

REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

THE REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

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The Reblooming Iris RECORDER is the new name for the Reblooming Iris Society's Bulletin which is now published tri-annually. It is free to all members of the Reblooming Iris Society.

the president's Message

It is spring here as we look for our first issue of the Recorder in 1973. The miniature dwarf bearded iris are blooming along with dutch iris and one reblooming seedling. Within a month it will be peak iris season for the tall bearded.

Two events happened in Dallas area last fall of particular interest. Dr. Clarence Denman, our first treasurer, was awarded the Stella Chapman Medal as reported in the AIS Bulletin. He has done much to advance the reblooming iris in the Dallas area.

I was invited to exhibit a display on reblooming iris in the Dallas North Garden Forum, one of the large regular flower clubs last November, and won an Award of Appreciation. I had a nice seedling in bloom and the display received much attention and publicity for the reblooming iris.

I will look forward to seeing the members of RIS at the Convention in Philadelphia in '73. Let's be there and have a grand time.

EDITORIAL



By the time you receive this issue of the Recorder, spring will have arrived for most of you. The miracle of returning warmth and growth never fails to arouse this heart, even though the mind whispers "Weeds will grow too!"

The first snowdrop appeared here on January 28, a record! There have been one or two every ten days since, and today there are many chianodoxa open, with crocus budded. The many median guest iris here will be stirring in their sleep, but their coverlet of mulch will not be lifted for another three weeks or so.

We hope that the articles contained in this issue will interest you, and inspire some more among you to contribute. Spring is a good time to compare the new remonatnts to one another and to the standard varieties, and varietal comments are always welcome reading.

Congratulations to our Slides Librarian, Carol Jensen of Illinois, who has been made a Life Member of the new British Remontant Iris Group. Her gifts of plants and seeds helped create a lively interest among the members of our sister society across the Atlantic.

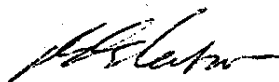
It seems pointless to add that the editors wish all of you a wonderful season, and loads of beautiful blooms spring, summer and fall; after 1972 most of us need that extra good season. All the blessings!

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

The accompanying financial reports indicate your society is still in very good shape, dollars and cents-wise. Compared to last year, there is one very glaring difference. The cost of the three Reblooming Iris Recorders was over double that of the two bulletins of the previous years. This is healthy, because we are now using our money for member benefits. You will notice that the operating gain was just 89¢.

The membership loss has continued, but at a much reduced rate. We are getting new members to make up for the most of the drop-outs and we are hopeful that this will be the turn-around year for membership. The membership report will be made as of May 1, 1973 because renewals are received quite some time after the first of January (and of July) and a report at that time would be inaccurate.

If I can be of service or if you have any ideas to better the society, please write me.



Richard E. Gibson
Secretary-Treasurer

REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY Financial Statement as of December 31, 1972

ASSETS:

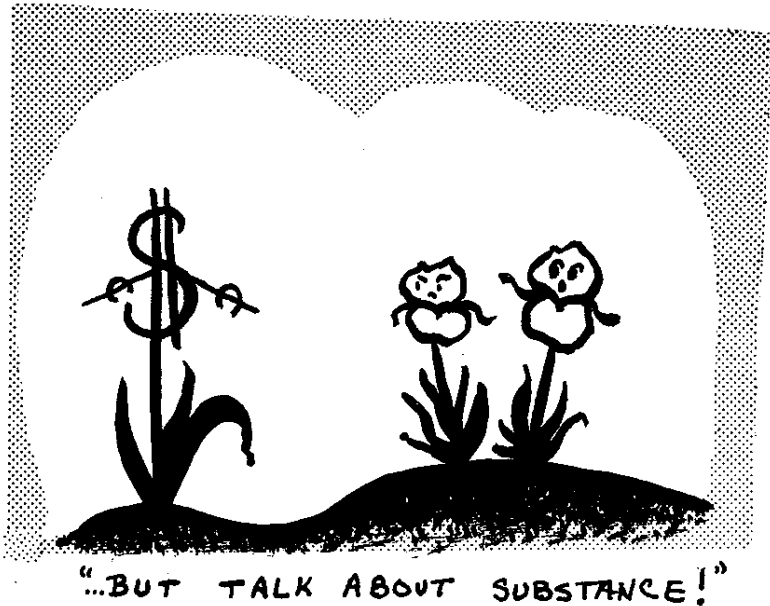
Cash in Bank - Commercial Account	\$229.30
Cash in Savings and Loan Ass'n.	<u>759.79</u>
Total Assets	\$989.09

LIABILITIES:

Reserved for Reblooming Iris Recorder	\$300.00
Reblooming Iris Society Surplus	<u>689.09</u>
Total Liabilities	\$989.09

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
January 1, 1972 to December 31, 1972

	<u>Commerical Account</u>	<u>Savings & Loan A/C</u>
Cash, January 1, 1972	\$228.49	\$720.93
 Receipts:		
Membership Dues	\$702.70	
Interest Income		38.86
 Disbursements:		
Reblooming Iris Recorder	\$642.51	
Office Expense	21.79	
Postage	17.59	
Nominating Committee	<u>20.00</u>	
Operating Gain	<u>\$701.89</u>	
	\$0.81	0.81
Totals, December 31, 1972	<u>\$229.30</u>	<u>\$759.79</u>



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 1973

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers for the year July 1973 - June 30, 1974. (we are following the AIS request to have the sections observe a fiscal year).

President: Wynnaline Stinson, Dallas, Texas

Vice-President: Charles Applegate, Perrysville, Ohio

Secretary-Treasurer: Richard E. Gibson, Sacramento, Calif.

Robin Chairman: Norman Noe, Martinsville, N.J.

A.I.S. Bulletin Representative: Clarence Denman, Ft. Worth,
Texas

Publicity Chairman: Richard E. Gibson, Sacramento, Calif.

Slide Librarian: Carol Jensen, Belvidere, Illinois

Eastern Director: William McGarvey, Oswego, N.Y.

Other directors to complete current terms.

Editor-in-Chief: Lloyd Zurbrigg, Radford, Va.

Assistant Editors: Margaret Zurbrigg, Radford, Va.
Ann Dasch, Timonium, Maryland

Any further nominations must be made according to the By-Laws and should be sent by May 1 to the Elections Chairman, Mr. Karl Jensen, 609 Gardner St., Belvidere, Illinois, 61008.

Respectfully submitted,
Lloyd Zurbrigg, Chairman

REGION 6 FALL MEETING AND SHOW
Charles Applegate

The fall meeting of Region 6, held at Kingwood Center September 22, 23 and 24, 1972, included a show of reblooming iris for the first time. If we had known what a poor season it would turn out to be, the show probably would have been eliminated. Rebloom was the least I can remember. In spite of this, our first 'mini-show' at Kingwood drew 50 horticultural entries and 7 arrangements.

Queen of the Show was *FALL GLORY* exhibited by Faye Griebeling who also won sweepstakes. Runner-up to the queen was *SEPTEMBER BUTTERCUP* exhibited by Mrs. William Hendershott. Best seedling was 149-67C entered by Charles Applegate. This large violet blend is being introduced in 1973 as *AUTUMN EVENING*. Best arrangement and arrangement sweepstakes were won by Mrs. Richard Beal. AIS Rosettes were given as awards in combination with iris glassware. The most popular new rebloomer in the show seemed to be Frank Jones' *GOLDEN ENCORE*, a vivid yellow being introduced in 1973.

This fall meeting also included an informal session of slides brought by members, a judging school taught by Mr. and Mrs. Dan Overholser and Lloyd Zurbrigg, an auction of potted iris, and a banquet featuring Lloyd Zurbrigg as guest speaker. Sunday morning was a tour to Charles Applegate's garden (Summerlong Iris Gardens). People were warned that there were very few stalks in bloom and it rained all night. The crowd was surprisingly large. The overall attendance at this fall meeting was much better than at many recent ones. Visitors to the show numbered about 1500. This proves the growing interest in rebloomers among iris people everywhere. If your region has never had a show at its annual fall meeting, try one as a feature of the meeting. The results will be surprising.



The Second Annual Region 14 Fall Iris Show was held in the Holiday Inn, South, in Sacramento, California on October 29, 1972. As it was in conjunction with the Fall Meeting, attendance was good, but the show left much to be desired.

