs) - a Radiant Apogee "lookalike"; SEPTEMBER GOLD X WINTER OLYMPICS - a white with yellow hafts, style arms and the lower part of the standards, an orange beard, 10 or 11 buds and good branching.

Now we are looking forward to another spring and fall feast of bloom and wish to extend an invitation to everyone to come and share some spring and/or fall bloom with us.



A NEW REBLOOMING IRIS COMMERCIAL GARDEN  
(from a letter to the Editor, May 1972)

"I am a school teacher who has enjoyed the hobby of gardening since the age of nine. In the fifty years that have elapsed since I first had a little patch in my mother's garden, I have always had a garden except during the years that I spent in service in World War II, and for a period, when because of a heart condition my doctor prohibited me from doing the necessary physical work. In the course of my education, I have had a number of classes in the biological sciences. Hence my gardening is done not only from the viewpoint of one who has worked with the soil for a long period, but also from the vantage of one who has had some scientific training."

"After a long illness, my health had improved enough, about nine years ago, that my wife and I could begin to build our summer home (which we planned to be our retirement home, one day) and the garden we wanted to enjoy for the remaining years of our lives. We selected Jamestown, R.I. as the location of this. Jamestown is the name of the town that occupies all of Conanicut Island. The island juts out into the Atlantic Ocean at the mouth of Narragansett Bay, and it is the southernmost one in the chain of islands that divide the bay into its east and west passages. Our garden is located at the crest of the island, about one hundred and fifty feet above the bay, a quarter of a mile away."

"Irises were among the first plants that we set out at Jamestown. When they bloomed the following year, they were so far superior to the parent clones that they came from -- in the other garden -- that we decided to make the iris the mainstay of our garden. Bay Breeze Garden has been growing ever since we started it, and now our iris collection contains over five hundred named varieties. Some years ago I had the fortune to meet Dr. G. Percy Brown. Measured on a straight line his garden was only a dozen miles from ours, and he was my nearest neighbor among irisarians. Both of our gardens enjoyed the same micro-climate. His garden was at the top of Westport Point, about the same distance from the water (that surrounded him on three sides) as ours and just about the same height above the water. So both gardens had the same moderating influence of the water, and the same drainage of air from the land down hill to the sea, and both had identical growing seasons. They were so close geographically, and all other conditions so similar that when we compared notes we agreed

that growing conditions were as close as anyone can find in two gardens. Since the late doctor had good luck with is rebloomers, I tried reblooming varieties and had success with them. About fifteen percent of our irises are rebloomers and the percentage is increasing."

"I have been hybridizing for about six years. Part of my efforts have been directed toward producing my own line of reliable reblooming irises for northern gardens, that will combine the reblooming reliability of the best available remontants with the finest characteristics of the most vigorous tall bearded taht I can obtain that have either won an AM or Dykes Medal, or which have appeared on the Judges Choice list for two consecutive years and hence are quite apt to win at least an AM. I have bloomed hundreds of seedlings, and discarded all but a few that promise to lead to what I am looking for. At the present all I can truthfully say is that while I have made no introductions, I have made enough progress that I feel I am on the right track."

"Mr. Rundlett feels that by listing Bay Breeze Gardens as a commercial producer of reblooming irises, we may be able to fill a void that was created when Dr. Brown had to cease selling after his heart attack of a few years ago. Now that the doctor has passed away, there is indeed a void in the reblooming iris world that nobody can ever fill, for the good doctor made contributions beyond measure. I would feel honored, if I can do anything to fill just a part of that void. If there is a need for a garden to furnish other growers and hybridizers of remontant irises with rhizomes that have hardiness that existed in those he furnished, then it may well be that Bay Breeze Gardens is the garden to fill the need."

