

THE

# MEDIANITE



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The Median Iris Society is a Section of the American Iris Society.

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## Greetings from the President

Inclement weather has almost been a blessing for me this winter, as it has given me the opportunity to pour over catalogs and plan for the future. My irises were moved to a new one-half acre location last fall, and I anticipate having a new home to landscape over the next few years. So I have been getting acquainted with trees and shrubs and sources for all sorts of plant material. What fun! I am one of those people who enjoys the planning as much as the doing, so it has been an enjoyable winter. And spring will soon be here. Last spring was quite outstanding in the Pacific Northwest, and that will be a hard act to follow. But I'm sure there will be much of interest to see and do.

Speaking of spring, I hope to see many of you in San Jose at the A.I.S. Convention in April. There should be Median irises to be seen, ranging from SDBs and IBs at the Coleman garden to MTBs and BBs at Melrose Gardens. In addition, we are planning a program on Intermediate Irises for the Median Section Meeting, with slides of some of the newer things. I know you won't want to miss it.

I am very encouraged by the numbers of Median Irises being recognized by awards or by high placement on various lists. I'm thinking not only of the wonderful show put on by medians in Seattle in '84, resulting in the triumphs of BEDTIME STORY and AACHEN ELF, but also of PECCADILLO running off with the Walther Cup in '85, followed by HONEY GLAZED and HELLCAT as runnersup, and of others which have garnered a number of votes for awards or as guest irises at recent conventions. I think we can take pride in the increasing recognition for our "little ones." A heartfelt thanks goes to all the hybridizers and pollen daubers who have been diligently working (can all this fun be work?) with these charmers.

Our improved financial condition allows us to return to four issues per year of the MEDIANITE. Please give your help, your encouragement, and lots of articles to our Editor, so that she may continue to put out a high quality publication.

Jayne Ritchie

### Editor's Note

With this issue of the MEDIANITE, Bee Warburton is 'retiring' from her position as Consulting Editor. I can't hope to match her expertise in all the facets of irises, but I have gained much insight from watching her work on the last four issues. What an inspiration and education! I am grateful to Bee, as I'm sure all Median iris enthusiasts are, for the energy and wisdom she has again imparted to our Society. (And just when I'd finally come upon a proper title for her. Rats!)

This issue concludes the reprinted material from the July 1965 MEDIANITE issue edited by Jean Witt, with a focus on MTBs and median-size species irises; and the subject of species is brought up-to-date in magnificent style by Eric Tankesley-Clarke.

I hope you will think of the MEDIANITE as your forum, and will continue to send me your articles, comments and suggestions. I'm sometimes slow to respond--especially when I'm in the process of getting an issue ready--but I truly need and appreciate all your contributions. Keep those cards and letters coming!

Marian Schmuhl

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## FROM GERARD'S HERBAL, EDITION OF 1633, p. 58-59

(Reprinted from Medianite, Vol.6, No.3, July 1965)

"There are many other varieties of the broad-leaved Floure de luces mentioned by our Author; as also of the narrow leafed, which here wee doe not intend to insist upon, but referre such as are desirous to trouble themselves with these nicities, to Clusius and others. Notwithstanding I judge it not amisse to give the figures and briefe descriptions of some more of the Dwarfe Floure de-luces, as also one of the narrower leafed.

7. "This therefore which we give you in the seventh place is Iris flore caeruleo obsoleto etc. Lobely. (This was before the days of binomial nomenclature, remember) The leaves of this are small and long like those of the wild Bizantine Floure de-luce; the root (which is not very big) hath many strong threds or fibres coming out of it; the stalke (which is somewhat tall) divides it selfe into two or three branches, whereon grow floures in shape like those of the other Floure de-luces, but their color is of an over-worne blew or Ash colour."

### » Species Notes

Julius Prodan, "The Iris Species of Rumania," *Bulletinul Gradinii Botanice Si Al Muzeului Botanic Dela Universitatea Din Cluj, Roumanie, 1934*. (Translation published by the Median Iris Society, 1964) is helpful in answering the question of color variation in Iris variegata. On page 48 he describes the flowers as having falls "red-brownish toward the top, in the middle dark violet veins enclose light violet areas, with a narrow yellow line along the margin; haft ...with violet veins and light yellow-violet areas. The standards "yellow (gold yellow)...brownish-reddish spotted haft." Among the herbarium specimens that he studied, one was marked "flowers yellow." One (from Vienna) with large perianth parts was blue or spotted with blue. (Was it perhaps a garden flower?) In another "falls as well as the standards are dark blue striped." In var. pontica which he described as a new variety, the yellow apparently is not restricted to the margins of the falls. The blade of the falls is described as having a brown spot near the tip "below which there are brown veins enclosing sulphur yellow fields." The standards are "light brown with darker veins, yellowish with numerous brown veins toward the base." The style arms are brown (they are yellow in the type.)

A plant variously described as Iris lepida Heuffel and I. lurida Reichb. from just over the border at Grebenac, Jugoslavia was thought by Bernatsky to be only a variety of I. variegata with more intense colors: falls... "whitish, violet along the margin, transversed by violet veins from the base to the middle; the standards white, slightly overrun with violet; beard yellow."

If any of these color variations are the result of hybridity, they are not, it would seem, the aftermath of crossing with I. pallida, which Prodan says is seldom found in the wild in Rumania, though cultivated in gardens and parks. The distribution map shows I. variegata growing in the same localities as I. hungarica Waldst. and Kit., but this would not necessarily mean that they occupy the same habitat.

### Note On Lémon

In the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society* vol. LXV, pp. 363-375, November 1940, "Iris of Yesterday and Today" by B.R. Long, we found considerable information on the French iris breeder Lémon. Long says there was an article on Lémon's iris unsigned, but perhaps by Salter, headed Paris, May 31st, 1841, in the first volume of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*. The following year the Paris correspondent wrote again: "...from artificial impregnation of germanica, plicata, Buriensis, Swertii, and pallida totally new colors have been produced, and the beautiful mixtures...give abundant proof of what may be done by judicious hybridization." Long comments: "This article is of interest as it definitely states that these varieties, of which a list of 40 is given--Lémon's varieties--were produced by judicious hybridization, and were not the result of sowing chance seed pods." (p.364). No mention is made of variegata, but it seems safe to say that it too must have figured in the ancestry of Lémon's varieties since there are plants of variegata coloring among them.



# Further Commentary

(Reprinted from Medianite, Vol.6, No.3, July 1965)

L. F. Randolph

While reading Jean Witt's very interesting discussion of color inheritance in the diploid tall bearded and table irises,\* including comments on the views of Paul Cook, I was reminded of Dykes' brief comments of more than 50 years ago on the little-known results of crossing I. pallida and I. variegata, (The Genus Iris pp.234-235. 1913), and the Mendelian analyses of flower color inheritance published a few years later by Bliss in England (Journ. Roy. Hort. Soc., London 45:289-292, 1919-1920; Actes et Comptes Rendus 1er Confer. Internat. Iris, 1922. Soc. Nat. Hort. France, 1923). A review of what was known about iris genetics, summarized in 1945 by A.H. Sturtevant and myself (A.I.S. Bull. 99:52-66), included available information on diploid tall bearded cultivars, and was brought up to date in Garden Irises published in 1959. But much more information about iris genetics has become available since then through important contributions of Jean Witt and others.

During an iris collecting trip along the Dalmatian coast of Yugoslavia in 1954, I discovered a white mutant of I. pallida near Dubrovnik, and among large populations of this species in this general area there were attractive orchid-pink variants of the more typical blue-lavender forms.