Several factors were involved. There had been cold weather just prior to the show and it seems that 1972 was a bad reblooming year throughout the United States, so why should California be any different? The various Chamber of Commerce may like to think we are far superior, but even Joe Ghio in everblooming land had fewer blooms than usual.

Joe was one of the exhibitors and won Best Seedling with a fine stalk of his *VISIONARY*, yet to be introduced.

Dottie Dennis' *BONUS*, exhibited by your reporter, won Queen of the Show with a very nice stalk with three blooms open.

There were ten exhibitors and 22 entries, including three *I. unguicularis* (they are still blooming, February 20, 1973). Medians receiving ribbons were:

Bonus	Oracle	<u>Pale Cloud</u>	Polar Flame (2)
Preamble	<u>Swizzle</u>		

Tall bearded iris receiving ribbons were:

Autumn Night	Brown Duet	Blue Surprise	Leora Kate
July Sunshine	Royal Summer		

Rebloom was reported to be better after the show, but you can't win a ribbon with those kind.

Richard E. Gibson

THE NON-REBLOOMING QUEEN - SAN DIEGO FALL IRIS SHOW
Art Day

That's not a very enthusiastic title for readers of the RECORDER but for the first time in 8 years a Reblooming Iris did not win Queen of Show honors at the San Diego Fall Iris Show.

Despite the fact that the weather, as usual, was not cooperative - a rather cool, Santa Ana free September and October and very heavy rains and high winds the week of the show - 52 Bearded (43 cultivars) were placed on the show bench. In addition there were a number of Siberians, Spurias, Japanese, species and seedlings making a total of 82 antries from 21 exhibitors.

The presence of spurias and siberians gives the clue as to why a non-rebloomer (you know, one of those once-a-year kind) won. Mr. & Mrs. Hector Collins of Tauranga, New Zealand surprised us this year with a "spring" shipment. In that shipment and surviving the 6,500 mile journey was a beautiful stalk of ETERNAL FLAME (Schreiners'67) which won Queen of the S how. Dr. Billy Skillman of Calabasas won the Silver Medal and Jim LaMaster of Del Mar won the Bronze.

It has been reported many times taht what reblooms in Southern California cannot be trusted in other areas and I reemphasize this point as I list those bearded cultivars that were "locally" grown and exhibited. If you want to gamble - read and consider.

BEAUCATCHER	COPPER URN	GLIMMER	RED MANTLE
BLUE EVERBLOOMER	CRINOLINE	GREY CLOUD	SKY KING
BLUE SURPRISE	ELEANOR ROOSEVELT	HAUNTING RHAPSODY	SKY QUEEN
BRIGHT EYES	ELLEN MANOR	HELEN MCGREGOR	SPANISH AFFAIR
CALICAN	ETCHED APRICOT	JOSEPH'S MANTLE	STEEPLECHASE
CAMBODIA	FAIRY GOBLIN	LAUNCHING PAD	TAN SUN
CANDY SHOP	FALL MAJESTY	LOVELY RIPPLES	TAXCO JEWEL
CASCADE PASS	FLAME KISS	NORMA AVERETT	ULTRA
CAVENNE CAPERS	FLUTED HAVEN	ORCHID & FLAME	WAR DANCE
CONRAD	FRONTIER MARSHALL	PIN-UP GIRL	WESTERN HILLS

February 22, 1973

There are eight robins, three of them with 9 members and the other five with 8 members. A total of 61 people in 23 states participate in the program (6 people belong to 2 robins). California leads the states with 8 members. Texas has 6 and Indiana and Virginia each have 5. By state, the number of members is:

Alabama	2	North Carolina	1
Arizona	1	Ohio	3
California	8	Oklahoma	1
Idaho	2	Oregon	2
Illinois	4	Pennsylvania	3
Indiana	5	Rhode Island	1
Kansas	2	Tennessee	1
Maryland	4	Texas	6
Massachusetts	1	Utah	1
Nebraska	1	Virginia	5
New Jersey	3	Washington	2
New York	2		

New members are Mrs. Van S. Jones of Lewisburg, Tennessee; Mr. Robert E. Creviston, Sr. of Indianapolis, Indiana; and Mrs. Marjorie H. Deaton of Huntsville, Alabama.

Edwin Rundlett has worked hard and well, as he has throughout the history of the Reblooming Robin program, to effect a smooth transition of the division chairmanship. As he turned over each robin to me, he found a director for it. I am directing one of the robins and I want to express my heartfelt thanks to Charles Applegate, Dorothy Cunningham, Richard Gibson, Robert Schooff, Wynnaline Stinson, and Lloyd Zurbrigg, the directors of the other robins, without whose help I would not have been able to accept the division chairmanship.

Respectively submitted,

Norman H. Noe
Division Chairman of
Reblooming Iris Robins



SYMPOSIUM



Richard E. Gibson, Sec.

1972 proved to be one of the poorest years for rebloom in some time. This thought was mentioned many times in reblooming robins and in letters and conversations among rebloom enthusiasts. It was proved by the return of ballots for the Symposium and the Report of Rebloom. There were 39 ballots submitted for each, which is a very disappointing number. Of these, there were 16 who voted for the full 7 tall bearded and only 6 completed median ballots.

This distorts the ranking of the varieties, because one vote only on a ballot would get 7 points for being first and it might be an old variety that most people would not include in their voting. With so few ballots, the one vote has far more weight than it should have. However, we do want the incomplete ballots or we would have no Symposium.

The result this year is considerably different from past years in that many of the old favorites fell from favor. Two newcomers rose to the top, EMMA LOUISA, Buckles '68 in the number 1 spot and BESS BERGEN, Denman '72 in the number 3 place. Two old favorites, FALL PRIMROSE and CAYENNE CAPERS, retained their top ratings.

The Median Section did not change so radically. TWICE BLESSED, BRIGHT EYES and PREAMBLE retained their superiority very impressively, with Dottie Dennis' newcomer BONUS making a run at them.

Some excerpts from comments accompanying the ballots. From ever-blooming land, Bob Brooks from San Marcos, California (near San Diego) sent a full page. Among the most interesting: SCANDAL bloomed in the summer and for a couple of months in the fall. CONRAD was a heavy bloomer last fall and again this year. In the aril-meds, FAIRY GOBLIN bloomed early with the arils and again with the tall bearded, but this was the first rebloom. STITCHERY also

bloomed in November. Most of the comments were of tall bearded: *CASCADE PASS* bloomed continuously all year. It appears to do better when established. *CANDY SHOP* bloomed all summer and fall but the stalks are all very short just as they are in the spring. *MURMURING MORN* bloomed in summer and again in the fall. *HALLOWEEN PARTY* bloomed in the fall last year and is blooming now, but it has yet to bloom in the spring. *MOONLIGHT MAGIC* bloomed last winter, this spring and again this winter. *MAJOR RED* is almost a continuous bloomer. *ETCHED BURGUNDY* bloomed several times in summer and fall but flowers were always malformed. Maybe they would have been better with water. *FALL MAJESTY* is my favorite of the cold weather rebloomers but we can't get enough increase to build up stock. *CALICON* is outstanding but it has a tendency to bloom out for us.

Joe Ghio in Santa Cruz, California: *SPANISH GIFT* is outstanding here - it can bloom at almost anytime. *GRAND ROMANCE* has shown an almost 'everblooming' characteristic during the last 2 years. Dr. Clarence P. Denman, Fort Worth, Texas says: the three varieties listed as Winter Rebloomers (*VALHALLA*, *HAUNTING RHAPSODY*, *RUTH'S LOVE*) actually rebloom here in December in some years. Mrs. Harry E. Spence, McPherson, Kansas: *PREAMBLE* is the first to have bloomed for me, found it in about a foot of snow and zero weather. Really was a surprise. Had five beautiful open blooms. Planted along with others in July or August in lots of heat, it really is a toughy.

Dr. Raymond G. Smith, Bloomington, Indiana: Tell's *SECOND LOOK* was fine but didn't bloom in the spring. Jim Gibson's *SUMMER SUN-SHINE* didn't quite make it. Our season was about a month late and consequently I had many hundreds of stalks not even showing color when the hard freeze hit on October 17. From Harry B. Kuesel, Littleton, Colorado: Early this summer Faye Edelman who lives in Ft. Morgan, Colorado, gave me a rhizome of *BONUS* - a sandy yellow plicata with tan stitches on the edges. It bloomed for me on October 22-24 before we had a killing 27 degree frost. Since it bloomed this spring in Colorado in Faye's garden, and again this fall in Colorado in mine, I think it qualifies as a reblooming median.