"We are not, at present, commerical growers. We could readily become a limited commercial garden, if we define things in my terms. To begin with, by a reliable rebloomer, I mean a variety that has bloomed here both in the spring and a later period in the year for at least two consecutive years. The later period can be anywhere from a few weeks to as late in the fall when the buds of the bloom stalks can all be reasonably expected to all open before a killing freeze occurs. We have approximately forty or fifty varieties that meet these specifications, at the present time, and half as many more that will probably do so after they have been in the garden long enough to rebloom the second year. We can supply limited quantities of these this year and next year. After that we can expect to supply more liberal quantities."

Louis J. Farley

Winter Address: 136 Althea St., West Springfield, Mass. 01089

SLIDE LIBRARY REPORT, JANUARY 1972  
Carol Jensen

The Slide Library continues to grow and we now have 535 slides. The number will be more when we get those from our fall trek entered. These are the ones we took at the fall Judges Training held at Dr. Raymond Smith's in Bloomington, Indiana on October 10, 1971.

More fall shows and judges training schools should be held but my prime responsibility is to promote our Slide Library so our motto bears repeating here - - IF IT'S NICE, SNAP TWICE: ONE FOR THEE, AND ONE FOR ME.

Also encouraging is the fact that we have repeat requests for slides. Actions do speak louder than words! And by the way, slides can tell a truer story than words.

We still need good color slides of many of the remountants, especially the newer ones, slides of fall shows and irises blooming in fall gardens. We can not get to all of our fine hybridizers gardens in the fall so who will be our advocates? Who will record for posterity what our hybridizers are doing now? A seedling need not be a Dykes contender to be photogenic and show the iris world glimpses of things to come, the labors of love and the direction in which our hybridizers are heading.

SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY WITH SLIDES, PROMOTE OUR SOCIETY WITH SLIDE SHOWS.



EXCERPTS FROM REMONTANT CIRCLE BULLETIN OF GREAT BRITAIN  
April 1972

1971 Rebloom reported in United Kingdom:

Mr. Humphrey: Dwarf Bearded - *Bee Wings* - 3rd week of September.  
*Fashion Lady* - 3rd wk. Sept - 3rd wk. Oct.  
*Bright Eyes* - " " " " " "  
 Intermediate Bearded - *Light Cavalry* - 2nd wk. of October  
*New Idea* - 1st wk. of October  
 (Both imported in July)  
 Tall Bearded - *Saucy Peach* - October

Miss Scopes: Dwarf Bearded - seedling from bee-set pod of *Tonya X Blueberry Muffins* - 2nd wk. of October  
 Tall Bearded - sib. of *Love's Young Dream* in bud 4th wk. of October. Did it bloom?

Mr. Trinder: Dwarf Bearded - *Bright Eyes* - mid September.

Mr. North: Tall Bearded - *Fall Primrose* - Sept. 27 - Oct. 18  
 seedling B 13-60-2 - Aug. 23 - Sept. 28  
 seedling 13-60A - Oct. 20-Nov. 20  
 (Both seedlings ex *September Buttercup*  
*X Fall Lemonade*)  
 ? *Lugano* - in bud Oct/Nov bloom, delayed  
 by heavy pod bearing and replanting.

N.B. *Bright Eyes* seems to be worth acquiring if you want to breed dwarf remontants. I believe Norton Hall Nurseries once recorded it as having bloomed three times in one year.

Points raised and questions asked in Robin.

Mr. Humphrey (in pre-Robin letter): "I can still get the Winter and Autumn blooming iris from the USA but am not making out a special list. If you require a few names of iris, I will be willing to supply them. I would also be willing to import any if required."

Mr. Mason: "I would like to start breeding next year (1972) but preferably with small irises."

Miss Scopes: "re the dwarf bearded seedling mentioned above - the color is a brilliant red-violet, of good shape with closed standards and horizontal falls flushed brown at hafts, a trifle narrow and I would like to see a few ruffles but I should think it will make a good starting point for reblooming dwarfs. I wish I had something in flower to cross with it as I am itching to get started."  
Bright Eyes?

"In your notes on treatment of remontants you say give liquid manure every 2-3 weeks ..... should we not concentrate on breeding from plants that rebloom under ordinary cultivation."

