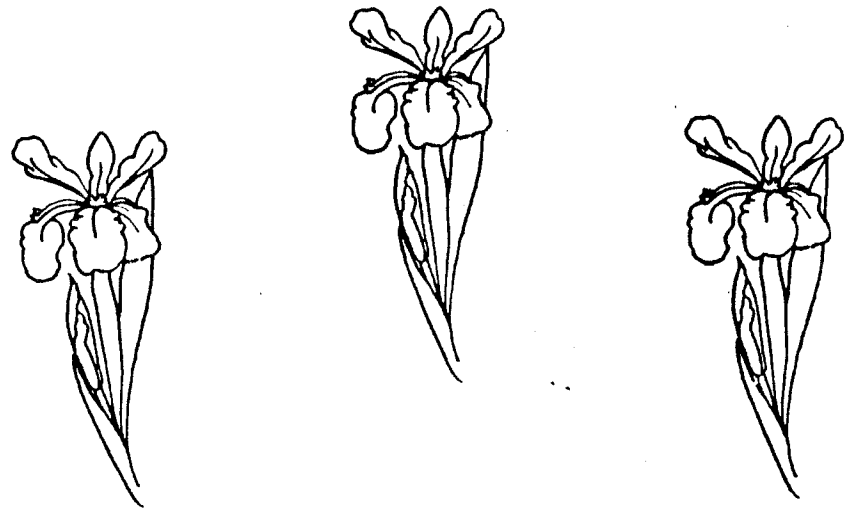


SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

GORDON GREEN, EDITOR
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FIRST CLASS MAIL



FALL 1986

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THE SPURIA IRISES

INTRODUCTION

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VARIETAL LISTING

PUBLISHED BY THE SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

1985

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Mr. Floyd W. Wickenkamp
Spuria Iris Society
10521 Bellarose Dr.
Sun City, Arizona 85351

PRICE \$5.00 postpaid.

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

PRESENTS

SPURIA IRISES ON SLIDES

The Spuria Iris Society has gathered a representative set of slides to enable our members to present our irises to the irisarians in their area.

This is the answer to the need of slides showing strictly the Spuria Irises in a program.

There are two formats available. The first set presents the Spurias in alphabetical order, while the second presents them in order of the year of introduction.

At present there are too few species slides available, so if you have slides of species, please send a copy to the slide librarian so they can be included in the set(s).

These sets are available for postage both ways.

When ordering, please indicate the date(s) desired. They should be shipped in plenty of time for your program.

Include \$7.50 to cover shipping via UPS Blue Label. Include directions for delivery if no street address is available.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The beauty of the Spuria Iris is being recognized more than ever before.

Thanks to the outstanding displays of plants at the San Jose Convention, several things have happened.

First, I've had the pleasure of presenting programs on Spurias at various iris societies.

Second, several members have generously forwarded new slides for the SIS slide library.

Then, most important, there has been an excellent interest in the Spuria Iris Society Slide Set. To date there have been fourteen (14) requests for these. Some of the requests have been very close together, requiring tight scheduling. Hence, I'm reworking the program then duplicating another set so there will be two identical sets in alphabetical order available. Another project is to, at the suggestion of several members, arrange a second set in chronological order to show the progression of hybridizing. By the time you read this, the second set should be available. Please note the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter.

You will notice from the report by the Phoenix Convention Committee (Floyd Wickenkamp) that a bountiful show of Spurias is expected during the Phoenix Convention.

We are still in the nest on the Spuria Robin, needing a few more people seeking advise and/or willing to share advise with others having similar interests.

Dave Niswonger, Ruth Wilder, and Gordon Green have been appointed to serve as members of the Nominating Committee for this year.

RUSSIAN BLUE (Niswonger-83) Blue self; veined yellow signal.
RUSSIAN WHITE (Niswonger-83) White self with small yellow signal.

SATINWOOD (Niswonger-83) Deep brown with orange infusion on falls.

SPICED TEA (Niswonger-84) Light brown standards, bright yellow falls with light brown rim.

SUNSET ETCHING (Gaddie-85) Veined bluish-lavender; gold signal.
TERRA NOVA (Walker-Abrego-85) Golden brown self; bright gold signal.

TIGER BLUES (McCown-80) Blue-lavender self, brown veined yellow signal.

TRANSFIGURATION (Hager-86) Deep velvety violet changing to medium blue-violet; signal brown changing to bronze.

VINTAGE YEAR (Niswonger-80) Standards blue-purple, falls purple, yellow signal.