On subsequent iris collecting trips in southeastern Europe during 1959 and 1961 I. variegata was found growing wild in Austria, central Yugoslavia and elsewhere in the Balkans. Among various collections of this species growing in my garden at the present time there is a variant lacking yellow color in both standards and falls, described from Cluj, Rumania as I. variegata var. pontica\*\* and I also have a similar pale yellow form, suggesting that the yellow locus in this species and its derivatives may include alleles for different amounts of yellow coloration. Dykes inclusion of I. leucographa Kerner and I. lepida Hueffel as albino forms of I. variegata is additional evidence of the mutability of the yellow locus of this species (Dykes, The Genus Iris, p.160 1913).

In attempting to verify the assumption that the wild forms variously described as I. squalens and I. sambucina are in fact natural hybrids of I. pallida and I. variegata, I have had no difficulty in producing first generation hybrids. These are tannish blends of the squalens type. But hybrids of this sort that we have produced are almost completely sterile. The plants are very vigorous but little or no good pollen is formed; controlled pollinations have failed repeatedly to set seed and pods are very rarely formed from open-pollinated flowers. We haven't attempted large numbers of such crosses involving different collections of these species from the wild, nor have we attempted backcrosses to either parent species, some of which might be successful. But from the karyotype analyses of their chromosomes made by Dr. Mitra in my laboratory some years ago (see Garden Irises p.300) it is apparent that the chromosomes of I. pallida and I. variegata are very different and sterility among their hybrids would be expected. Backcrosses of the first generation pallida X variegata hybrids to either parent should be more productive of viable seed than sib crosses, and succeeding generations should be still more fertile. I suspect this is how the cultivars listed for the first time in nursery catalogs more than 100 years ago by Lémon and others in France had their origin. Since there appear to be no published records of controlled pollinations having been made during that very early period of iris culture it is probable those early varieties were obtained from open-pollinated seed, which was known from the much earlier reports of Clusius to vary in a wonderful way.\*\*\*

Recently we have looked at the pairing behavior of the chromosomes of first generation hybrids of I. pallida and I. variegata. There is much irregularity of the sort to be expected from visibly unlike chromosomes; some are unpaired at the metaphase stage of the first meiotic division in the pollen mother cells and others are associated in unusual configurations, probably due to unlike structural rearrangements of parts of the chromosomes of the parental species. It is not surprising that many of the older diploid tall bearded varieties are poor seed producers.

The Mendelian analyses of color inheritance by Bliss, referred to earlier, are worthy of careful study, even though he failed to achieve his principal purposes of producing a crimson iris and a plicata with bright yellow ground color. He did obtain recessive whites from both amoenas and plicatas, and dominant whites from the intermediates, Albicans and Germanica Alba.

\*Reprinted in Medianite, Vol.26, No.2, Summer 1985

\*\*Prodan's description of I. variegata var. pontica differs (see previous page); interpretation of this variety has perhaps changed since his day; or else I. variegata presents a confusing situation, even in its homeland. JGW

\*\*\* See Note on Lémon, previous page.



By crossing red-purples with MME. CHEREAU, a white ground plicata, he noted independent segregation for red and plicata. He knew of Willstätter's early work on the chemistry of flower colors and was aware of the fact that the yellow pigment of iris flowers may be borne either in plastids or the cell sap.

Bliss' chief claim to fame among iris hybridizers was the production unexpectedly of the tetraploid variety, DOMINION, from the  $2n \times 4n$  cross of CORDELIA X AMAS. This was one of the first, and from the breeding standpoint most important, of the numerous tetraploids to be produced from the functioning of an unreduced gamete of a diploid. It was these occurrences that brought to the tetraploid level the rich diversity of genes present in the older diploid tall and thus made possible a much greater variety of color forms among present-day tetraploid cultivars than would have been possible from intercrosses of existing tetraploid tall bearded species.

The attention now being focused on derivatives of I. pallida and I. variegata and related species such as I. cengialti, illyrica, reginae and perrieri in the development of table irises, and in unraveling the complexities of diploid iris genetics, should yield interesting results of fundamental importance to all iris geneticists as well as to the breeders of tall bearded tetraploids and of table irises.

## ROBIN EXCERPTS

Re: APHYLLA, ARILS AND I. CROATICA

Esther Terrill, Burlingame, Kansas

"I noticed in one of the early 1920 bulletins that I. sambucina is a native of Czechoslovakia. I think this explains why my grandmothers had drifts of it growing over their gardens. I had always thought it an ugly little blend. But after I got it from Dr. Peter Werckmeister I took a good look at it. Decided the gold and blue..that..give the gray stands and gray-blue falls may be good to break up the blue and the gold. It is hardy! And dainty.

"The aphylla-arils still fascinate me. The rose Oncobred from (Golden Eagle x Joppa Parrot) X violet aphylla and also Thisbe gave a grayed-pink cross as a whole. All have aphylla branching...aril erased the violet of aphylla. One...of darling form...is a light rose--not rose pink but an orchid rose, looks Table. This cross was crossed both ways with Progenitor pollen and gave some nice Table-sized or near Table-sized two toned or bitoned seedlings. Two were nice dark blue amoena, little Whole Cloths. Another cross had one with lavender stands, violet blue falls; form not as nice but cute. This had pollen. It takes so many years to run these various species crosses to where they give nice ones."

She has this to say about I. croatica. She has two, I. croatica Klaznjec, which she calls "K", and I. croatica Straznjec which she calls "S". "I found "S" to be more coarse in stem and flower, and a rather ordinary purple bloom. But I really liked "K"...real good branching, nearly like an aphylla...light blue lavender. Each branch had one or more branches with terminal and other bud sockets. Both were VERY FERTILE, setting pods, and pollen good even this year. The pods were interesting, those on "S" turned deep purple black after maturing, while those on "K" stayed green...they were cute pods, kind of like aphylla." "K" had daintier blooms, as well as lighter colored. She used the pollen on a nice red TB seedling and says "I'm hoping for at least one or two plants to be Table height so that I can breed back to croatica for a red Table...." "I don't know a thing about how croatica will breed, what it will give, how dominant it is for color, form, faults, etc."

Re: TABLE IRIS BREEDING

Earl Roberts, Indianapolis, Ind.

Germination was very poor from his crosses using the slim-stemmed pallida H-5 with MTB. Most of his work has been using Zebra, imbricata and reginae with Tables. "Both Zebra and imbricata throw too-large leaves and heavy stalks, although they do give good bud count with imbricata being dominant for throwing its 4 buds per terminal. Reginae seems to give that S-type of stem that I like but it also throws narrow flower parts and marked hafts."..."That I. variegata Beardsley was a form that Bob Beardsley gave to me when I visited his garden. I called it that to keep the various clones separate. Actually that variegata was given to Beardsley by Paul Cook who said it had never rebloomed for him. But it always did for Bob and does for me when well grown...I lost variegata pontica two years ago; liked its brownish color. The pallida H-5 had a stem that probably was no more than  $1/8$  to  $3/16$ " at the base, it was really thin. Of course it was short, too, about 12 inches tall, and with only four buds. I. illyrica also carries a stem that is very slim. Rhaetica ca carries a very slender stem, and has a near tangerine beard but seems difficult to grow well. This year I bloomed a cross of I. subbiflora X aphylla 10 dark violet. One blue amoena had a very thin stem and it was crossed to 60R77, a mulberry seedling from Zebra/imbricata X self, and a few seed resulted. This may be mixing them the hard way.