- quite right. An additional reason for my Lugano failing to bloom for me last year was that I overdid the liquid fertilizer. It produced magnificent leaves but no bloom. Yet a piece of the same clone in another garden, untreated, produced a number of buds even after being cut back following the first show. Sufficient watering to allow continuous growth after the first display is the main requirement.

Mrs. Tallack: "I hope to work on species in particular, with a bias towards small and median plants."  
Small reblooming species include *I. aphylla*, *I. lacustris*, *I. ruthenica*, *I. graminea*, *I. uniflora*. *Lacustris* will give a series of displays from May to October. I pour aquarium gravel over and around its rhizomes to approximate the scree conditions of its native Great Lakes shores and it thrives in the open garden. Slugs like it.

Miss Fowler: "Would like to get a collection of irises, some of which will flower most of the year. Can anyone give me any helpful hints, please? Size of garden 40 ft. x 110 ft. facing North but unshaded."  
- I have sent one list but no doubt others will assist.

Mr. Dixon: "Have little hope that with the harsh climate and sandy soil, that any varieties will regularly rebloom here. I will be watching, however, as a longer flowering period would be very valuable. As there are very few flower shows before mid-July here (Durham) modern irises are

virtually unknown. Trying to overcome this with a selection of spurias .... Is it possible to put off flowering to later date in proportion of plants by disbudding?"

- Any ideas? I suggest that Mr. Dixon's garden would be a good testing ground for any remontants raised in Britain, - if he is willing to have them. If they are a success there, they could certainly be described as reliable for the United Kingdom in general.

Miss Brewis: "I shall be interested to hear from you as to where I could buy a remontant plant."

Mr. Humphrey seems to be the only British supplier. The following American nurseries are able to supply remontant irises - I am only showing those in the northern states. There are others in California, Texas and Missouri but it would be very unwise to buy from places of such different climatic conditions to our own. They are:  
Dr. Raymond G. Smith, 3821 Sugar Lane, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.  
Avonbank Iris Gardens, Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg, 903 Tyler Ave.,  
Radford, Va. 24141

Summerlong Iris Gardens, Mr. Charles Applegate, Rt. 2,  
Box 163, Perrysville, Ohio, 44864

#### American Notes:

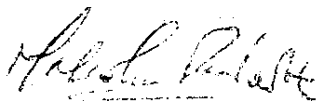
"A considerable loss has occurred to the iris world with the death at the end of the last year of Dr. G.P. Brown. He was the raiser of many remontants in the New England state of Massachusetts and had been working on this aspect of the genus for many years. *FALL PRIMROSE* which regularly reblooms in this country is one of his cultivars. He received the American Iris Society Hybridizers Medal shortly before his death.

The Reblooming Iris Society and its organ The Reblooming Iris Reporter have approved the reproduction of extracts from their publication "for the benefit of promoting reblooming iris in England". The ex-President, Robert Hubley, mentioned that it would be appreciated if we kept them advised of our publications and efforts in this report.

My friend, Mrs. Karl Jensen of Belvidere, Illinois, who sent us the remontant cross seeds last Autumn, is now waiting the approval of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to export a number of remontant cultivars to me. I selected them as being those which have either given regular

re-bloom in that region of the USA or are highly recommended for other reasons. A few were also chosen as they were in bud when the hard frosts finished their chances of a second display. However, as Illinois generally suffers a colder winter than England I think we should try these varieties in the hope that they will have a better chance of success here. At least they should prove useful in breeding. By the way, I shall be interested to know how germination is progressing with the Illinois seeds which you are growing.


Even with some of the ground work done by the Americans, it will be several years before there are more than a very few remonantns available in this country, and many years before the majority of B.I.S. members accept remontancy as an important aspect of the genus. Patience and tenacity must therefore be practised by us, and those of you who persevere in your support of our common interest will be duly rewarded by being the first gardeners in the country to have regular iris bloom in the late summer and autumn. Meanwhile, you may find it worth your while to obtain catalogs from the following nurseries which sometimes have reblooming species in stock - *lacustris*, *cristata*, *ruthenica*, *uniflora*, *aphylla*, *laevigata alba*, etc. W.E. Th. Ingwersen, Birch Farm Nursery, Gravetye, East Grimstead, Sussex. Robinson Hardy Plants, Greenscourt Nurseries, Crockenhill, Swanley, Kent. The Planesmen, Buckshaw Gardens, Sherborne, Dorset. Thompson & Morgan, London Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, and others in the Year Book.