Jean Sanders, Winamac, Indiana: While *EMMA LOUISA* bloomed for me late last year, it did not even send up a bloom stalk at all this fall so I think it's really too late for me. Mrs. Eileen Allison, Meridian, Idaho: *SUMMER FANTASY* - late, only showing color when frost-killed.

Mary P. Engel, Kenmore, New York: Five stalks of SUMMER WHITE-WINGS buried 5 days in drifted snow were brought into the house. Three of these stalks bloomed. Such vigor, after being 5 days under snow! Two Lt. de CHAVAGNAC in a clump that had bloomed in spring and August through October were buried 5 days in drifted snow and both bloomed indoors.

Mrs. E.R. Phillips, Grand Junction, Colorado: Average rainfall here is 7.8". Rebloomers seem to perform only when we have a rainy autumn. 1968 was the last year that mine bloomed. Irrigation seems not to bring them into bloom.

Dorothy Pais, Richton Park, Illinois: PURPLE DUET opens three flowers twice on a stalk, and has terrific branching. EMMA LOUISA has gorgeous color. LOVELY AGAIN looks better on later bloom than in the spring - and keeps going. The DUETS generally have excellent form, color, branching, bud count and remontancy. What caused the extremely early (July) rebloom has been puzzling me. The late, killing frost may have had some effect. We also had a new record set for rainfall this summer. Spring was very cold, too, allowing a longer period of growth before hot weather stopped it. So Brown's 'cold weather' iris started rebloom in July instead of September or October. The DUETS and medians waited til the normal rebloom season. I may never see such rebloom again in my garden! (and I said this was a bad rebloom year.ed)

Mr. and Mrs. Ira E. Wood, New Providence, New Jersey: TWICE BLESSED also has exceptionally effective pollen, giving takes on irises that are reluctant to set pods.

Julius Wadekamper, Maple Lake, Minnesota: I have seen no re-blooming iris this year except KOVIAR which reblooms consistently in Hanson's, Riverdale Gardens, Minneapolis.

Jill Copeland, Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery, Mattawan, Michigan: No one that I know of within 100 miles has any reblooming iris. I had only AHEAD OF TIMES bloom in the fall. I have voted on the other 3 because of spring bloom and some more buds (not out of the foliage) this year. Since we have had several nights below 30 degrees already, I am sure they won't bloom. AHEAD OF TIMES bloomed May 30, August 25 and October 23.

Maybelle Wright, Bloomington, Minnesota: Rebloomers are a total loss here. I have had buds on *PREAMBLE* and *ALLAH* at freeze-up. Anna M. Obermeyer, High Bridge, New Jersey: Rarely get bloom in October, but did this year. Had 2 stalks on *LITTLE STRANGER* - frost got one and the other has such tiny buds the frost didn't hurt it. Had one bloom open on 3-budded stalk for October 7 Fall Iris Show in Trenton. Bad year for (fall) irises here in New Jersey so there were only about 50 irises entered.

Debbie Beasley, Greene, Rhode Island: We have planted about 60 probable rebloomers in the last two years but so far have had little bloom. Only about 5 of these are medians. About 25 were planted in summer of '71 and only 2 - *WOODMONT VANGUARD* bloomed in spring and *JULY SUNSHINE* in August. Some of the new plants put in this summer tried to put up stalks but were stopped by an early freeze. We have a very short season. This year the period without temperatures below 32 degrees was less than 100 days.

Joe Ghio, Santa Cruz, California: Very poor year for repeat bloom. Cool summer and fall stopped normal "off season" bloom. So if they bloomed this year they had exceptional repeat-ability.

W.A. Moores, Ft. Worth, Texas: 1972 iris rebloom for North Texas was the worst I've experienced. It was too hot and dry too long. We had no fall in that we went from 90 degrees to the upper 30's where the temperature has hovered ever since, except for the one hard freeze of 24 degrees. Even the old reliables I've had rebloom every year didn't even try. These include *JOSEPH'S MANTLE*, *CAVENNE CAPERS*, *VALIANT ORCHID*, *BLUE SURPRISE*, *BEAUCATCHER*, etc. I could go on and on. I don't see how anything bloomed the second half of this year, the weather being what it was.

Donald R. Saxton, Huntsville, Alabama: This was by far the longest rebloom season that I have ever had: July 29 through November 24, continuously, 116 days plus 3 days of bloom inside. Harry E. Brown, Columbia, Missouri: We were cut down early this year (October 18) at 197 freeze-free days. Bloom stalks all over the place in bud and close to bloom.

Teresa Martin, Medina, Ohio: I have Virginia Mathews seedling 4-IR-2. It sends up new stalks in late September and continues blooming til cut down by hard freezes.

Anne Allen, Sykesville, Maryland: A crazy season - cold and wet weather in the spring caused rampant rot. We had a month of nearly no rain, followed by an exceedingly wet fall and an early killing frost (10/10). We often have frosts this early, but usually they are light enough that the plants recover and bloom later - this year they were probably too waterlogged.

Mrs. W.H. McKinley, Roswell, New Mexico: Rebloomers are not very dependable here and I'm not really working with them at present. Jean Sanders, Winamac, Indiana: HALLOWEEN PARTY bloomed but was on a newly set plant (May) so don't think it could be called a rebloomer for me as I doubt if it would rebloom again for me. The quality, I thought, was excellent.

Phyllis J. Holtz, Kellog, Idaho: One of the longest growing seasons here yet. If the weather should warm up, I'll still have bloom at Thanksgiving, but that's almost too much to hope for. I feel I am on the road to reblooming medians, though I am also just as certain it is a long road. Another generation or two should prove my ideas, right or wrong. Mary P. Engel, Kenmore, New York: Earliest hard freeze in 80-year history.

Lura Emig, Columbus, Ohio: Rebloom on AUTUMN QUEEN and SANGREAL not as much as usual. Don't have any answers as to why interested in this issue as would like more median rebloomers. Marie Macomber, Colville, Washington: 1972 was a bad year for the rebloomers. Spring was late and cold. Summer, hot and dry. Only FALL PRIMROSE rebloomed. It, too, was later than usual but 3 stalks bloomed out completely. JULY BEAUTY, which ordinarily blooms by September, had only buds that were cut down by frost.

Debbie Beasley, Green, Rhode Island: Although out-of-season bloomers which do not bloom in spring cannot be considered rebloomers, they are welcome and should not be ignored. Although we can't grow California-type rebloomers here, information on them might be useful in breeding programs.

One ballot from Germany. Helen v. Stein-Zeppelin says: "LUGANO is an old variety of CAYEUX which proves to be a very reliable rebloomer here with us. DRUMMER BOY has this year for the first time quite a number of fine stalks. Of the SDB, only the very old SOUVENIR

de LT. XAVER de CHAVAGNIAC is reblooming every year and aphylla
AUTUMN KING ." (Ediotr's note: "Autumn King" is not usually termed
an aphylla.)

Most of the ballots were sent by those in cold to severly cold
climates. Why those in warmer climates who get much more bloom over
a longer period did not reply, I do not know, and will not speculate on.
I will again make my plea - please send in your ballots this fall as
we need all we can get to make the reports more meaningful.

The ballots were placed in four categories, the same as in 1971.
It may be advisable to make category "A", 100-189 days, into two, to
better differentiate between the cold climate and the severly cold
climate. Those not listed which also received first place votes were:
CASCADE PASS, SPANISH GIFT, SUMMER SUNSHINE, M.A. PORTER (which I do
not find listed), JOLLY GOLIATH, AUTUMN HAZE, RED POLISH, FALL GOLD,
BEAUCATCHER, AUTUMN SNOWDRIFT, SUMMER WHITEWINGS, LITTLE STRANGER and
SNOW GODDESS.

There were so few votes for the Winter Bloomers, that I can make
no report on them this year.

Finally, comments from Mrs. Clare Roberts, Ontario, California:
It does seem a shame that iris that have bloomed more than once a
year, but not once between January and June and between July and
December can not be listed as REBLOOMING (during one six-month period
January thru June.) In my garden I've had bloom at three different
times on several varieties such as PERSIAN PATTERN, TWICE BLESSED,
etc. Yet these iris can not be listed. Winter bloomers, such as
CALIFORNIA PINK can not be included, nor SOUTHLAND. At present time
(December 20) I have nice healthy buds coming on POLAR KING, DARK
MYSTERY, SYMPHONY, AUTUMN ROSYCHEEKS. These iris will bloom either
in December or January but cannot be called reblooming. This does
not seem right since they did bloom in the spring of the year. Sure
does make for a meager rebloom report from my garden.