There were several items on Table Iris work (in Paul Cook's notebooks) which I hope to get another trip. Most of this pertained to his use of mellita X Tables to bring different genes into the 24 chromosome pot. As others have noted in this work he had difficulty in getting seed and when what appeared as good seed was obtained, germination was often poor sometimes."

(Reprinted from Medianite, Vol. 6, No.3, July 1965)

Re: MINIMIZERS

Lee Eberhardt, Springfield, Ohio

"Initial intercrossing of standard diploid MTB varieties resulted in little else except frustration. From several hundred crosses only a handful of seedlings resulted. About this time I heard of minimizers and obtained *I. cengialtii* K23-A, Pink Cameo X *attica*, Chantilly X *italica*, Chewink X *bosniaca* (false), Daystar X *cengialtii* K23-A, and used these on diploid tall, F<sub>1</sub> of the TB x *aphylla*, BB, and diploid and tetraploid species. Last year some of these bloomed. Noteworthy was (Chivalry x Thisbe) X K23-A which gave a group of thin-stemmed 10 to 18" blues and whites, all small flowered. Bloom was spotty, but this work indicates that K23-A, Daystar X K23-A, Chewink S *bosniaca* (false), along with Nambe and Widget, are minimizers. This year (1965) it was also apparent that C700 and *cengialtii* do a good job of reducing flowers to acceptable size."

Lee reports that he took to heart the advice to try a wide variety of species combinations and has seed planted of the following, to name a few: Mme Chereau X Dale Dennis; Thisbe X (Mme Chereau x *mellita*); Truce X Zua; Derring-Do X Thisbe; Smarty Pants X Knotty Pine; Widget X *Illyrica* Trieste; Chewink X *I. cengialtii* K23-A; Millionaire X #2 Pum-var.

In practically all cases quantities of seed were fairly generous. Remind us to check back in a few years and see whether any of these odd-ball trials paid off in anything approaching MTB!

Re: DIPLOID APPROACH

Walter Welch, Middlebury, Indiana

"You folks can go exploring in other species for possible material for Table Iris, but I am sticking to crossing Tables with the various diploid TB. It is my candid opinion that they are our best source material, at least for the present. Except for a few colors which are exclusive with the tetraploid TB, such as the tangerine pinks, all of the standard colors and patterns can be found in the diploid varieties. I remember Mary Williamson stating that intercrossing Tables gave only more *plicatas* and *variegatas*, so using diploid TB with Tables is the most logical course for development. Then of course sib crossing is necessary.

"In a cross of Kinglet X Gold Imperial I found several seedlings with perfect TI form and branching in the F<sub>1</sub> progeny. I am using two whites from this cross as parents with good results.

"One of my most exciting progenies came from some bee pods on a seedling from *I. variegata* X Table which I had saved because it had yellow stands and falls near white though not full white. From this one row of about 20 plants I named Topsy Turvy, Brown Crown, and First Time. Imagine a range from white, yellow, brown bitone, reverse Pinnacle, *plicatas*, all in this small progeny. Apparently the Tables are heterozygous for several different patterns.

"In a cross of Monarda X Widget I found a nice red *plicata*, indicating that Monarda contains the *plicata* factor. With yellows it should give some nice reds. (Parentage of Monarda is Shekinah X Parisiana--JGW)

"Another interesting cross was (Widget x Daystar X ?). In this I found *amoenas*, *neglectas*, and whites; one white had a reddish beard and another a dark brown beard, very appealing. Further crosses of a couple of these whites with a *plicata* seem to indicate that one contains the *plicata* gene, while the other lacks it.

"For better blues I am using (blue diploid x *mellita*) X white Table and from this I also hope to get some Whole Cloth type Tables.

"As yet we have no single specimen which might be called the ideal or perfect model, but... probably Siskin and Kinglet come closest to the fundamental requirements."

## A List of Sissies

Jean Witt

After mild weather in early spring which started the irises growing, we had several nights down to 26 degrees in March just when the apricots were in bloom. As a result, I can give you a long list of oldies that are not very suitable parents here (they may be o.k. in climates where it stays cold until spring finally comes). Remember, one of our aims is to produce MTB that are hardy! These were badly damaged: Aksarben, Sylvia, Thais, Susan Bliss, ?Mary Garden, Dawn, Rhages, Widget, Parisiana, Pluie d'Or; some seedlings from crosses of ?Mary Garden with Pluie d'Or, Mme. Chereau, and Sherwin-Wright; nearly all the Dawn seedlings from several different parents; the "headshrinkers" from Pixie. Some damage was done to the following: Delight, Pink Jadu, Queen of May, Shekinah, Darius, Her Majesty, and part of one clump of Sherwin-Wright. Freeze damage is always followed by rot in many of these. ?Mary Garden and Dawn are the worst about passing on their spring freeze-susceptibility. Note that Shekinah, Sylvia and Pluie d'Or, all related, were all damaged.

I've also concluded that some old irises lack the ability to bloom every year, and that they pass this trait on to their progeny, casting doubt on their suitability as parents. Her Majesty and several of the little Sass plicatas are on my suspect list for this.

(I thought it was important to include this article in our 1985 reprint partly as an inspiration to present day gardeners and hybridizers. Couldn't we use some updating of this type of reporting in the Medianite?-MHS)

## Breeding for Tetraploid Tables

Marilyn Sheaff

I have become increasingly convinced over the past six years that table irises are entirely possible from tetraploid breeding. Beginning in 1959 when small numbers of petite borders began to show up consistently in my seedling patch from blood lines involving combinations of pinks with Snow Flurry derivatives, I have been intrigued by the possibilities of the small tetraploids. I can hear you asking, "If tables are possible from tetraploid lines, why haven't they shown up by accident in tetraploid breeding just as they did in diploid breeding?" There is a very logical explanation for this. Because we have liked our tetraploids TALL, our breeders have been consistently throwing out the small things which turned up in their seedling patches. Until very recently, Border irises were merely a by-product of tall breeding, and very little crossing of Border X Border was being done by hybridizers...So, just as we could never achieve a black iris by crossing black X blue, we will never achieve a tetraploid Table Iris until we begin a concentrated program of crossing Border X Border.

There is probably more than one gene for height in operation, and certainly there are many genes involved if we consider all of the characteristics which Table Iris breeders must work for. This complicates the job of achieving a tetraploid Table Iris but does not make it impossible.

I am afraid that I also considered the small things as by-products for several years. I did not throw them away, but it was not until 1962 that I crossed Little Lynn with other small irises in an effort to reduce the size even further. The most interesting results were achieved in a cross of Little Lynn and a small iris resulting from two Fay seedlings used for the Lipstick cross. Both of the seedlings which Fay used to produce Lipstick would have been classified as Borders if they had been introduced. The cross of Little Lynn X Lipstick sib produced all undersized irises. About 2/3 of them were Border size or less, with at least 1/3 having some of the characteristics of Tables. Many of this 1/3 were slender of stem and small of flower, but since size of flower and stem are not dependable in a first year plant, I am waiting for spring of 1965 to measure these.

In the meantime, probably because I have concentrated on breeding with Fay 51-40, I had small irises popping up all over the garden as by-products of tall crosses. The amazing thing is that in one cross in particular I had about 1/5 small things from average size irises. And in this cross the small things were very small indeed! The family tree is printed below:

Hall pink seedling X Celestial Snow	X	Hall pink seedling X Celestial Snow
59-9		60-3
65-21 seedlings		

These little things had stems which measured about 1/4 inch below the lowest blossom on the stem. The flower sizes of the ones that I measured ranged from 2" x 3" to 3" x 3". The height of the flower in all of these was hard to judge correctly because the falls in most cases were horizontal or extremely flared. Notice that in this cross the combination of pink blood plus Snow Flurry is present.