26th April, 1972

Malcolm R. North

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EDITOR'S NOTE: See Page 47 of the July Issue of the A.I.S. Bulletin for your Editor's address to the meeting of the Re-blooming Iris Society at the Portland Convention 1972.

# Robin Feathers

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

## BREEDING FOR REBLOOMERS

Norman H. Noe, Martinsville, N.J. ..... "I've been noticing for some time how often GIBSON GIRL appears in the ancestry of other rebloomers. The comment on page 25 of the March 1971 Rebloom-ing Iris Reporter caused me to compile a list of rebloomers (and semi-rebloomers) descending from GIBSON GIRL. Here is my list:

### First generation from GIBSON GIRL:

Cheryl Kay - GG X Ranger  
Northern Spy - Western Hills X GG  
Purple Duet - Zurbrigg 52-40-D X GG  
Replicata - GG X August Gold

### Second generation from GIBSON GIRL

I Spy - Northern Spy X Double Majesty : all three  
PETKIN - Northern Spy X Double Majesty : via  
SOUTHERN SPY - N.S. X Double Majesty : Northern Spy

GOLIATH'S MATE - PD X Sunset Blues: all three  
JOLLY GOLIATH - PD X Sunset Blues : via  
VIOLET SUPREME - Prince Indigo X PD: Purple Duet

DA CAPO - R X Double Majesty : both via  
GRAND BAROQUE - Henry Shaw X R : Replicata

AUTUMN CHAMELEON - Rundlett E-18-R X (Hall Pink x GG): all  
AUTUMN ELEGANCE - " " X ( " " x " ): six  
CLOUD DUET - " " X ( " " x " ): via  
G. PERCY BROWN - (Hall pink x GG) X Lovely Again sib:seedlings  
MEMPHIS LASS - (Snow Flurry x Orchid Queen) X (S.F. x GG)  
SWISS MAJESTY - (Dotted Swiss x GG) X Double Majesty:

Third generation from GIBSON GIRL (via Memphis Lass)

DECOLLETAGE - ML X (Yucca x Irma Melrose)

DOUBLE MISSION - Dreamspun X ML

EMMA LOUISA - Gypsy Lullaby X ML

SPECIAL MISSION - Dreamspun X ML

SPICY MISSION - Dreamspun X ML

TECATE - Taholah X ML

Varner 712 - ML X Full Circle (\* cf. Steve Varner's own parentage).. editor

Other descendants from GIBSON GIRL

CAYENNE CAPERS

VILLA GOLD

"Winter damage appears to have prevented the spring blooming of EMMA LOUISA after good blooming last fall. More observation needed before full evaluation."

Paul Nott, Roseburg, Ore..... "I've noticed that most rebloomers have twice to three times the root system of the spring-only bloomers. SNOW GODDESS and FIRST VIOLET have extensive root systems. These two have given reblooming progeny for me. MELODRAMA has a far better than average root system. Possibly this is a factor to consider when selecting quality non-rebloomers to cross into our reblooming lines."

"Pinks tend to transmit thin substance. One exception is MARY RANDALL because of the *I. pallida* ancestry introduced into his pink lines of Orville Fay. FALL PRIMROSE X MARY RANDALL gave nothing better than the pod parent, except some with richer yellow coloring and heavier substance. No sign of rebloom. Vigor was uniformly like that of MARY RANDALL."

"I got over 600 seedlings from AUTUMN TWILIGHT X MARY RANDALL and the reverse cross. I usually try to cross and make the reverse cross so that there will be a greater number of seedlings to compare. There are no rebloomers among these seedlings. Not one plant had enough good qualities to get excited about. Poor branching and lack of vigor."