In addition to the introduced (or about to be introduced) cultivars listed above, there are among the guests numerous numbered seedlings. Some of these look very promising and might well be noted during your garden visits.

#####

CINNABAR RED (Niswonger-80) Deep mahogany-red self; deep yellow signal.

COBALT MESA (Wickenkamp-86) Dark violet-blue self, small gold signal.

DESTINATION (Hager-84) Deep orange self.

DUSTY TRAILS (Wickenkamp-84) Medium yellow blend, peppered with tiny brown dots.

EVENING DRESS (Ghio-84) Blackish blue-purple, touch of yellow on style arms.

FIRST FRUITS (Hager-84) orchid pink self; small yellow signal.

GILDED CHALICE (Hager-80) Lemon yellow self.

HEADWAY (Hager-86) Large orange-yellow self.

HIGHLINE CORAL (McCown-87) Ruffled lavender-pink shaded brown-yellow in throat.

IMPERIAL SUN (McCown-84) Glowing sulphur lemon to golden orange in center of falls.

JANICE CHESNIK (McCown-83) Heavily ruffled tawny gold self.

KAIBAB TRAIL (Wickenkamp-85) Dark maroon with large signal of full yellow.

KITT PEAK (Wickenkamp-87) Standards medium blue-violet, falls deep blue-violet shading to chocolate brown; bright yellow rayed signal.

LOVE FOR LEILA (Wickenkamp-86) Deep violet self; small brown and gold signal.

MEGATREND (Hager-86) Standards mid-violet outside, inside white overveined in violet to solid border. falls mid yellow bordered mid violet.

MISSOURI STREAMS (Niswonger-83) Light blue self; yellow signal.

MYSTIC MESA (Wickenkamp-86) Standards cream with dark violet edging near base, falls cream shading to gold in center; lavender style arms.

MYSTIFIER (Walker-Abrego-86) Ruffled lemon yellow self; white style arms with yellow midribs.

NORTHERN MUSE (Walker-Abrego-85) Rich blue-violet self; small gold signal.

NOW THIS (Hager-83) mauve-purple with brown influence; small veined yellow signal.

PERFECT SPRING (Hager-85) Lavender standards, gold-bronze falls edged lavender; yellow signal.

President's Message (continued)

A By-Laws Committee is being appointed to update the Spuria Iris Society By-Laws and to possibly secure an IRS 501 (c) (3) designation for our Society.

I have been fortunate enough to add fifteen newer cultivars to my collection of Spurias this ~~year~~ as well as lining out over one hundred fifty seedlings (My first attempts). I certainly hope all of you have had an opportunity to add a few newer introductions to your collection.

Now is the time to assess your garden to see if there are any new Spurias you want to add and to plan the planting for next year.

Sincerely,

Ray

MEMBERSHIP DUES

<u>Single Annual</u>	<u>\$3.00</u>
<u>Single Triennial</u>	<u>7.00</u>
<u>Supporting Annual</u>	<u>4.00</u>
<u>Family Annual</u>	<u>3.50</u>
<u>Family Triennial</u>	<u>8.00</u>
<u>Life Membership</u>	<u>40.00</u>

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY
FINANCIAL REPORT
AS OF
18 AUG 1986

Bank Balance, 15 August 1985	\$1,999.76
INCOME:	
Membership Dues	538.50
Spuria Checklist Sales	535.00
Rental of Spuria Slides	5.00
Donation from W. D. Lee as Memorial to Rudi Fuchs	50.00
Bank Account Interest	<u>167.26</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,295.76
EXPENDITURES:	
100 postal cards imprinted for use as dues notices	26.61
Spring, 1986 Newsletter	132.20
Bank deposit slip printing	2.85
Envelopes and postage for mailing Spuria Checklists	48.96
Mailing Labels for Newsletters	<u>5.49</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$216.11
Bank Balance as of 18 August 1986	\$3,079.51


Floyd W. Wickenkamp
Treasurer

SPURIAS AT FIESTA PHOENIX-87
Guest Iris Committee

Spuria admirers who attend the National Convention in Phoenix next April will have the opportunity of seeing many of the newest cultivars in bloom in the tour gardens. These include the latest offerings of such hybridizers as Ben Hager, Eleanor McCown, Dave Niswonger, Gene Gaddie, Henry Rowlan, Marion Walker, and Floyd Wickenkamp.

While the time of the convention (April 14 to 18) may seem unduly early for spurias, our experience during the past several seasons is that peak bloom occurs about the third week of April, and this past year saw good spuria bloom during the entire month of April.