The other cross which produced a disproportionate amount of small things...also involved this combination, this time a sib to Lipstick X Pink Flurry. This is a double dose of the combination since Pink Flurry is one of the few introduced pinks with Snow Flurry blood. In this case the stems for all the small things measured from less than 1/4 inch below the lowest bud to slightly more. The blossoms again rated about 3" x 2" because of the flare of the falls. All of these little things seem to retain the delightful Snow Flurry form. The height range of the seedlings which I have been describing is from 14 to 21 inches, so you can see that they are really little bits of things. Also the stems on these seedlings are curved and graceful--not the typical straight stem of the Border. There were about 30 seedlings total from each of these crosses; 5 little seedlings were saved from the 62-21 seedlings, while 6 little seedlings were saved from the second cross (62-19 seedlings). All of these little seedlings were given letters at the end of the alphabet to differentiate them from tall from the same cross.

As I said, there is probably more than one gene in operation on the height of irises. The fact that small things occur with such unusual frequency in crosses involving double doses of pinks X Snow Flurry would seem to bear this out. Any of you who are familiar with Mr. Fay's crosses leading up to Lipstick, and even his later breeding with Lipstick and its sibs, are aware that small things were also occurring in his garden to some extent. Up until about two years ago Mr. Fay was interested only in relatively tall things. Now, however, he has a charming red bearded white Border from these bloodlines which he saved and will introduce. \*

There is a lot of work to be done in this field. I think that we will achieve a tetraploid table before we understand the genetics completely. I do not believe that we are going to be limited to whites and pinks in the tetraploid tables. My best results in the smalls are coming from my 60-3 which should be capable of producing blues. (It is a dominant white from pink X Celestial Snow--see diagram). Also I have noticed many extremely undersized black irises in hybridizers' seedling beds. It should be possible to breed down in size in the black lines.

## Aphylla For MTB

Lee Eberhardt

Several years ago I obtained a purple form of *I. aphylla* from Paul Cook and a clump of Thisbe from Helen Doriot. My original idea was to cross to tall to try to get some branching in the tall. Initial crosses involved Chantilly, Matterhorn, Minnie Colquitt, Chivalry, Zantha, Mexico, Gold Sovereign, Great Lakes, all X *aphylla polonica*, purple Paul Cook *aphylla*, and Thisbe; also a chance cross of Dreamchild X Thisbe. Many of the seedlings were thin stemmed and wiry with small blooms, but the branching in practically all cases was typically *aphylla*. Also never more than two buds to the socket, but bloom season was extended due to the many bloomstalks per rhizome and multiple branches.

This work resulted in several color breaks away from the *aphylla* purples and lavenders, two exceptional crosses being Mexico X *aphylla polonica*, which gave a blue-bearded red-purple, a yellow, and an icy pale blue; and Dreamchild X Thisbe, which gave two yellow selfs and a nice medium red. Again, close to MTB, but not acceptable under strict AIS definition of MTB. Work has continued sib-crossing, back-crossing and intercrossing these.

Other crosses were made with Gaynelle, Fairy Flax, Lilli-Blue. As would be expected from such crosses about all that bloomed were lavenders, purples and red-purples, mostly with *aphylla* type branching, beards mostly white and blue.

At the same time a number of tall x *pumila* crosses were made. Outstanding among these were: Illustrious X N-502, Jean Cayeux X Hanselmayer, Mary Randall X N-502, Mexico X *Cretica*, also Chantilly X *italica*. These bloomed a lot of interesting IB and SDB.

Some of the more interesting intermediate color forms were crossed with the thin-stemmed tall X *aphylla* F<sub>1</sub>, particularly where there was an interesting color variation. These crosses bloomed in 1960 and produced cool whites, yellows, near reds, near blues, and light blues. The small flowered and thin stemmed from these were crossed, selfed, and sibbed.

This year many of these latter bloomed. The result was a broad range of Table and near-Table types, with pure whites, a range of blues, several good reds and red bitones, a range of yellows, some with dark orange beards, a number of Chantilly blends, several shades of brown, and of course, lavenders, darkies and purples. Some interesting flower forms also appeared.

At this writing (May 14, 1965) some are still in bloom. I am not sure they are strictly MTB, due to bloom season. Some of these, a little on the short side, came in with the SDB. But practically all have thin stems and small flower size. Another question is the *aphylla* branching. Some branch right at the rhizome, but all have plenty of branches and buds giving extended bloom season.

The seedling rows previously indicated that Thisbe on such things as Lilli-Blue, Lilli-Yellow, and Lilli-Var, gave very interesting seedlings with lots of color variation. These usually run to very thin stems, small flowers, are short, bloom early, but when combined with the (tall x *aphylla*) x (tall x *pumila*) produce these MTB-like things.

One surprising thing about these seedlings is the fertility. Only a few are sterile, many are shy on pollen, but practically all will set seed. The chromosome count is so mixed up I can only guess at numbers in most cases. Another surprising thing is that not one *plicata* has shown up to date.

If none qualify as MTB, we will certainly have gotten a lot of education, fun, and IBs or BB's. I regret that Paul Cook could not have lived to see some of these seedlings. When he gave me the original purple form of *I. aphylla* he was quite discouraged about the possibilities of breaking the dominance of the strong purple of *aphylla*.

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\*In 1966, Moldovan introduced TOY SHOP: (Fay 64) 60-45. 19" L. W, white self, red beard, hint of green on first opening. Cashmere X New Arrival. HC 64, HM 67, JC 67, 68.



# Some Median-size Species Clones

## As Grown in Missouri

by

Eric Tankesley-Clarke

Over the past several years we have grown many species of iris, encompassing virtually every section and series represented. Our great fondness has been for the Eupogons. As with any genus, we have met greater success with some than others.

We grow our species Iris in relatively heavy soil. The high mineral content enhances the coloring of most genera's blossoms, and the iris are no exception. Our pH reaction is roughly neutral, leaning toward alkalinity. USDA puts us in Zone 6, but we are near a pocket designated as Zone 5. We cannot depend on snow cover--we have had plants utterly exposed to -20 degree (F) temperatures with strong winds bearing down. Summers tend to be hot and dry, dry enough that irrigation (for daylilies, for example) is expected. Springs, however, can produce more moisture than the soil can handle, causing heavy run-off. Every year, the first two weeks of May bring exceptionally strong winds--the peak of the tall bearded season. (This year's very early season avoided much of this problem.)

I have done little to the soil where the bearded species iris grow. A light mulch of bark helps keep weeds down and is gradually enriching the soil, as well as enhancing friability and moisture retention. I often spread boughs of cedar in December to help preserve what snow cover we might get.

Into these conditions I have introduced between 50 and 100 clones of bearded species which fall into the median range. Here are notes on a few of them.

Before launching into these descriptions, I should state that these are how the clones appear here in the Adamgrove garden. Some have come to us mislabeled. I have done my best to unravel them, sorting through much previously published material from MIS and any other sources I could find. My motivation in writing this piece is to document my efforts for the benefit of other collectors and hybridizers faced with similar problems. (While such laments are de rigueur, I suppose, I wasn't struck by their universality until I found, in the first issue of The Median, 1958, Rudolf Hanselmayer's complaint: "It is a pity that so many species are not truly labelled and one often needs 2 or 3 years to see what one has received. The plants which one gets are so small it takes several years to make them available to other people." The more things change....)