"PINK FORMAL X GIBSON GIRL gave an assortment of colors, several rebloomers, but rather late. HAPPY BIRTHDAY bred to AUTUMN TWILIGHT and to FALL PRIMROSE gave some nice yellow

reblooming seedlings, but rather late. The late Tom Craig called his pink line the Mount Washington pinks. The best of these that I know of is BEAU CATCHER. It put up stalks in the July and August heat here. Did beautifully."

### CULTURE

Jayne Ritchie, Huntsville, Ala. .... "I use leaves as a winter mulch, as they are readily available. I chop them up with a rotary mower. When I run out of leaves I use pine straw. I have not had the nerve to try a summer mulch but intend to try it this year to control erosion. The studies in Mississippi are applicable here. Conclusions in their 40-page report are interesting. They found that all mulches tended to increase flower number per stalk. Plant survival was greater under pine straw (pine needles) and the greatest losses occurred under sawdust and in unmulched plots. Sawdust in combination with the heavy soil retained too much moisture."

"Incidentally, the research is conducted in Region 24 because it is financially supported by Region 24. They have done preliminary research on planting times, curing rhizomes (healing of end wound), fertilizers, fungicides, sterilized beds, rhizome dips, and herbicides. I have seen people increase varieties by cutting up rhizomes, but I would think that the cut portions should be allowed to heal over thoroughly or be dusted with sulphur."

"I plant my rhizomes shallow - just barely covered with about 1/4 inch of soil to prevent sunburn, and shade the plants with newspaper if weather is very hot. I've tried planting on top of the ground and found that some rhizomes would sunburn and crack or split and then rot. Too deep planting also produces rot in some cases, I believe. I've noticed that the new increase is always sitting up high, just barely covered, so this is the way I plant."

"The researchers in Mississippi haven't found any real advantage in allowing iris rhizomes to dry out before re-planting. However, their researching is not complete. They had most disease problems from irises planted at the beginning

of a hot, dry spell. No watering was done, so the irises did not begin growing for awhile and became diseased. That tells us something, doesn't it?

### VARIETAL COMMENTS

Charles Applegate, Perrysville, Ohio..... "Yes, there is a Siberian Iris registered by someone in England - named *VIOLET REPEAT*. I don't know how it has performed here. The old one that makes it quite often is *MY LOVE* (Scheffy, 1948-9)"

(Ed. Note - Mrs. Elizabeth L. Scheffy, Lark Meadows, West Mansfield, Mass. *Violet Repeat* was produced by Mrs. Leonard (Marjorie) Brummitt of Banbury, England. In bloom in Radford since May and still coming in July, 1972.)

"*AUTUMN MISTS* started stalks just ahead of frost, so I guess I'll not see it again until next fall. It did show a number of increase very quickly. - - - The season lasted much longer this fall than I anticipated. We still had some bloom in the bed at Kingwood Center in early November. They certainly got a lot of comments from visitors. *CORAL KISSED* was just about to open at frost, so I cut it Friday night and it opened Sunday morning, just the right day to take it to the last Iris meeting of the year. It got a lot of comment. It is far the best pink we've seen in the fall. Nice ruffling and a sturdy straight stalk. I hope it gives spring bloom. May be a good breeder. Lloyd Zurbrigg had it in bloom in Virginia at the same time. He took it to a fall show and won with it."

Edith Brown, Woods Hole, Mass..... *I. lacustria*, which is reported to rebloom in S.E. Michigan, has sat and sulked here for several years. I think I know better how to handle it in this new garden. My recollection is that the chromosome count is 42. I once read that someone called it a northern form of *I. cristata*, which I believe has 24 chromosomes."

"My first rebloomers came from California, but the only ones from there that went right to work were Doc. Percy Brown's."



Dudley Carson, Eugene, Wash. ..... "I had quite a showing of SKY QUEEN last fall, but for me it is not a rebloomer, only a fall bloomer. And that makes me unhappy because I'd like very much to use it as a parent."