"OKAY THEN, NEXT
TIME YOU WATCH
THE CALENDAR!"

REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY
For the Year 1972

TALL BEARDED VARIETY	POINTS	SYMPOSIUM				REPORT OF REBLOOM				
		VOTES	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
EMMA LOUISA	53	8	20	14	14	5		4		
FALL PRIMROSE	40	8	34	6			5	2		
BESS BERGIN	24	4	7		13	4		1	1	
CAYENNE CAPERS	18	4	5	4	9			3	1	
DA CAPO	17	3	10	7			1			
GIBSON GIRL	17	4	11	5	1		1	2		
DR. G. PERCY BROWN	17	3	17				2		1	
LOVELY AGAIN	16	4	14			2	3		1	1
BROWN DUET	15	3	3		6	6	1		1	1
SEPTEMBER SAILOR	15	3	15				3	1		
SKY QUEEN	15	4	3		2	10			3	1
SUMMER GREEN SHADOWS	15	3	11	4			1	1		1
EARLY SNOWBIRD	14	4			7	7	2		3	1
PURPLE DUET	14	3	10	4			2	1	1	
VALIANT ORCHID	14	2				14			1	1
JULY SUNSHINE	13	3	9		4				1	
MOONLIGHT DUET	12	2	12				1			
SUMMER FANTASY	12	3	4			8	1	1		1
FALL BLUE CONTRAST	11	2	11				2			
LACED DUET	11	2	11				2		1	
LEORA KATE	11	2	6		5			1		
SUMMER DARKNESS	11	2	11				1			
BLUE SURPRISE	10	2				10			2	2
RAVENWOOD	10	2			3	7			2	
SEPTEMBER CHEREAU	10	2		7		3	1	2		

A 100-189 Days

B 190 to 229 Days

C 230 to 269 Days

D 270 Days and Over

REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY
For the Year 1972

MEDIAN IRIS VARIETY	POINTS	SYMPOSIUM				REPORT OF REBLOOM				
		VOTES	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
TWICE BLESSED	80	15	46	12	12	10	3	1	3	1
BRIGHT EYES	50	9	18		26	6	2		3	1
PREAMBLE	42	7	7	21	4	10	1			1
BONUS	26	4	7	6	13			1	1	1
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT	19	4	10	9				1		
FINE PRINT	19	3	6	7	6		3		1	2
SPRING'S RETURN	19	3			5	14			1	1
CHIMERA	18	3			11	7			1	3
AUGUST INDIAN	17	3	17							
EBONY EMBERS	15	3	5	10				1	1	
SOUTHLAND	13	2	6	7						
LITTLE SUSIE	11	2			11				1	1
AUTUMN ORANGELITE	10	2	10				2			
BABY SNOWFLAKE	10	2	4	6			2			
BLUE MOSS	10	2		4		6	1			1
EARLY EDITION	9	3			8	1			2	
EMBROIDERY	8	2			3	5				1
SANGREAL	8	2	4	4			1			
AUGUST WAVES	7	1	7							
AUTUMN QUEEN	7	2	2	5			1			
BORDER DUETTE	7	1	7				1		1	
KOVIAR	7	1	7				1			
SCANDAL	7	1				7				1

A 100-189 Days

B 190 to 229 Days

C 230 to 269 Days

D 270 Days and Over

ON THE BACK BURNER
Raymond G. Smith

Your Editor has requested that I contribute a few words for this issue of RIR, so let me describe some of the successes and failures of hybridizing projects now in progress at Sugar Acres.

I like selfs. I especially like those deep purples, lavenders, magentas, and bright metallic grays. Many years ago Lloyd Zurbrigg gave me a series of sister seedlings that were unusually brilliant, intense lavender purple selfs the like of which I have never been able to duplicate and have never seen elsewhere. They were sort of Matinata types in a fairly wide tonal range. They derived from "Tell's Rose" remontant seedling crossed to WESTERN HILLS. The dramatic intensity of this unusual series proves that the genus iris carries color potentials still unrealized among today's introductions. I would like to see many such colors on flowers of today's standards . . . flaming reds and oranges, glowing metallic purples and brilliant browns, creams and yellows. Let me describe several attempts to produce such colors.

About a dozen years ago while walking through the seedling patch Earl Roberts observed that one of my tangerine bearded pink seedlings displayed an overlay of purple anthocyanin which obviously had to be a recessive pigment. Immediately I jumped ahead to the future, when this pigment was intensified to a deep purple which, when crossed to brilliant oranges also out of the pinks, would produce the flaming red iris of the future. I was off and running.

After several generations of close breeding I was able to intensify the recessive purple and now have several very deep maroon colored selfs with tangerine beards. I made the cross to the oranges and loaded my camera. Unfortunately the progeny were dirty orange, more of the same purple out of pinks, or real tangerine bearded pink irises carrying the blush of anthocyanin.

As an alternative to this obvious failure, I wondered if it might be possible to further intensify this deep red purple to the point where it would have the appearance of black .. thus a black with a true tangerine beard. For the past several years I have

further inbred this line with this in mind, but after reaching a certain saturation, no further progress has been made. Before giving up this latter project, I am making one final attempt. I selfed the darkest of these maroon rebloomers, and these seeds are scheduled to germinate this coming April.

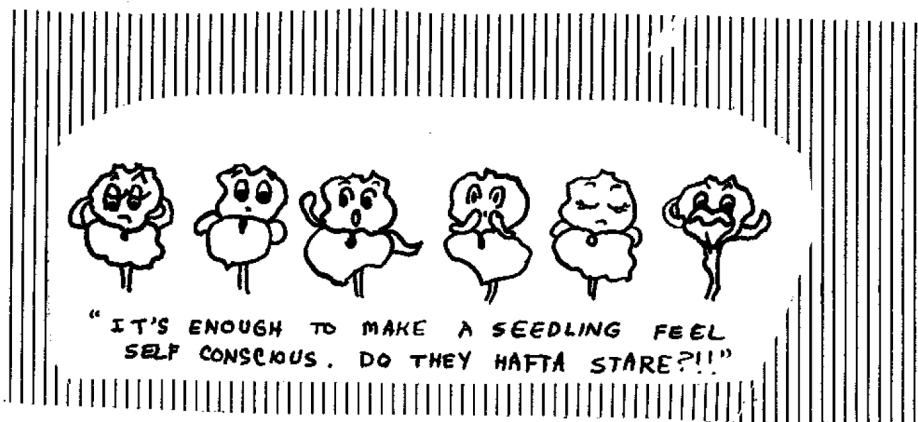
Another project, somewhat more successful, I call my hot-orange line. These also are derived from tangerine-bearded orange colored seedlings, but they carry an added pigment that seems almost to make them glow like metallic paint. In establishing this new line I lost some flower quality as well as some consistency of the reblooming trait, both of which will have to be firmly reestablished before individuals from the line can be introduced. But I am delighted with the progress coming here.

Another most interesting development is a line of near-orange out of dominant yellows. Again an unusual break seems to be involved. I was actually attempting to improve the yellow ground plicatas through a combination of *REPLICATA* and some of Fay's orange seedlings that were siblings of *ORANGE CHARIOT*. (Please, I am aware that this is an unorthodox combination, but I have never claimed to be orthodox.) Nothing interesting appeared from this cross with one exception. Down the row of rather miserable seedlings there appeared a single, leggy, widely-branched yellow self which appeared to have smears of burnt ochre blended into the yellow pigment. This one was saved and has been carried along for several generations and crossed with some very clean yellows derived from *ALLAGLOW*. The very deep orangish yellows from this line generally possess the unusual trait of a perfectly clean haft. In addition to their depth of color they appear to be entirely sun proof, a trait which is lacking in many of the yellows that have tangerine pink ancestry. I do expect some day to have something very nice out of this line.

There is one final line that deserves mention in this company of clean-hafted brilliantly colored rebloomers. This is a bright yellow line with unusual clarity of color. The line derives from *RAINBOW GOLD* and as might be expected combines a great deal of quality with a lot of laciness.