### I. aphylla

Especially because of its tetraploidy, this species has intrigued hybridizers for a long time. In a recent issue of the Medianite, Bee has already described much about its use as a median parent. Here, I will concern myself mainly with the performance of the plant for its own sake.

I grow about 20 clones of aphylla (some under different names may be identical). Few are outrageously vigorous, but it seems to be a matter of becoming established. Some settle in immediately. Most are fairly dependable bloomers; they balk at reproducing, though, until they have had time to investigate their surroundings.

Aphylla 61-56A, for instance, a short, exceptionally heavily-budded clone, blooms annually, whether newly lifted or not, and seems to multiply reasonably well. Last year, it was the only aphylla to set no bee pods in a species which is usually most willing. This year, it produced a sizable number. Odd. 61-56A is one of my favorite aphyllas because of its clear color, a soft red-violet, but a little bluer than many. In 1983, one plant produced a multi-branched stalk only about 8" high, with 14 buds, with something like 6 open at one time.

The clone, Schreiner #1, has taken three years in one place before it has begun any process one might call "growth." Yet, Schreiner #1 bloomed for us and propagated better when we were in St. Louis, with rich river bottom soil. At last, clumps are forming.

H-17 of Hanselmayer is a curious thing. Perhaps most curious is the rife disagreement over its color. One can find descriptions varying all the way from smoky violet to yellow. I can't even agree with myself! At different times I have noted it as "creamy grey", "greyed chartreuse", and "smoked yellow". One has to wonder whether it is pure aphylla. Nothing about its growth habit particularly sets it outside the range of aphylla. Its form seems within accepted limits. But since no other aphylla (to my knowledge) produces yellow

pigments in the blades of standards or falls, the spectre of Dubious Identity arises. I have not yet used it in hybridizing. Crosses and backcrosses need to be made with other aphylla clones to test the yellow pigment factors. Crosses also need to be made with other yellow-flowered tetraploids. This has been suggested time and time again over the years, but I can find little about the results of such crosses. I have had only limited success in using its pollen. I have several bee-pod seedlings of it which have not yet bloomed--an anxiously awaited event.



a) aphylla B66-2

Another curiosity, aphylla B66-2, is almost certainly a hybrid. Its growth habit appears purely aphylla, but the blooms have a lutescens look (though not so strongly as benacensis.) It does branch from the rhizome, the stalk remains leafless, and leaf growth and shape conform to usual aphylla appearances. The cold white flowers have slightly pointed standards; the falls often recurve. I have not used it as a parent, except to self it. Selfing yielded a large pod of seed last year, and I allowed it to ripen several bee-pods this year. I would be most interested to see a chromosome count on this one.

B66-1 is distinguished by the form of the flower. Both standards and falls roll back along the sides, parallel to the midribs, creating an almost semi-circular cross-section. Standards are held vertically on long claws.

One of the stronger-growing aphyllas has been H-10. Its smoothly finished flowers of dark reddish-violet have blue beards. This is the one which is often claimed to be the same as Dark Violet.

An aphylla labeled simply as Slovakia, supposedly collected by Randolph, has a creped texture, with wide, domed, purple standards. The falls are relatively wide and smooth hafted. Its deep blue beard is tipped mustard. This one has large leaves in a yellow-green tone. Growth has been very good, and I should like to use this as a parent soon.



b) aphylla H10



c) aphylla 'Slovakia'

Aphylla U56 was catalogued by us this year. I received it under the label of albertii, but it has none of that species' characteristics. Instead, it grows as a giant aphylla. At first glance, it might appear similar to the widely circulated "croatica C2", which Brian Mathew refers to germanica. However, U56 branches from the rhizome. The seeds are small and very round, like other aphylla seed, not the larger, pyriform seeds of the germanica group. The pods are a little taller in proportion than other aphyllas, but retain the general shape, with the purple ribs most aphylla pods have. Seedlings from bee pods emerged about the same time as other aphylla seedlings and grow similarly. Its main non-aphylla characteristic is that there are usually very large leaf-bracts sheathing the terminal buds and the branches. Could this be a form of fieberi?

#### I. astrachanica

Four clones of this species grow here at Adamgrove, all originating from Bee Warburton's garden and ultimately from seed collected by Dr. Rodionenko. Bee has written of their appearance in a recent AIS Bulletin.\*

The most striking thing about them is their resemblance to variegata, but done in blue. They are not bicolor, but the size, growth habit, form of flower, and especially the veining on the falls evoke their more famous relative. They are not especially well-branched for us, but the branching is unusual in two of the clones, a sort of Menorah, since the branching is in one plane and tends to bring the blooms all up to a level. In a way, it resembles the branching of at least one clone of furcata. Heights range from 8-12". Our clones seem rather susceptible to leaf spot, more so than most of the species. I made a few crosses this year with variegata, and a few attempts on other diploids of 24 chromosomes. I. astrachanica forms the tight clumps so typical of variegata and hybrid miniature tall.

#### I. benacensis

I know only one clone of this species, sold to me as Randolph's I56B, but evidently mismarked. Brian Mathew refers this species to aphylla, but that seems inappropriate for this clone.

Its pattern of leaf growth closely resembles aphylla, although emerging more rapidly in the spring. Branching is also typically aphylla with one or two starting at the rhizome. Here, resemblance ends. The flower color is a light lavender blue (nearly sky blue)--The Eupogon Iris Species... says I56B is a deep violet self. The flower form is almost entirely lutescens, with taller standards and more recurved falls. Its foliage tends to be falcate throughout the season; aphylla often is in the spring, but not later. Its seed does not have the aphylla look, either. In all respects, our plant could easily be a pumila-aphylla hybrid.

This clone has been an excellent grower here. Unbloomed seedlings also achieved good size this year. I want to try it as a parent with both Standard Dwarfs and Tall.



d) Aphylla U56



e) I. benacensis

\*Bulletin of the American Iris Society, No. 256, January 1985, pp.54-56.

### I. germanica

I include under this species the forms called croatica, as designated by Mathew. The clone C2 is the apparently best known of this group. C2 grows to about 26-28" here. While it resembles aphylla in many ways, there are some important differences. As mentioned earlier, its seeds are pyriform (pear-shaped). It does not branch from the rhizome here, although usually branches below the mid-point--occasionally a branch will arise only a short distance above the rhizome. Its leaves are strongly ribbed. The pods more closely resemble most tall bearded pods in the way the ribs are incised. The pods are also proportionately taller, coming almost to a point.

### I. lutescens

Our beloved old chamaeiris, together with olbiensis, italica, virescens, etc., have now come under this name (See AIS Bulletin No. 243, page 59). Under this definition, lutescens spans a broad range of characteristics.

Lutescens (chamaeiris) I22 grows less well than most. To date, it has had only one flower per stem, and a small one at that. I find it notable, though, because of the depth of its color. The standards are a very dark violet, and the falls are nearly black, with a very sparse beard. Where the beard sits (or should sit) there is a highly contrasting white arrow.

Two similar clones travel under the name virescens. One is S21C; the other had no number. For cataloguing purposes, it is now U51. These look so much like members of the reichenbachii complex that I first thought they might be misnamed. However, several sources verify that various lutescens do have such flower form. Both of these have been rather robust, and are nearly evergreen. (Moving all the stock of both last year left them with less foliage for the winter, and they went into full dormancy.) S21C is the larger of the two. Both have tall, narrow flowers, with the rather pointed look typical of mellita or reichenbachii. Color is creamy yellow to almost chartreuse, with a touch of violet blended in, especially in the falls. No plants have produced branched stems; there are usually two (and rarely three) buds in a socket. They have a rather sweet scent. The spathes of S21C are not sharply keeled, as one would expect if this were reichenbachii, but instead are narrow, forming a tube enclosing the perianth tube, and remaining mostly green except for a slightly scarious tip. The spathes of U51 are slightly broader, and weakly keeled. The falls of U51 sharply recurve to clasp the perianth tube; S21C recurves less emphatically. Neither has produced pollen, and they set seed apparently only when a bee does the work, and then sparsely. This makes me wonder if they could be hybrids.