"Another that bloomed last fall was a seedling of mine: BROADWAY STAR X AUTUMN BRONZE. It put up its maiden bloom. Only moderate in size, buffy ecru standards; orchid falls with border of ecru. I hope it will be a reliable rebloomer. I'll feed it and "pray" over it."

Ellen Crouch, Falls Church, Va. ..... "Rebloom was good this year - and we had a long season, until November 16!! What a difference from October 23rd freeze last year!"

"Summer-fall bloom we had on SUMMER WHITEWINGS, FALL BLUE CONTRAST, SEPTEMBER GLEAM, BLACK MAGIC, SUMMER BOUQUET, AUGUST INDIAN, FALL VIOLET, SANGREAL, VIOLET VIRGO, GOLD BULLION, NORTHERN SPY, EXOTIC FIRE, FIRST SNOWFALL, DEEP DAWN, SUNNY ECHOES and SUMMER FANTASY. The first of the above opened September 10, the last on November 15. The season was ended by freezes on November 16 and 17th. Also had bloom on a number of my seedlings, starting August 10th.

Richard E. Gibson, Sacramento, California. ..... "My records show that LOVELY AGAIN has bloomed in two of the last three years in late July, all of August and September, and this year into December. No need to mention that Sacramento is semi-desert with a blistering summer sun. The blooms will melt, but it doesn't stop their blooming. Lloyd Zurbrigg writes that his DA CAPO is also a summer bloomer and that he is working to establish others as July bloomers. It seems reasonable that summer bloom can be an actuality though at the moment they will be limited to the lighter colors that reflect rather than absorb the hot sun."

"Now, September 30, it is too early for my (fall) rebloom to start, but it had better show something pretty soon. SKY QUEEN is showing a stalk in the fan, so I will finally bloom her. The others that always are reliable are CHIMERA, POLAR FLAME, LOVELY AGAIN and Virginia Matthew's seedlings 4-IR-2, 3-TR-1A, and 4-TR-3A. A seedling from my EARLY SNOWBIRD X LOVELY AGAIN is a summer bloomer also. I purchased some medians this summer and PREAMBLE and its offspring, FINE PRINT bloomed. Have a nice pod on FINE PRINT X LOVELY AGAIN.

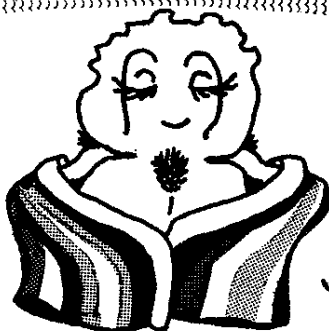
Jack Romine, Walnut Creek, California....."As I recall, LOVELY

AGAIN has had three bloom cycles this year instead of two. Because I was out of the country during most of the spring season, I did not get many iris seeds, and none from LOVELY AGAIN and other reliable rebloomers. I am still eager to cross LOVELY AGAIN and my reblooming COMMENTARY seedling. LOVELY AGAIN is a light blue-lavender, I would say. It cannot compete with any similar iris in the regular season, but is quite fine in the off-season."

Jayne Ritchie, Huntsville, Ala. ...."I had scant bloom in the fall - three very short stalks on OCTOBER SHADOWS and a few scattered blooms on the SDB's BABY SNOWFLAKE, MYRA and BLUE MOSS. ( I must admit having neglected the watering, though.)"

(More at a later date by the same) "Warm weather persisted until early November. The unseasonably warm weather combined with heavy summer rainfall gave nice rebloom. OCTOBER SHADOWS bloomed from early September to mid-November; BABY SNOWFLAKE from mid-September until the first freeze on November 7. Others were BEAU CATCHER, HOSANNA, FINE PRINT, MYRA, BLUE MOSS, TWICE BLESSED, JOY BRINGER, BLONDE DOLL, RED SPARTAN, LEMON MINT, and SCANDAL. "California bloomers" generally do not rebloom here.. HOSANNA'S lovely tall stalks were a surprise. I see by the MEDIANITE that BLONDE DOLL reblooms in Virginia and JOY BRINGER in Colorado. RED SPARTAN, JOY BRINGER and TWICE BLESSED were new this summer."