Any hybridizer should expect some disappointments. When these occur there is nothing to do except take the bitter with the sweet and continue with whatever seems to be working.

If there is any lesson to be gleaned from these limited observations it is that one must be alert to the appearance of the unique or unusual in color, form, or plant. When something different appears it should be observed and studied for its possible potential in creating something new. Frequently, most frequently, the new trait will be undesirable, but sometimes it may have value. Sometimes it will appear as almost completely masked by a common trait and will require sharp eyes to be noted. One wonders, for example, how many times already a mutation of a bit of true red pigment may have appeared but been obscured by dirty yellow or purple companion color. I am sure that these new things happen far more frequently than is known.



PLEASE NOTE

Mrs. Robert M. (Mattie) Reinhardt wrote to point out that the variety **BLACKFOOT**, mentioned in a previous issue, is most probably **LITTLE BLACKFOOT**, introduced by her in 1966. It is an SDB, not quite remontant for her, but proving itself remontant in some other Wisconsin gardens.

PERFORMANCE OF REBLOOMERS IN A GALE
Louis J. Farley

Our iris garden is located at what is now our summer home, that will become our retirement home in another few years. We spend all of our week-ends from early April until Thanksgiving, plus my vacations from my teaching job, at the cottage. It is our custom to leave our year round home for the cottage in Jamestown, R.I. immediately after school each Friday during this part of the school year. We arrive at the cottage just before supper time.

When we arrived at the cottage, on the first week-end in June of this year, we turned on the television for the news while we were eating supper. Although there was no indications around us that an unusually severe storm was about to descend upon us, the weather forecaster on TV was predicting heavy rain and high winds beginning sometime during the night. Since coastal storms sometimes arise with great rapidity, I decided to take a walk through the garden after supper, to be sure that everything was secure, in case the weatherman was correct in his prediction. The garden was approaching half peak of the iris blossoming season and about three hundred varieties were either in full bloom or had bloom stalks bearing buds that were beginning to show color.

On a hunch that the weatherman was correct in saying that a huge cold front was bearing on us, and we would have a bad storm I removed the stamens from a bud of *OPENING NIGHT*, that was three quarters open, and pollenized it with *ROYAL SUMMER*. I took the precautionary measure of placing a plastic sandwich bag over the hybridized blossom and tied the lower edge of the bag to the stem with a string to each corner of the bag, leaving the center open to allow free air circulation. I have done this on other occasions to protect a hybridized blossom from becoming wet and rotting before the pod has set, and have found that it often works quite well.

It did not rain during the night, and I arose at dawn to make some crosses that I had planned. Just as I was about to go out the door, a cloudburst descended upon us. That ended all plans for doing any hybridizing that day. The wind drove in pelting gusts against the cottage for about two hours. According to the weather report from the nearest reporting station, about ten miles away, over an inch of rain fell in that time. We have named our place Bay Breeze Gardens because

we generally have a breeze from Narragansett Bay blowing through the garden at all times. The breeze is generally a mild one that serves to moderate our climate. What we had, during the next twelve hours, could not be called a mild breeze under any circumstances. A steady wind of from fifteen to twenty five knots blew the entire time without one minute's let up, and this was frequently punctuated by gusts of up to fifty knots.

Of course the open iris blossoms were heavy with moisture, after all the rain. The wind came from an unusual quarter. It swept across the tree tops, and dipped down into the garden between the rear of the house and a pine grove. As a result of this, the irises in the very center of the garden began to totter and sway, while those at both ends of the garden -- which were protected by the house and a windbreak of trees and shrubs -- barely were moving, in spite of the high wind and their water-logged condition. Finally I was forced to stake irises, for the first time, to prevent them from being destroyed by the wind. Fortunately, I had a number of aluminum stakes on hand that I use to prop up chrysanthemums when they become water soaked during the fall "line" storms. I used these to protect the irises that seemed to be in immediate danger from the wind.

Since the events of the day were out of the ordinary, I made notes upon which this narration is based. The first casualty of the storm was ROYAL SUMMER. If I had acted earlier, to stake the irises, perhaps I might have prevented the damage to this plant. In any event, the stalk bent early in the storm, and snapped off at the ground level. I was glad that I made the cross the night before. (Subsequently, pod from it.) BIG SUR was next. It did not snap its stalk. The wind pulled this plant, which had been set out the previous September, right out of the ground. It was the only plant in the garden that suffered this fate. When I inspected it after the storm, I found the rhizomes intact, but many of the feeder roots were torn. I clipped off both stalks on the clone. They were showing color on some buds, but none were out full. They both blossomed for quite some time, in the house, in a vase. I trimmed the fans, and broken feeder roots and reset the clone in the same spot, where it is now doing very well.

MAJOR RED swayed back and forth in an alarming manner and was threatening to break off, until I got one of the aluminum stakes on it. PURPLE DUET was at a stage of bloom where several buds were fully open, and others were showing color when the storm hit. The

opened blossoms snapped right off the stem, but the others remained intact. Apparently the great amount of water on the blossoms, and in its interior, increased their vulnerability. AUTUMN CHAMELEON probably had less wind sway than any other plant in the bed, of about seventy clones, that caught the full force of the wind. FALL MAJESTY rode out the storm like a champion. It swayed with the heaviest gusts, and came right back for more punishment. After the storm it looked as though it had never been subjected to even the lightest of breezes.

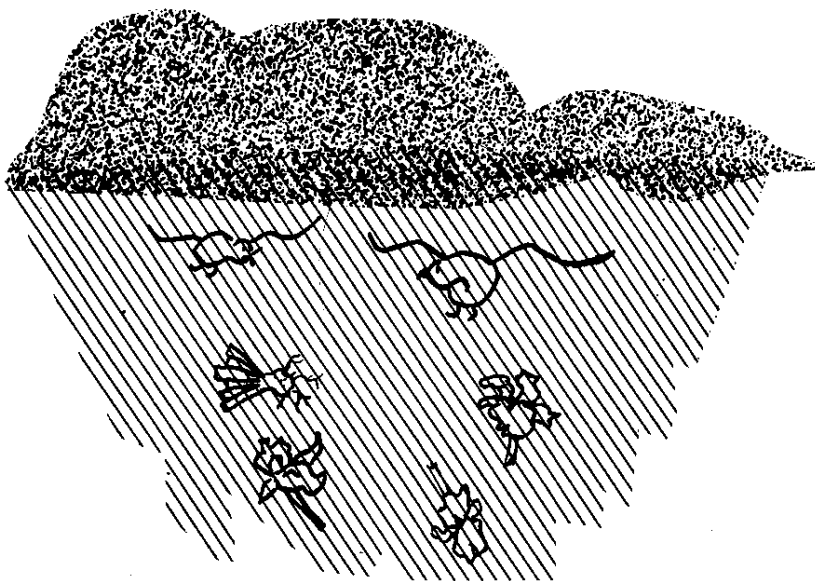
GOODUN lost petals. The standards seemed to be able to take the weather but the falls tore easily, and snapped off during the strongest blasts. LEORA KATE had its standards badly lacerated, but it did not lose a blossom. AUTUMN ELEGANCE had a couple of blossoms snapped off, but others that were fully open came through without a blemish. LOVELY AGAIN had a bloom stalk that snapped in half midway between the ground and its lowest blossom. RAVENWOOD had a short stalk that stood up, but its leaves were badly shredded. This plant had rot in it, when I received it late last summer. I cleaned it up, dusted it with Terrachlor, and planted. Perhaps the substance of the leaves was not quite as firm as it would have been, if the plant had been sound when I planted it. PRISSY rode out the storm without showing damage. Perhaps because it is a border bearded iris its lower height protected it somewhat, but in any case it took all the punishment that nature had to give to it.

AAHME, ADAM, AUTUMN JANE, AUTUMN MISTS, AUTUMN'S SISTER, BLACK DUET, CHIMERA, DOUBLE MAJESTY, FALL PRIMROSE, G. PERCY BROWN, JUANA KAY, LORNA LYNN, LOTHARIO AGAIN, RED DUET, RETURN ENGAGEMENT, SEPTEMBER BUTTERCUP, SEPTEMBER CHEREAU, SEPTEMBER GOLD, SING AGAIN, SKY QUEEN, SPRING MIRROR, SUMMER BLUE DRESS, SUMMER FANTASY, SUMMER INSPIRATION, and SUMMER WHITEWINGS all had blossoms that exhibited some tearing, but not to any great extent. The following rebloomers all had stems that did not break, but which appeared bent after the storm: CONGO QUEEN, FALL BLUE CONTRAST, FALL PERFECTION, FALL YELLOW SUPREME, JET BLACK, LATE RETURNS, LOVELY LETTY, PREAMBLE, REPLICATA, SEPTEMBER SERENADE and YELLOW DUET.