One of our clones of lutescens, originally labelled as an aphylla, but clearly nothing of the sort, is a tall (18-20") white-bearded form of decidedly distinctive appearance. I now designate it as U46. The standards are a typical blue-violet. But the falls are a deep wine-red, rimmed with the standard color, much like many Standard Dwarfs. The two-budded heads stand high above the foliage on gracefully flexuous stems. A highly vigorous plant, it doesn't resemble a typical Standard Dwarf at all. It never branches, yet the prolific clumps have enough stalks to provide bloom over a respectable period of a couple of weeks. One of the best for garden value. I have not measured U46's perianth tube. Although I am basically a "lumper", perhaps this clone should be referred to subbiflora.

### I. pallida

While the pallidas are generally considered as tall, several clearly fit into the smaller classes.

Among these is Hanselmayer's H5. This never gets more than about 14" tall here. The stalks bear two branches held more widely than typical pallida, with bitone flowers of light violet blue over violet with white beards. Pallida Y2A rarely exceeds 18", having light violet standards, with slightly redder violet falls flashed with blue. The unusual beard consists of a series of tufts of orange, except for the tufts farthest out on the blade, which are white. Rhaetica is a well-known pallida, with relatively blue flowers, but most notable for its white beard which appears to be tipped in tangerine. It generally has a stalk of about 6-8" here, but may get taller if left undisturbed.

### I. sambucina

We grow only one clone under this name, Randolph's 61-34. It would fit best as a border, rather than a miniature tall. Exhibiting both pallida and variegata characteristics, it bears flowers with cream standards edged pale yellow. Falls have soft violet veining with the color flowing gently out from the veins to tint the cream ground color. There is very little yellow in this flower. The standards are held out on long claws, as in variegata. Branching is relatively wide. Leaf growth and general plant vigor more closely resembles pallida. Stalks attain roughly 26", occasionally more. Leaf fans tend to lean after the bloom season.

### I. varbossiana

This is another species represented here by only one clone. To my knowledge, this clone has no number. Growing much like a typical antique tall bearded, but staying within border range, the plant produces stalks to about 24", but occasionally to 28", with two branches and seven buds. Flowers are purple, with very dark violet falls and prominent white haft markings. Beards consist of long white filaments with yellow tips. This year, it had many bee pods, but few of these had any seed, an observation which seems to parallel Prodan's. I attempted several crosses with it this year--none took, diploid or tetraploid.

### I. variegata

Besides providing the gift of Yellow to modern tall-bearded breeders, variegata charms in its own right. The clones we grow are all much more delicate--in constitution and appearance--than the HONORABILE complex derived from the species.

One coming from Blazek (I don't have enough information to identify it further) flings up brilliant deep yellow standards, veined faintly with brown near the base. The falls are actually white, heavily veined with dark red brown. It is a reluctant grower, and cannot be depended upon to bloom every year unless you have sufficient numbers. Blazek's variegata is also small, seldom reaching over 8-9".

I once received a variegata under the name of Columbus. I suspect that this is the clone designated in the MIS 1970 species listing as 'Roberts'. The segments are actually quite small. Standards and style arms are a deep clear yellow. The falls are veined black maroon, becoming solid black maroon at the tip. The falls are edged all the way around in light yellow. The beard is yellow, except for the outer one-eighth to one-quarter inch, which is white. Stalks rise to about 9-12". Another one that is penurious in growth and bloom.

Randolph's 61-72A is larger and more vigorous than either of the foregoing, sending up 14-16" stalks. The deep yellow standards (deeper than 'Roberts') top light yellow falls with stripes in blackish brown, which coalesce into a solid brown blotch flowing out completely to the tip of the fall, but edged at the sides with yellow. The beard is entirely yellow. I have seed from both 'Roberts' and 61-72A, intercrossed with various other variegatas, as well as onto some other diploid species and hybrids.

This has been a review of a few of the most notable clones of median-sized bearded species irises grown at Adamgrove. Others have not grown here long enough for me to make sufficient observations worth reporting. A handful stubbornly refuse to fly their colors. Some have proven themselves valuable as garden perennials, without having to justify their existence as part of a preserved gene pool. The observations, the variations, the mysteries have fascinated me. We would never be without them.





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**1986 INTRODUCTIONS**

**SATIN SATAN** (Weiler 86) TB 35" (90 cm) E-L. A big, broad, very dark violet, near black self of unusual substance and satin texture. Beards are dark violet. Stalks consistently have 4 branches plus terminal and each has 2 buds per socket for a total of 9-10 flowers well timed for opening sequence to give a long bloom season. Increases rapidly and is fertile both ways. Starts early and continues until late. 79-97-10: Watch It X 75-58-1:(71-22-3:(68-37-1:(((Pierre Menard x Sable Night) x Edenite) x (Congo Song x (Pierre Menard x Sable Night))) x Midnight Special) x Mystique).  
**\$ 30.00**

**FAME** (Weiler 86) TB 36" (92 cm) M-VL. This brilliant yellow-orange flower has deep orange-red beards, fine form and exceptional smoothness. Stalks have 3 well-spaced branches plus terminal and 7-8 buds. Good foliage and vigorous plants are other desirable features. Outstanding is the tendency for this plant to produce additional bloom stalks, even on one year plants just about the time the first bloom stalks are finishing. This habit s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-s out the bloom season. 79-157-19: 74-101-2:(((Glittering Gold x Orange Crush) x Ballerina x Orange Crush)) x ((Cloth of Gold x Ballerina) x Pompano Peach)) x Fresno Calypso) X 77-15-2:(Georgia Girl x ((Ola Kala x Orange Crush) x Pompano Peach) x (Moon River x Orange Crush))).  
**\$ 30.00**

**BRIDAL FASHION** (Weiler 86) TB 32" (86 cm) E-M. This cold white is, perhaps, one of the most ruffled flowers we have seen and has leathery substance. Stalks, flowers and foliage are well-proportioned and vigor is a hallmark. Stalks have 3 branches and terminal with 7 buds from early to midseason. Fertile. 79-125-3: Thick and Creamy X 75-47-2:(((Pacific Panorama x Seaside) x Wedding Vow x Bridal Wreath)).  
**\$ 25.00**

**SDB REBLOOMERS**

**SUNSTRIP** (Weiler 86) SDB 11" (28 cm) E-L & RE. A distinctive addition to our multi-reblooming SDB race, this is a dark burgundy variegata with bright yellow standards and the falls bordered with a strip of sunny yellow. Blooms heavily in spring with MDB and SDB, rests about 2 weeks and then scatters a few more blooms during mid-TB season and reblooms well again in fall. 81-25-2: Fire One X 79-37-5RE:((Ruby Contrast x Little Blackfoot) x ((Brighteyes x Grace Note) x Bronze Babe) x (Cartwheel x (Brighteyes x Grace Note)))).  
**\$ 10.00**

**PLUM WINE** (Weiler 86) SDB 11" (28 cm) E-L & RE. A self of satiny smooth, dark, plum red with violet undertones, including the beard. Blooms heavily with MDB and SDB in spring, repeats modestly at mid-TB season and reblooms well in fall again, even from new summer transplants. 82-22-1: Little Bishop X Plum Plum.  
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# VARIETAL COMMENTS

Among the IBs, RUBY CHIMES sure made a splash of color amid the white CHEERS. FROSTED CRYSTAL, EARLY FROST, CUMQUAT and SEA PATROL always perform well.