Comment  
on our  
times!



Fashion:  
Ruth's Love  
is  
Joseph's Mantle

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mr. O.A. Kummer, Preston, Ontario, Canada ..... "I enjoyed two wonderful fine spikes of bloom on *DA CAPO* away late this fall. They were immense - about 36" spikes with well placed bloom. A more brilliant color than spring bloom too. Had several others bloom too but none as good as it. The placement on the spikes, similar to the best spike in the Iris Show at Hamilton, Ontario in the spring."

Walter Moores, Ft. Worth, Texas ..... "Dec. 1, 1971 - no frosts or freezes have materialized to date, and I am having rebloom on things which have never rebloomed for me before. *SWEET TOMORROW*, *TAN SUN*, *VILLA GOLD*, *PIN-UP GIRL*, *SPRING GODDESS* and *LEORA KATE* are in bloom now. *HELEN TRIGG* has already rebloomed. .... I was particularly disappointed with the children of *SNOW GODDESS X LEORA KATE* ..... no true yellow or white rebloomers. Most were on "squatty" Leora Kate-type stalks."

George Crossman, Hamilton, Va. ..... "The surprise of the year. The iris *CRINOLINE* bloomed this fall. Five bloom stalks - 7 or 8 fans. Lovely form and delightful odor. I don't remember seeing it in bloom in the spring. If it is a true remontant, I would be 100% converted."

Lorena Reid, Springfield, Ore. ..... (to Bill Gunther) "*I. tenuis* is up to its usual habit of reblooming now (the first reblooming was just after July 4, and there have been at least a couple blooms since that date ..... there are quite a few buds at the moment ... (Oct. 28, 1971) perhaps because we had some rain last week?) This year I have some of my Japanese iris seedlings blooming in August .... but there is nothing spectacular in the flowers of these rebloomers .... they are just clear pink and whites in singles not very far removed from the wild species *I. kaempferi*. They do not have the over-lapping falls and ruffling which is somewhat in demand here."

"*SAUCY MINX* (a rust-red Louisiana clone) is in its second week of reblooming now (Oct. 28, 1971). It certainly looks odd to see the fat cucumber green pods in the same clump with new bloom on full height stalks."

Lorena Reid, Springfield, Ore. ....(To the Editor) "Of course you are most welcome to use any of my robin quotes on rebloom. I will make further comments on rebloom in this letter, which you are also welcome to use."

"I have not gotten interested in bearded rebloomers much, as our late weather is so wet, that bearded iris foliage gets very unsightly, as do any blooms that manage to open then. I might just mention one of our MDB's, CURTSY, has annually rebloomed for me, usually from August until frosted back in November, even in years when it has been divided and replanted."

"Our climate out here in Oregon is quite cool in the summer frequently. It is nearly always around 50 degrees at night, occasionally below 40 degrees. I sometimes think this fools the plants into believing they have had winter, and they come into bloom again."

"The rebloom this summer on SAUCY MINX was the first time this has occurred here with any of the Louisiana iris. However, some of the species iris native to the northwest rebloom nearly every year. *I. tenax* frequently blooms again in midsummer with bloom and seed pods on the plant at the same time. *I. tenuis* (related to the created irises rather than the Californicae), also has rebloomed here nearly every year since 1966. In regard to *I. innominata*, Ruth Hardy's WILDWOOD FANTASY reblooms in October, and Joe Ghio's CALIFIA bloomed in both April and June."

"In the case of *I. cristata* and the Japanese irises which bloomed this summer, the plants were transplanted either very late in the winter (Nov. Dec.) or in the spring (Feb. March) and did not bloom at their normal spring time for flowering. Thus these should not really be called rebloom so much as retarded bloom. This has happened with other types which do not commonly rebloom."