My first impression after the storm, was that in general, the "oncens" stood the wind with less tearing of petals than the remontants. This would seem to indicate, that perhaps the substance of rebloomers is not quite as heavy, as a rule, as that of non-reblooming

irises. I cannot attribute the greater amount of tearing of petals of rebloomers to the placement of the bed in relationship to the wind's direction during the storm, for there was less petal tearing among the non-reblooming irises in the bed on each side of the one containing the remontants. This may point out a need for incorporating irises with a strong substance into the program of breeding for rebloom.

A second heavy rain fall within a week deposited four inches of rain on the garden in a period of ten or twelve hours. This was followed within forty-eight hours by the fringe of hurricane Agnes, with its heavy rainfall. All during this time many of the same irises were in bloom in the garden. We suffered no damage from either storm. This seems to confirm my surprise that it takes a combination of rain followed by heavy wind to really do great damage to irises. In our coastal garden, the storm described in this account is the only one that ever forced us to stake an iris. (The only other storm damage worthy of note, occurred during a hurricane. I had plants dug, to divide them, before replanting, when the storm hit. Afterwards, I could not find my clone of *RIPPLING WATERS*. I reluctantly reached the conclusion that the wind must have lifted this plant off the ground and deposited it somewhere off of our property.)



"JONATHAN, THOSE ARE THE STRANGEST BIRDS!"

REBLOOMING IRIS AT RADFORD COLLEGE
David Merrill

1974 is Roanoke, Virginia's year for the National AIS Convention and one of the gardens on tour is located at Radford College which is in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is also 1800 feet higher in elevation than the city of Roanoke and located approximately 50 miles southwest of the city. It was thought that this would be a good time to try to have SDB, BB, IB, and MTB's in bloom at the same time as the TB's located at a lower elevation around Roanoke.

I must say that the enthusiasm of the median hybridizers has been slightly overwhelming. So far, we have received some 400 different named varieties (including TB's and arilbred) from 48 different hybridizers. This amounts to over 1200 rhizomes, which are planted in 8 raised beds; each of which is 42 feet long and 2 feet wide at the base. There is also another bed of 100 feet long and 3 feet wide filled with gift TB's. This amounts to about 1000 square feet of garden space and is filled to capacity although some new guests could be taken care of by moving some of the older TB varieties.

We started planting Guests on August 18, and although the last date for sending Guest Iris was August 15, we continued to receive rhizomes til the end of August. Finally all rhizomes were planted by August 27. During the first week in November, some of the Guests were noticed to have swollen fans and sure enough we did get some rebloom before the first hard freeze stopped everything about November 15. The first to bloom was *TRIO*, *IB* (Hager'72) which had one bud open and two unopened. This one doesn't have much garden power, but up close has an appealing appearance of being sprinkled all over with gold glitter. *LIGHT CAVALRY*, *IB M RID*, (B. Jones'67) produced a very fine red bloom before it was picked by one of our students. *EMMA LOUISA*, *TB EM B4RV*, (Eugene Buckles'69) put up a stalk with three buds ready to open when caught by the freeze. Likewise, the following also didn't get a chance to open: *THAI SILK*, *TB* (Mrs. Kenneth Smith); *J 68-44-F*, *TB* (Robert R. Jeffries); *FLASHING BEACON*, *MTB M Y04RV*, (D. Guild'69); *T-68-1*, *TB* (Torkelson); *SEA ANGEL*, *SDB*, and *TROPIC BABE*, *SDB* both by Alta Brown'73.

BREEDING FOR QUALITY IN REBLOOMERS

by Robert (Bob) Jeffries

The search for quality in reblooming iris continues at a lively pace and many of our hybridizers are reporting encouraging results. One reblooming hybridizer reports that his three introductions for 1972 approach perfection with large flowers, extremely wide and flaring parts with heavy substance, beautiful clear colors, with all floral parts delightfully ruffled, lots of branches and buds. This sounds like the goals the reblooming hybridizer is working to achieve.

Getting quality rebloomers involves careful study of the seedlings and using only the most promising as parents. Occasionally I have used an iris as a parent when I was aware that it had a fault such as high branching or lack of buds and have seen the same fault show up in the seedlings. So I think we ought to be very selective when we are choosing iris to use as parents in our breeding program.

In our garden we have a seedling out of (Lovely Letty x Whole Cloth) X (Hamblen sdlg. H8x38A). It is a vigorous grower, has excellent form, great width of parts and it has rebloomed the last two falls in October, just beating the frost last year. In color it is blued white over blue violet, approaching an amoena pattern, the beard is an orangy yellow. The color does not suit us yet but the general quality of flower form, width, strength of stalk and branching are there. We have seed from several crosses made with it last year. It is fertile both ways so crossed it with *FLAMINGO DAWN* which Les Peterson indicates has rebloomed for him in Utah. *FLAMINGO DAWN* is a good iris but rather small flowered. We hope the cross will breed size and vigor into the seedlings and that some of them will be earlier to bloom in the fall. Also crossed the seedling with *EMMA LOUISA* and plan crosses with *JOLLY GOLIATH*. Want to get hold of some of Dave Niswonger's seedlings that rebloom which have *LOVELY LETTY* and *RIPPLING WATERS* blood in them to use with the above seedling. This should put some real quality into the cross.

One of the best crosses we have made for reblooming iris has been (Cherry's pink sdlg. x Mary Randall) x (Lorna Lynn)) X Prissie. The cross gave mostly orange pink iris with the best having good form and fine clear colors. 68-44-D is proving to be reliable for fall bloom in Kansas. It has rebloomed successfully the last three

years in its home garden. It is saturn orange in color with marigold orange beard. This one is on trial in various gardens including convention gardens in Pennsylvania and Virginia. If it does well in other areas as a rebloomer it may be worthy of introduction. I already have a name picked out for it just in case.

LEORA KATE reblooms in Wichita and it tries here but is a little too late. The cross (Glittering Amber x Fashion News) X Leora Kate gave mostly fine yellows and a few warm whites. The best of these were crossed to the 68-44 pink series and I am hoping for some fine quality yellows that will rebloom. Pink is a recessive color, a fact proven in the seedling patch. Pink crossed to pink will give more pink. But pink crossed to yellow may give all yellows. The SDB LENNA M. crossed to yellow seedlings gave all yellow, not one pink seedling out of several hundred. So in my search for pink medians I decided I would have to breed pinks to pinks to get what I wanted. LENNA M. crossed to a pink seedling gave a very fine pink intermediate, a nice clean white with red beard and a good orange. I lost the orange seedling due to rot and it was the only one lost from the cross but that's the way it goes. In hybridizing you have only a few advances and I hate to lose a promising seedling.

There is a question in my mind as to why we didn't have more rebloom here last fall. The growing season was an unusually wet one. The summer temperatures were not oppressive as they sometimes are. It should have been an ideal season. The weeds grew like mad, in fact I have never seen them do better. We were gone on vacation for about ten days early in August and when we returned the joint grass had taken over. This is the kind of grass that roots at the joints when they touch the soil so it kind of walks through the garden. It was so thick it was shading the iris so they couldn't make fall growth. The weeds grew but the iris just sat there and showed no tendency to increase until mid September, much later than usual. Last Winter we had an unusually warm spell and everything started to grow. After temperatures got up into the 80's and once into the 90's it turned cold again, and dropped almost to zero. I am wondering if this may have been the reason for the slow growth of our iris in 1972? We did have quite a lot of bloom last Spring, in fact I would say we had near normal bloom. But there has to be some reason for the slow growth and lack of fall bloom in spite of what should have been an ideal growing season. Any ideas?

REPEATERS

Joseph J. Ghio

(Copied from IRIS NOTES, bulletin of the Southern Calif. Iris Soc)

The following list of irises rebloom for us in varying degrees. Temperatures are fairly even in coastal California which undoubtedly accounts for the ease of remontancy. Even so, less than 25% of the varieties we grow send up even one off-season bloom stalk. This year we'll classify them according to time of blooming.