Most of the tour gardens will have at least a few spurias and a number of them have fifty or more varieties. Floyd Wickenkamp's garden devotes more than half of the bed space to spuria guests, older varieties and Floyd's seedlings, some 200 clumps in all.

Ben Hager's spurias will be much in evidence, since Ben sent a total of 49 rhizomes including many of his new and as yet unnamed seedlings, as well as his recent introductions and registrations.

Among the named guest spurias are (the descriptions are paraphrased from the A.I.S. Registration Books):

AMBER RIPPLES (Niswonger-81) Pale blue standards, amber falls with pale blue edges.

ARTS ALIVE (Hager-84) Lavender self; yellow signal.

BLUE BUNTING (Niswonger-84) Standards dark blue-purple, falls dark yellow with blue-purple rim.

BLUE LASSIE (Niswonger-79) Blue with white infusion on falls; yellow signal.

BURNT TOAST (McCown-86) Deep velvety brown self; orange signal.

CHOCOLATE DIP (Hager-86) Deep velvety brown; rayed orange signal.

CINNAMON STICK (Niswonger-83) Standards maroon-brown, falls maroon heavily speckled gold.

growing on the freeway leading to downtown Beaumont. They were planted there by a lady who cares about our city and its beauty. I had bummed this plant from my aunt for her about ten years before. It is the only type I had seen growing in our region. This is truly an oldie but goodie. These clumps were five feet wide and very striking, loaded with bloom. Now I have to get it back from the lady since I can't seem to find it in the garden. Here I go bumming again. I will keep it along with MRS. TAIT (Farr 1912) and FAROLITO (Hager 66) , other oldies but goodies that I grow.

Since I took these notes, my wife and I attended our first National Iris Convention in California. I wouldn't begin to describe all those lovely new, exciting Spurias. They grow them taller and better than one can ever imagine. I felt like I was in a catalogue of bloom the entire time. Gotta go, maybe someday I'll have one to name.

AN EXPERIENCE WITH SPURIAS

My experience with Spurias began in 1963 when we purchased a house that had some kind of yellow iris in the back yard that was totally unfamiliar to me. During the next few years they grew and bloomed although unfertilized and uncared for.

It was at the Portland Convention that I really became interested in Spurias. It was also my first convention and I was amazed at the huge collection on display from Melrose. I asked what these irises were and Sid DuBose (who just happened to be sitting near them) was very informative. He answered all the questions I could ask and I knew that I had to grow some. After all those yellow ones grew and bloomed in Alabama. At that time I only grew Tall Beardeds.

I read all the literature that I could find on Spurias. I ordered a few. Some are still growing in the back yard...PORT OF CALL, ESSAY, and PURPLE KNIGHT were among them. They did well for a few years then the area became too shady. I moved them closer to the house but the drainage was not as good so they did not grow quite as well. Even so, some of the early ones are still growing in the same area now.

As some of you know, my back yard slopes and there is about four to five feet difference in height from front to back. Drainage has not really been a problem except in one area and there are underground springs there. Spurias did not make it there, but Louisianas did exceptionally well.

I have also tried Spurias in a raised bed and they grew very well there.

Soil in the beds is very good - not the red clay that is in some of the areas in Huntsville. Fertilizer was used liberally as well as a mulch of pine needles. Dehydrated cow manure and a commercial fertilizer were used.

An Experience With Spurias (continued)

Bloom has been good even if a little late for the Huntsville Show. Those that were grown in full sun bloomed a little early and with good warm weather one or two would manage to open.

For the most part I have not disturbed clumps once it is established except to get a rhizome now and then. I have moved a few in the spring and had good results.

It seems as if I am starting over now. Since convention I have moved to South Carolina. I had planned to take all summer to move some Iris and plan and plant as I dug in Alabama but the best made plans will fail at times. I sold the house much sooner than expected. Instead of September it was June and the purchaser wanted possession right away. I did get permission to dig some of the irises in July. I had to plant Spurias in pots while trying to keep as much of the soil around the rhizomes as I could. The dry weather in Anderson, S.C. didn't help either. With the hot, dry air, watering daily was almost a must. This red clay that is in this back yard was hard as bricks and wasn't to be dented with a roto tiller until the last of August. As soon as we could dig and add gypsum and a lot of dehydrated cow manure the rhizomes were planted. They really looked sad --- about ten of them. In all this moving and replanting two have come through beautifully. These are ELENOR HILL and BETTY COOPER.

This week we have finally had some good rains. This morning in my daily search for a sign of life "lo and behold" there is one putting up some green. Maybe others will do likewise. Also it is the opportune time to update.