"I do not believe that in the wild there is much summer bloom on the native Oregon species, except during wet summers. Since we irrigate whenever there is a summer dry spell, it could well be the extra moisture coupled with the cool summers which gave us the bonus rebloom. Whatever causes it, I like it !!!

"In other types of iris we get an occasional rebloom noticed only when we are dividing clumps. These are stunted bloom stalks

LIST OF COMMERCIAL REBLOOMER GARDENS

AVONBANK IRIS GARDENS - Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg, 903 Tyler Avenue,  
Radford, Virginia, 24141

BAY BREEZE GARDENS - Lou and Connie Farley.

Summer Address: P.O. Box 206, Jamestown, R.I., 02835

Winter Address: 136 Althea St., West Springfield, Mass. 010

CROOKED CREEK GARDENS - Carl Wyatt, Star Route, Marquand, Mo. 63655

DENMAN GARDEN - Dr. Clarence D. Denman, 4214 Calmont Ave., Fort Worth  
Texas, 76107

FLEUR DE LIS GARDENS - Chet Tompkins, P.O. Box 670, Canby, Ore., 97013

HOLTON ROAD IRIS GARDENS - Mrs. N.W. Williams, 3136 N. Holton Road,  
Fort Worth, Texas, 76117

IMPERIAL FLOWER GARDENS - Box 255, Cornell, Illinois, 61319

JENSEN GARDEN - Mr. and Mrs. Karl Jensen, 609 Garden Street, Belvidere  
Illinois, 61008

MELROSE GARDENS - Sid du Bose and Ben Hager, 309 Best Rd., South A,  
Stockton, California, 95206

OLD BROOK GARDENS - Harry B. Kuesel, 10 S. Franklin Circle, Littleton  
Colorado, 80121

RIVERDALE IRIS GARDENS - Glenn and Zula Hanson, 7124 Riverdale Rd.,  
Minneapolis, Minn., 55430.

SMITH GARDEN - Dr. Raymond G. Smith, 3821 Sugar Lane, Bloomington,  
Indiana, 47401

SUMMERLONG IRIS GARDENS - Charles Applegate - Rt. 2, Box 163,  
Perryville, Ohio, 44864

TELL'S GARDEN - Tell Muhlestein, P.O. Box 331, Orem, Utah, 84057

nearly buried in foliage, which otherwise would likely be overlooked. I have noticed this in several varieties of Japanese irises and Siberian irises though not at all on an every-year basis."

Gordon Blackwell, New York, N.Y. .... "This is a quote from The Queen (Subtitled: The Lady's Newspaper) June 18, 1924, page 10. Article: "Some New Irises", by Marion Cran (popular English writer of the day) ..... "A couple of old varieties, Mrs. ALAN GRAY and WALLACE'S PORCELAIN are as yet unbeaten by the new forms as they bloom late when others are past; MRS. ALAN GRAY gives a second blooming, which is rare in this race of garden flowers. It suggests an interesting avenue of exploration; one that might commend itself to the hybridizers."

Donald Saxton, Huntsville, Ala. .... (from a letter to ex-President Bob Hubley, relayed to editor) .... "I'm sending you my year-end report of rebloom for 1971 in case Edwin Rundlett's successor wants to continue the Rebloomer Consumer Report. I moved everything this summer and some things were out of the ground for two months! Also had a rather dry August and September so rebloom was not typical. The following varieties did rebloom: AUTUMN SNOWDRIFT, GOLD OF AUTUMN, EMMA LOUISA and BLONDE DOLL. Well developed stalks of BLACK MAGIC, CAYENNE CAPERS, PREAMBLE and MEMPHIS LASS were nipped by the first freeze on November 4th. GRAND BAROQUE was beautiful this fall but did not bloom last spring. SWISS MAJESTY did well also, but had been reacquired after being lost last spring. Some seedlings still have stalks trying to come on because we haven't had a real killing freeze yet. I dug a piece of one seedling and brought it inside when it developed the full stalk but the buds had been nipped and never opened. The freeze-free growing season here is about 220 days based on my records for the past four years."



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# THE REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

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