Wauneta B. Rummel, Halifax, PA

My favorites, the IBs, were especially fine and floriferous for 1985. Aside from old friends such as ANDI, bright and loaded with bloom, AZ AP, a mass of those lovely light blue flowers, BARELY VERDE and AVANELLE best of the whites this year, MAGI'S GIFT, almost unknown but a beautiful soft caramel shade that performs every year and BLUEBIRD'S SONG, light blue with brownish haft and always fine, there were some newcomers that impressed.

HELLCAT is much like its parent MYSTIQUE but in an intermediate size and season, a fine addition. BUTTER PECAN, splendid yellow and brown plicata with beautiful form. LOU BROCK, fine, smooth, sparkling dark variety, not a newcomer but has not had the attention it deserves. BRIQUET was a lovely dark red violet, very likeable, and who could forget PINK KITTEN, the most reliable performer among the pinks? Subdued but pretty and different is SUBTLETY, in shades of grey and cream. The classic INDIAN DOLL was the brightest and best red this year, many stalks. LOOKIN' GOOD, on a two year plant, had 10 fine stalks of that clean light yellow shade: it really was lookin' good! In apricot, SATIN SEQUIN is a smooth self with brighter tangerine orange beards, flaring form, and a good performer. Equally nice is OF COURSE, in a different shade of apricot. In white and violet plicatas, RARE EDITION and SNAPPIE were best, and if you like fragrance in an iris, nothing beats an oldie, the bright purple COLUMBA.

The showy YO YO, beautiful blue TRULY and RAIN DANCE, and different MUCHACHA seemed to have extra appeal among the many SDB's, and PECCADILLO was the star among the BBs this year.

Robert L. Jensen, Montpelier, Idaho

This wasn't the best year for medians here--SDBs were just getting started when we had two frosts, April 20 and 21, with 22° and 20°F. I especially liked the MTB LAVENDER DOLL--such a dainty little flower. Others I liked were FRENCHI, OLIVER, HAZEL'S PINK and ELFIN COACH.

Mrs. Ray Burch, Yakima, WA.

The most popular medians with my garden visitors were RASPBERRY BLUSH and BETSEY BOO.

Mrs. R.L. Esper, Brighton, MI

All of the varieties that I listed in the Symposium did very well in my own garden. I happen to be the only one in this area that grows medians, but I am trying to do something about that by giving my excess away. Several have asked about them this year.

Faye Edelman, Crowder, OKla.

Best show in the garden this year was: IB--HELLCAT and HONEY GLAZED, SDB--CHERRY TART (Aitken 85) and ONE ACCORD, BB--PINCH OF SPICE (Moore 84) and MTB--CONSUMMATION.

Ray John, Ft. Worth, TX

LITTLE ANNIE (Niswonger 84) is a nice bright red color. Can't wait to see a large clump of it. BETTY WOOD was the last of the SDBs to bloom. It has a great deal of turgidity. SNAPPIE is a reliable bloomer. No matter what kind of weather conditions we may have, it will bloom. RASPBERRY BONNET has a great color combination: light violet standards and rosy pink falls. The MTB, BLACK LADY, has the darkest black fall. Form is narrow, but the color!

Mrs. Melvin Bausch, Mequon, WI.

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# On The Pacific Coast...

(The following articles are reprinted from the Region 13 Newsletter special Median issue)

## 1985 - A VINTAGE IRIS YEAR

Terry Aitken

1983 was a strange year, with one of the earliest bloom seasons we have had. 1984 was a strange year with probably the coldest and latest bloom season. 1985 made up for it all. Bloom season began two weeks early and continued with cool, moderate, dry weather to end up at least two weeks late. Easily the most glorious bloom season this writer has ever seen. (Bob Schreiner feels it was the best in thirty years.) Lots of seedpods attest to the conclusion of a vintage iris season.

\*\*\*\*\*

Standard Dwarf season was a riot! With a thousand seedlings and a hundred or so registered varieties competing for attention the scene was awesome! A good year for the plics: PESO (a slow increaser) and BRUSK (a different color, pearly yellow with violet rim and my favorite SDB for 1985) stood out. Shoop's pink, BRIGHT VISION seemed brighter than ever. FRISBEES, a cream with sharply defined, round purple spot was excellent. GENTLE GRACE, wide white petals with a bright blue spot. GOLD FEVER, a rich deep yellow showed quality. HOOLIGAN looked good, but ZOWIE looked better and brighter. LITTLE ANNIE, a bricky red with black-red spot, was a very different color. LITTLE BISHOP, a very early rich violet. LITTLE EPISODE, a late blue with deep violet spot seemed to last forever. RAIN DANCE, THE blue by which all others are judged. RASPBERRY JAM was very early and very bright red violet but rather large. SAPPHIRE JEWEL showed why it won the Cook-Douglas Medal in 1984: a milky light blue with a deep blue beard. SQUEAKY CLEAN showed promise as a white with deep blue beard. STRAW HAT is a favorite for dainty fluted flowers.

Intermediates got short shrift as rows of seedlings demanded reselection. RAIN DANCE is a super breeder for the IB's!! My recommended list among IBs would include the following: ANDI, BEDTIME STORY, BUTTER PECAN, HELLCAT, HONEY GLAZED, PINK KITTEN, RIGHTEOUS, SILKENGOLD, and WINKIELAND. Outstanding and new was Jayne Ritchie's VITALITY, with super form in brilliant yellow.

New amongst the Border irises was LADY BUG, a cream with a strange burnt orange beard. MARMALADE SKIES seemed always in bloom or rebloom. PEACHES N TOPPIN' was in fine form. SOFT SPOKEN is a winner spring and fall.

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE SECRET IS OUT

Laura Buelow

Whenever I hear, "Irises are lovely but they don't bloom long enough," I'm quick to retort that proper planning and planting mean at least two months of bloom - and then comes my plug for medians! Miniature dwarf irises bloom too early to be enjoyed much in our sometimes cold early spring (Spokane), but standard dwarfs are sheer pleasure: perky, colorful little irises to start the bloom season off delightfully. It's hard to believe they could be improved upon but now there's ruffling as on CINDY MITCHELL and CAPTURED SPIRIT, and the tangerine beard on INSCRIPTION is startling. COTTON BLOSSOM sets the standard for perfect form for me. The short, rounded flower is so pleasing and I'm pleased to see more varieties coming along with that look. Dwarfs have a full range of colors and color combinations, something to please everyone. More pinks and apricots are being listed but they'll have to be very good to beat BETSEY BOO, HAZEL'S PINK, or MELON HONEY. Good blues are SHOW BABY, RAIN DANCE and both SAPPHIRE GEM and SAPPHIRE JEWEL always perform well. The sharp color contrasts of TWINK, BOO, VELVETINE, WOW and AZTEC STAR are eye-catching, and garden visitors are intrigued by DEMON, BLACK BIT and MICHAEL PAUL - they are very dark.

Intermediates bloom just before and with the tall and who can resist having some of these smaller proportioned beauties? Some that perform well in our garden are AZ AP, HELLCAT, LEIBLING, MAIDEN LANE, GOLDEN FROST, RASPBERRY BLUSH and PEACHY FACE, among many others.