Anyway, I am trying Spurias in South Carolina and have added one more lover of irises to Alabama for the one request of the person buying was that I leave her some named irises.

Ruth Wilder

Spurias in Southeast Texas (continued)

the day goes on. Its a must for the collector, and is as pretty as its namesake Janice.

If you like browns, there must be an extremely large collection to choose from, I only have a few. I have always enjoyed CHUMASCH CHIEF (Walker 64) which is the largest brown Spuria I grow. It also appears to be the darkest chocolate.

CINNAMON ROLL (Niswonger 80) is small but has given me two years of good bloom.

ADOBE SUNSET (McCown 79) has been a dream. It is an excellent grower and bloomer. This color is outstanding with driftwood in arrangements.

DRESS CIRCLE (Hager 85) is one of Hager's new additions. This lovely eyecatcher really made a showing in the front bed. It was one of the new ones that bloomed the first year for me. It has ruffled blue lavender falls, a large center of yellow and some white veining that sets this one apart from the others in this color pattern. It has blue standards. Tremendously admired by all.

VINTAGE YEAR (Niswonger 80) is always good for me. Like last season it continues to please all with that deep dark blue color and nice form. I can sit in my garden house swing and really enjoy this one. Like good wine, I never get tired of it.

BETTY COOPER (McCown 82) was truly magnificent. It is more compact, large though, ruffled too. It is light blue with yellow on the falls. It gets better after the top bloom is gone with a number of blooms open at one time. It has never been prettier than this season.

I have to tell you about another interesting experience this year with Spurias before I go. I found three large clumps of BATHSHEBA (Washington 36)

SPURIAS IN SOUTHEAST TEXAS

by Albert Bobo Faggard

It has been an interesting year (1986) in Southeast Texas with very little cold weather. Early bloom on everything was everywhere including my collection of Spuria Irises. Since I moved many Louisiana and Spuria Irises late, I didn't look for too much bloom, still I had a lot. This year I took a few notes of those that were outstanding. Here is a listing of those I considered very outstanding.

URAESUS (EURASIA ?) was one of the first new ones to bloom. It is a fine upright dark purple that appears brownish, standards are dark purple. When a first year plant blooms here, it is good news, so this one must be a good one for our area.

FOUNTIANFLOW (B. Roe 74) This airy flat light blue was really a flowing fountain in the Gulf Coast breezes. Five lovely stalks let us really see its ruffled beauty.

BARBARA'S KISS (McCown 82) was also very early, perhaps it was the protection of the dog kennel. It really drew lots of comments from the garden visitors with an unusual color pattern of yellow falls edged in lavender and lavender standards. The falls are very rounded and it set seed very well for me. Watch out Ben Hager.

TIGER BLUES (McCown 80) was a bit smokey blue for me, not at all what I expected. Will have to wait till next year to better evaluate this one. It bloomed well though.

JANICE CHESNIK (McCown 84) is truly a fine ruffled rich golden yellow beauty with a bronze deep dusting or shading on its ruffled parts. GOSH ! I wish you could have seen those six lovely stalks at the end of my mini bed. It opens upright, but flattens and seemed to become prettier as

SPURIAS IN 1986

Marilyn Holloway

If you attended the San Jose convention Spurias were in bloom in a number of gardens on tour. The following are some observed this past season, both newer or older varieties.

ARICHIE OWEN (Hager 70) This bright yellow self with super form with a nice ruffle. Still a standout.

ELENOR HILL (Hager 80) A bicolor of purple standards and bronze falls. A pretty unique flower.

DRESS CIRCLE (Hager 85) Standards blue violet veined white; falls white with violet border with yellow signal. Ruffled and a great stalk for show.

IMPERIAL RUBY (McCown 77) A deep purple-red self with a small yellow signal. Nice garden flower looks velvety.

PROVERB (Ferguson 71) Another older variety that is still a standout. Very dark blue purple with large yellow signal. This and VINTAGE YEAR (Niswonger 80) are the darkest Spurias.

NOW THIS (Hager 83) A compact, wide petaled flower done in mauve purple with a hint of brown. Veining almost covers up the yellow signal. Love the color.

LOOKING GLASS EYES (Niswonger 77) The name fits this one. Pale yellow with a charcoal rim.

BUTTER PADDLE (Niswonger 75) This has gold specks instead of a signal over a medium brown color. Love the effect. Nice wide full form also.

KAIBAB TRAIL (Wickenkamp 85) A smaller flower done in dark red with large, full yellow signal. Very pleased with growth and bloom on a first year plant.