"A" June to early July. This bloom starts 3-6 weeks after the main bloom and might not be truly "reblooming" but a confused extension of the main bloom season.

"B" Late July through August. This group blooms in the middle of the summer for us, but this, we believe, would be unlikely to happen in the very hot humid climates.

"C" September through October. These would be the most truly rebloomers since they start 4-6 weeks after we've completed our re-planting.

"D" November through December or until frost puts an end to it. These would probably repeat only in areas where frost comes very late.

All the irises in the list which follows would be helpful in improving the Repeater class when used in hybridizing. Those in Groups B and C should be favored ones.

MEDIANS

Annikins	C	Oracle	D
Baby Shower	A	Passport	D
Blue Moss	A	Preamble	C
Clique	C	Seer	D
ConBrio	A,C	Sorcerer	D
Dashing Deb	A	Svelt	D
Embroidery	B,C	Twice Blessed	B,C
Fine Print	C	Wizard	A
Footnote	C		

TALL BEARDED

Ad Astra	D
April Melody	A
Apropos	D
Babbling Brook	D
Bay View	A
Buffy	B
Caliente	B
Candy Shop	C,D
Cloud Capers	A
Commentary	D
Coral Ice	C
County Fair	C
Decolletage	D
Dream of Love	C
Dusky Dancer	A
Epic	D
Etched Apricot	C,D
Eve	A
First Courtship	A
Flaming Star	A
Fond Wish	A,B,C
Forest Moon	D
Frosted Starlight	A,C
Gala Madrid	D
Grand Romance	A.B.C
Haunting Rhapsody	A,D

Justice	A
Latin Lover	B,C
Light Fantastic	C
Lighting Ridge	A,B
Lorna Lee	C,D
Mahalo	A
Murmuring Morn	D
Opening Round	A
Orange Vista	B,C
Penthouse	A
Rare Treasure	C
Royal Heritage	A
Royal Touch	C,D
San Leandro	A
Seaside	D
Shipshape	D
Signature	B,C,D
Silver Shadows	A
Spanish Gift	A,B,C,D
Sunset Sky	A
Touche	B,C
Twilight Sonata	A
Virtuoso	D
Western Host	D
Whispering Glade	A,B

THE OFF-BLOOMERS

Lura B. Roach

(Copied from IRIS NOTES, bulletin of the Southern Calif. Iris Soc)

According to Edwin Rundlett, the father of the Reblooming Society, "The remontant irises are those that bloom twice in a season in the spring during the regular season and again in the autumn." This definition may cover irises that bloom in sections of the United States where the growing cycle is short; where spring comes late and killing frosts are anticipated in October. But what about the irises that have a much longer growing cycle? Remember, there are areas in Southern California that are completely frost free. Does this mean that the iris that blooms in mid March and again in mid July does not fall into the remontant class?

Many of the so-called reliable rebloomers are hybrid intermediates resulting from tall bearded iris pollinated by chamayiris dwarfs and natural hybrids of *I. aphylla*. Their form and substance leaves much to be desired. The strappy, poorly substanted flower may be interesting when you have nothing with which to compare it. But wouldn't you rather have a wide petaled, heavily substanted flower on a tall stalk even though it only blooms once a season?

There are many of the newer spectacular tall bearded iris that are fairly reliable rebloomers in areas that are favored with year around growth. Wouldn't you prefer this "Off Bloom" to the old fashioned flower that has true remontant character? There is one thing we must remember as we choose the varieties that are prone to have this off-season bloom and that is it must be a good increaser..... if it will put on increase on the spent bloom stalk all the better, for an iris that blooms the second time in the year and blooms with insufficient or no increase is worthless.

There are things we can do to stimulate this off-season bloom. First of all never let your clumps become crowded. My suggestion is to thin them. Disturb the established rhizome as little as possible while making a comfortable distribution. The extra rhizomes will make a new clump or you can give or trade them to a friend. For dependable performance and rebloom they must have good summer garden care. Fertilize regularly with a high phosphate fertilizer. Water regularly and deeplyHowever, never, never water when temperatures are above 90 degrees. With this additional water and food during the warm weather, you must

inspect your iris frequently..... Don't go away for a three week vacation and expect everything to be just hunky-dory when you return neighbors can at times be a little too helpful. With vigilance should difficulties occur they are easily surmounted.

Here are a few of the dependable off Bloomers for your consideration.

WEDDING VOW Ghio 1972. A snow-white of such purity of coloring that it takes the title of "Whitest white" with ease. White beard, broad form, and rippling with ruffles. Perfect branching in fact three branches a spur and the terminal. The lower two branches rebranch. Flowers are extra large. Height thirty-seven inches and the rhizome is so vigorous you have an instant clump. This is my first year for this beauty. Its first bloom came early in March and then in mid July it put up three additional bloom stalks that were equal if not better than the earlier bloom. It made two to three increases on each bloom stalk that were of considerably larger size than many I received this year for cold cash. Did I mention that all bud sockets were multiple?

COUNTY FAIR Corlew 1966. This gorgeous full yellow self is ruffled with a little laced edging at top of standards and bottom of falls... but in this flower the depth of color is not affected and the effect is lovely. There is a slightly lighter area about the orange yellow beard. The hafts are clean and the color there is more intense. There are three well spaced branches plus the terminal. All bud sockets are multiple. The whole flower shimmers like taffeta and the substance is heavy. Individual flowers last for four days and that applies to the summer and early January "Off-Bloom".

SAN LEANDRO Gaulter 1968. This for its period of bloom is the most floriferous. This year the bloom started in March and there was never a day from then until the last of July that there wasn't an acceptable bloom stalk. Still it has such terrific vigor that there was plenty of increase for another year. It is a reverse bitone in the lavender shades. The large beautifully formed flowers are in perfect balance to the thirty-eight stalk. Branching is good and flowers are held in such a way that there is no crowding either by the stalk or other blooms. All bud sockets are multiple and well timed. The domed ruffled and slightly laced standards are a rich lavender. The wide flaring falls of a slightly lighter shade are deeply ruffled and fluted. The smooth waxy texture shimmers like satin. It has marvelous substance and the

flowers hold well regardless of weather.

SEASIDE O.L. Brown 1967. This child of WINTER OLYMPICS has much the same form. It is a huge heavily ruffled flax blue self. The standards are domed and the extra wide semi-flaring falls are almost fluted. The beard is light yellow tipped blue. The stalk has three well spaced branches plus the terminal. All bud sockets are multiple. Height is about thirty-six inches. Flowers hold well and have the substance of leather. The first bloom comes early mid-season and then it will repeat in July and August.

SPANISH GIFT Shoop 1965. This bright ruffled orange doesn't have such large flowers but their size is adequate. The wide ruffled falls flare nicely and the slightly open standards are held erect. The beard is a deep orange-red. The strong stalks are well branched and it usually blooms three times a year. Once during the regular season, again in mid-summer and finally in early January.

There are two more of Glen Corlew's that bloom twice for me. First is MURMURING MORN with full-fashioned white blossoms on heavy, well branched stalks. The white beard appears to have been sprinkled with paprika. Bud sockets are multiple and the flowers hold well. Second is VIRTUOSO with bright yellow blooms which appear even brighter by the white area that surrounds the self beard. Branching and bud count are excellent. Both are 1970 introductions.

HAUNTING RHAPSODY Ghio 1968. is considered a remontant by even the purists. But it certainly does not fall into the strappy poorly substantiated class. The well branched 38" stalks carry many lilting ruffled blooms of lavender orchid. In my garden its bloom started in January and never stopped until November. After all.... the poor plant needs a little time to catch its breath.

So if its more than one blooming period you want please don't be satisfied with the inferior types. Come up a way up to the OFF-BLOOMERS.



Robin Feathers

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

CLIMATE EFFECTS

Edwin Rundlett, Staten Island, N.Y. The climate charts I use most are entitled Climatology of the United States, No. 60 Series, CLIMATES OF THE STATES, a Department of Commerce publication. There is one for each state of the union. These are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 at 30 cents each. They record summaries from all of the recording Weather Bureau Stations. The parts interesting me most but not exclusively, are the FREEZE DATA, station by station. These cover a long period of years, so are better than the record of any single year. They give means or averages.