Border irises are short tall here and enhance the front rows with a fine display. Favorites include BROWN LASSO, MISS GOLDILOCKS, PICAYUNE, IMPELLING, HAPPY SONG, SOMETHING SPECIAL, INNER CIRCLE, PINK SWIRL and the list could go on and on.

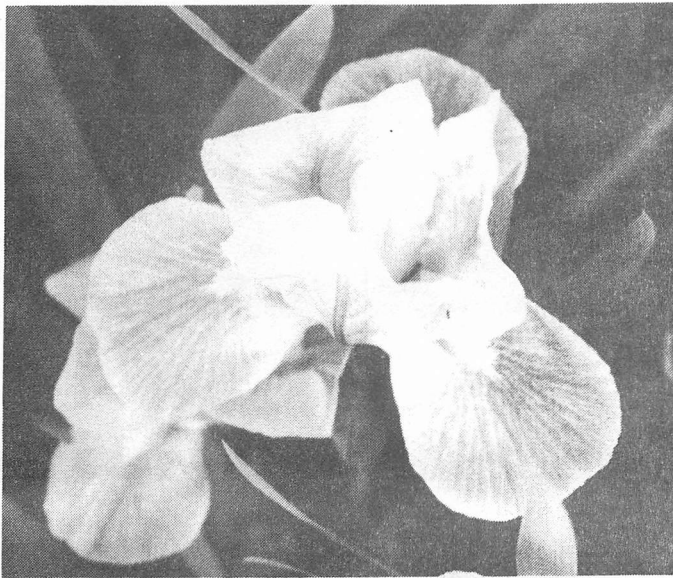
Another big plus for medians in our area is that increase is better and winter damage and loss much less than tall. The secret is out - I like medians!

# *The Picture Gallery*

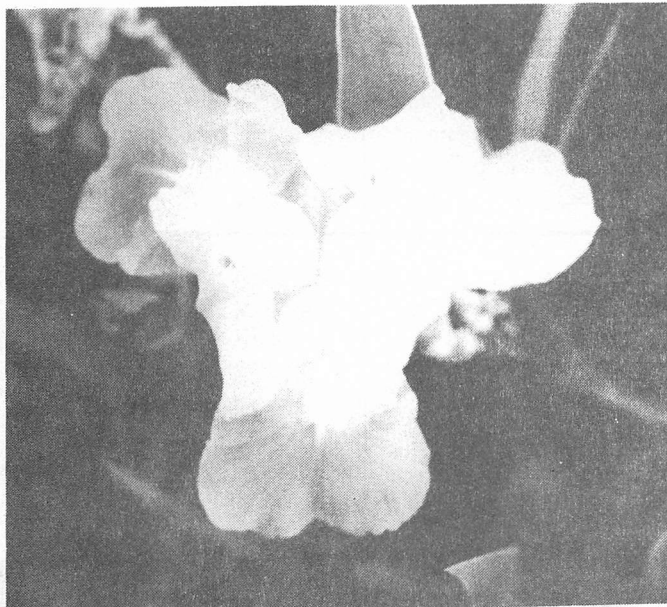
Another Coast Heard From...

*Photographs by Jan Sacks*

Warburton SDBs to be introduced in 1986:



VIOLET LULU



LILAC LULU



ROSIE LULU (Warburton 84)

Two new SDBs to be introduced in 1986 are VIOLET LULU and LILAC LULU in Bee Warburton's luminata lines. The first in this "series" was ROSIE LULU, which has demonstrated exceptionally clean, disease-resistant foliage. The "Lulu" name comes from the term luminata, a pattern related to plicata with an absence of pigmentation in the heart of the flower. Bee says that it has now been determined that luminata is not recessive to plicata, but is co-dominant with it.

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We'd like to remind photographers to send us their black and white prints, color prints or slides for publication in the Medianite. All are easily converted to halftones for printing.

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The Median Iris Society has received a donation of \$150.00 from the Iris Society of Massachusetts. The donation is made with the recognition of ISM's success in selling medians at their annual plant auction and sale. THANKS, MASSACHUSETTS! ♡



# Commercial Gardens

Adamgrove  
Irises & Daylilies  
Rt. 1, Box 246  
California, MO 65018

All types of Bearded Irises,  
old and new, including Aril-  
breeds & Species. Catalogue on  
Request. Eric & Bob Tankesley-  
Clarke.

Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden  
608 NW 119 St.  
Vancouver, Washington 98665  
MDB, SDB, IB, BB, MTB, TB,  
PCN, JA. Mail order & local.

Cherry Lane Gardens of Glenn F. Corlew  
2988 Cherry Lane  
Walnut Creek, Calif 94596  
Featuring introductions of Glenn  
Corlew and Vernon Wodd. 50 cents  
for complete list.

Contemporary Gardens  
Perry Dyer  
Box 534  
Blanchard, Okla 73010  
Newest introductions in all  
median classes; featuring median  
introductions of Bennett  
Jones and Bill Jones.  
Catalog for 1st class stamp.

Hall's Flower Garden  
Earl E. Hall  
1495 Enterprise Road  
West Alexandria, OH 45381  
Medians, TBs, specializing in  
Rebloomers. Hall and Rawlins  
Introductions.

Kirkland Iris Garden  
Carol & George Lankow  
725 20th Avenue West  
Kirkland, WA 98033  
Median Specialists. Catalog  
features the introductions of  
Carol Lankow, MDBs and all  
classes of medians.

Maple Tree Gardens  
Larry L. Harder  
P.O. Box 278  
Ponca, Neb 68770  
Listing SDB, IB, BB and a few MTB  
as well as TBs and daylilies.  
Catalog free on request.

Mayflower Garden  
Sandra J. Lemmer  
W162 N9917 Mayflower Drive  
Germantown, Wisc 53022  
Growing all types, majority TB  
and SDB. List on request for 1st  
class stamp.

Rancho do la Flor de Lis  
P.O. Box 227  
Cerrillos, N.M. 87010

Larry Anaya and Julian Wells put  
out a unique color catalog listing  
3200 varieties, including TBs,  
Arilbreeds and 425 medians. Ship  
UPS all over USA and Canada.  
Color catalog is \$1.00

Rialto Gardens  
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1146 W. Rialto  
Fresno, Calif 93705  
Reblooming introductions of John  
Weiler, both TB and Median, and  
large selection of reblooming  
medians. List on request.

David B. Sindt - Irises  
1331 West Cornelia  
Chicago, Ill. 60657  
List includes pure pumilas (collected  
and hybridized) other small bearded  
species such as aphylla, lutescens,  
reichenbachii. Recent introductions  
of MDB, SDB and MTBs. 1985 introduc-  
tions included MDB, SDB and a tetra-  
ploid MTB. Free catalog on request.  
Ship anywhere in world that can  
receive bearded iris plants from USA.

4-Square Iris Gardens  
3237 Eisenhower St.  
Eau Claire, Wisc. 54701  
Color catalog \$1.00; featuring MDB,  
SDB, IB, MTB, BB, TB, Space Agers  
and other plants. Local, national,  
international dealer, introducer and  
originator. David Spence, proprietor.

Vanowen Iris Garden  
David Mogil  
23337 Vanowen St.  
Canoga Park, Calif. 91307  
1-818-884-0130  
Current inventory includes all types  
of irises (1141 varieties) with  
specialties in SDB, MTB, rebloomers  
and LAs. Currently no charge for  
catalog.



Susan Schmitz

# Median Iris Society

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Treasurer	James Foreman

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*American Iris Society*  
*Median Iris Section*  
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