Richard E. Gibson, Sacramento, California.... (to a robin member in Utah) If the reblooming trait is to become an important factor in iris, the climate factor must be recognized and not made a competitive factor. I should not tell you that your rebloomers are not worth while because they aren't as pretty as mine, nor should you criticize mine because they will not rebloom in your climate. The problem should be faced in the same way as we face the fact that I have orange and lemon trees in my yard and you don't. Similarly, apples don't grow well here but they do for you. I will grow my oranges, you grow your apples and no one argues about it. I don't think reblooming iris are any different and I should acknowledge your limitations and not criticize your best efforts and you should not criticize mine because you can't use what is produced in my climate. Perhaps we should have more than one Symposium.

Phyllis Holtz, Kellogg, Idaho..... The only way I can see around the problem of rebloom or no rebloom is for the customer to try. Certainly there will be a lot of moans and groans and complaints that such and such an iris won't rebloom for this person or that, and I certainly have done my share of fussing about such matters. But if one honestly says that the iris reblooms in the following locations, then the customer at least has a chance of comparison of climates and should be able to pick and choose properly. With pollen daubers, including me, it really isn't too important if a named rebloomer does not rebloom for me here at Kellogg. When I use it with one that really does its stuff here, I have a reasonably good chance of upping the quality of what I am working on, plus enjoying the spring bloom. So the seller is going to have to rely on reports like in the Recorder as to what reblooms where, and tell the customer honestly and then let it go at that. My only sure way is the trial and error method.

Edwin Rundlett, Staten Island, N.Y..... I agree about the multiple variables affecting remontancy, but feel very strongly that any iris society would be negligent if it did not attempt to give buyers some guidance as to whether an iris offered for sale in a distant place would be likely to rebloom. We do have unsolved problems, and that is for the best. Something to work for. "Let the buyers beware" is poor policy, but he should beware just the same, for mighty few rebloomers rebloom in the northern tier of states east of the Rockies Recording where the hybridizer resides is not enough to establish the range of the new rebloomer. I would say that somehow that address should be followed by a series of numbers, each representing a different climate where rebloom for two years had taken place, would be desirable, if anybody had time and energy to collect and record that data. I don't quite like the ten climate zones of the U.S.D.A. plant hardiness map since winter minimums are hardly a guide for irises, but lacking anything better, that might do.

Raymond L. Scheele, Westbury, N.Y.... I completely agree with Edwin (Edwin Rundlett) that "satisfying buyers should be our chief aim". This I believe requires a testing of varieties under garden conditions, not field conditions. Not to address this problem is to create a moribund state in the reblooming society.

EXCERPTS FROM -LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Walter A. Moores, Fort Worth, Texas.... We had almost no winter in January 1972; therefore TB's started blooming in mid-March, and by show-time in late April, there were almost no blooms. We had to have a show since Ft. Worth was hosting the Region 17 Convention. I think I took about 10 stalks, none of which was show worthy.

I need to add that the spring and summer rains did not come and hot weather started in April and lasted until October. We did not have any fall. The temperatures dropped from the middle 90's in late October to the middle 30's where it has stayed up to this writing (Dec.17,1972). 1972 makes one think about giving up the iris growing hobby.

Nothing spectacular in the way of rebloom occurred. Out of all of my rebloomers, only RAVENWOOD and TAN SUN produced commendable flowers. The others which did manage to rebloom were either deformed or on snaky stalks. These rebloomed:

July: RAVENWOOD, MUST HAVE

August: Tell Pink seedling (297A X 173D)

September: Nothing (hard to believe)

October: RAVENWOOD, TWICE BLESSED, BLACK DUET, SDLG. (Snow Goddess X Winter Flame), sdlg. (Summer Pink X Lunar Fire), and AUTUMN SNOWDRIFT.

November: SKY QUEEN, EARLY SNOWBIRD, RENAISSANCE, BRIGHT EYES, (SNOW GODDESS X WINTER PLAME), VILLA GOLD, TAN SUN, RAVENWOOD, VIOLET VIRGO, AUTUMN SNOWDRIFT, EBONY EMBERS, and sdlg. (Beaucatcher X Autumn Snow-drift).

The seedlings of mine in parentheses are not much, except (Summer Pink X Lunar Fire). I have kept them because they are faithful rebloomers and add a lot of color to the garden when nothing else blooms. It is hard to believe that some of the old reliables around here never tried this year. Included are BLUE SURPRISE, CAYENNE CAPERS, VALIANT ORCHID, JOSEPH'S MANTLE and BEAUCATCHER. SKY QUEEN rebloomed two months later than last year, but she was deformed.

Let's hope 1973 turns out to be "The Brighter Day". I've already passed "The Edge of Night" and "The Secret Storm" with my iris.

CULTURE

Dorothy Cunningham, Gladstone, Virginia We seem to need several listings of iris habits or preferences, i.e., those that need annual resetting, those that like crowding, and those that like partial shade from hottest sun.

Charles V. Applegate, Perrysville, Ohio.... A hay mulch works well for me. If it is cut young enough before the seeds have developed you don't get weeds from it. Straw has been tried but it never works as well as hay. It has much less in it so it does not enrich the soil as hay does. Also it is lighter and looser and does not stay in place as well.

Patricia Adams, Spokane, Washington.... There are many different ideas on mulching. I find that a good mulch works with some of my garden things, but not all. However, I do cover my iris with 1 1/2 to 2 inches of compost each spring. This works quickly into the soil and enriches it. This cannot, in the strictest sense of the word, be called a real mulch. However, the straw and other very rough parts of the compost do stay on top for most of the summer. That gives a very light covering to them. I find very little rot when I do it this way. I have used straw and a friend of mine uses wood chips. However, neither one of us puts it up close to the plants.

BREEDING FOR REBLOOMERS

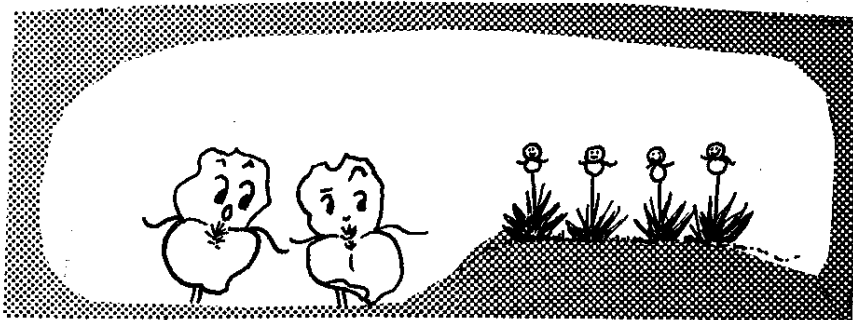
Richard E. Gibson, Sacramento, California.... EARLY SNOWBIRD reblooms well here. It has good substance as proved this fall during a rain-windstorm. It has pollen and sets seed. I haven't gotten anything from it yet except a white with LOVELY AGAIN that isn't the bloom or branching, but it blooms from spring until winter. Will use it for breeding purposes only to establish the ability to remain active during the summer. This is a trait of LOVELY AGAIN, not EARLY SNOWBIRD. It is a warm white without hafts marks, some ruffling. It has closed stands and semi-flaring falls and is not too unlike CREAM CREST but in white. It has good branching in the fall and spring with 5-7 buds, though one stalk had 13 this fall. If grown well, it should always have 7.

any pink seedlings in the fall. These were maiden bloom on 1970 crosses. One didn't have too good quality but it involved MELODY LANE and DOUBLE DUTY so I wasn't expecting much. Three were good quality and they were (JUNE MEREDITH x COLLEGE GIRL) X FALL MAJESTY. One was the darkest pink I've seen in a rebloomer, however the flowers were small and it was a lost chord (it now has 2 increases).

VARIETAL COMMENTS

Lloyd Zurbrigg, Radford, Virginia.... Of the named varieties both Margaret and I place HALLOWEEN PARTY above all others. It is really fully equal to the "oncners" in beauty and grows well here and reblooms reliably in early October. I have some seedlings of it with GRAND BAROQUE to bloom next spring, and am very disappointed not to have gotten more of the 1970 seeds transplanted out this spring.

Al Thimsen, Richmond, Virginia.... BESS BERGIN has enough substance for three or four irises. It is the heaviest I have ever seen.



"MAYBE THEY ARE ALL NAMED 'DU-ET'
BECAUSE THEY 'DO-IT' AGAIN !?"

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THE REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

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