Spurias in 1986 (continued)

JANICE CHESNIK (McCown 84) A large heavily ruffled tawny gold self. Very nice.

SOCIAL CIRCLE (Corlew 79) A large frilly white with yellow signal. Nice show stalk and really grows.

Course ILA CRAWFORD, CLARKE COSGROVE, and MARILYN HOLLOWAY always look good - great in clumps, lots of flowers and stalks.

Looking forward to growing several 1986 introductions- HEADWAY, TRANSFIGURATION, and CHOCOLATE DIP of Ben Hager's and MARYS BEAU BRUMMEL, BURNT TOAST, and HIGHLINE CORAL OF Eleanor Mc Cown's. Watch for them.

Also looking forward to Phoenix* in 1987, should be lots of Spurias to view since busy with other chores in San Jose this year.

* Ed. See the article by Floyd Wickenkamp for a preview of the Phoenix convention

Spuria Gardens (continued)

would like to see more people having Spuria display gardens, including parks, garden centers, etc. This would be a good project for SIS members.

(Editors note: I asked Virginia to write an article on Spuria gardens and want to thank her for doing a fine job. The question that is on my mind is "where are our local Spuria gardens?"

We all know where the hybridizers gardens are located, but most of us can not travel that far. I have had a couple of letters from Pam Ewell, in Oakland Maine, inquiring about the "Washington Strain" that was mentioned in Dr. Cosgrove's reprinted article. She was also wondering where she could see other varieties growing in her area besides the few she grows. So, in the Spring Newsletter let's list some gardens by state. This will require your cooperation. If you grow twelve (12) or more varieties, please send me your name, garden location, peak bloom season for Spurias, and an approximate number of varieties. You can put this on the bottom of the Spuria Popularity Poll Ballot in the space provided.)

GARDENS WITH SPURIA IRISES

Virginia Matthews

The first garden that comes to mind is Melrose Gardens, where they have a large field of Spurias, plus display beds at the front and some interesting "oldies" and species Spurias. Ben Hager always has excellent Spuria Introductions each year. It is fascinating to see the large growing fields.

In the Southern part of the state at Holtsville, CA is Eleanor McCown's garden. She is one of our leading Spuria hybridizers. The Spuria seems to be much better adapted to desert soils and climate than other types of irises. Eleanor has introduced many award winners.

Floyd Wickenkamp, another good Spuria hybridizer, has his garden in Sun City AZ. I have not had the pleasure of visiting there, but am looking forward to seeing his garden when the AIS Convention is held in Phoenix in '87. Floyd has originated some excellent varieties.

If California and Arizona are too far away for you, visit Dave Niswonger's garden at Cape Girardeau, MO. Dave is introducing outstanding Spurias.

Gordon Green of Bonham TX has a Spuria Garden, the only one he knows of in that part of Texas.

Since I've moved to a new house with a much smaller garden, I have only a few Spurias, including some seedlings. So far none has been good enough to name. I try to get a new one or two each year, to keep my small collection up to date.

No doubt, there are irisiarians growing Spurias that I don't know about. Perhaps it would be wise for Regional Newsletters to ask for information from members, in order to publish lists where Spurias and other types (other than TB's may be seen without traveling so far. I certainly

SOME THOUGHTS ON SPURIA IRISES

Paul Richardson

Generally speaking the Spuria hybrids grow very well in this country. The smaller species do less well although a European form of *I. Spuria* has become quite naturalized in several parts of the country. I suspect that the main reason the smaller species are not grown more successfully is lack of care. Because New Zealand has a temperate climate with (usually) a more than adequate rainfall. Plants just grow and are indeed expected to grow. Those that demand a little extra care therefore tend to fall by the wayside. To be fair, established plants are seldom available from nurseries so that most species are grown from seed and are thus more than usually liable to fail if that necessary little bit of extra care is not given. Moreover, growing plants from seed takes time, a lot of time, especially if seed does not come true to label. Under these circumstances it is not hard to appreciate that a number of years can go by with little result unless one is prepared to study the plant's needs. From my own attempts and from seeing the results in other gardens, I think that the crucial factor is the management of watering during summer. Losses will occur if plants dry out.

I. graminea is the one small spuria that is really easy to grow. In most areas it will happily thrive in the sunny border, quickly gathering a lawn of self sown seedlings around it. *Sintenesii* seems to want a sunny position that does not dry out, and in most gardens it tends to be short lived. *I. kerneriana* is usually grown from seed, and provided the young seedlings do not dry out in summer it seems to be happy enough in the border. A few Spuria subspecies such as *I. maritima* and *I. halophila* are grown by a few of the keener species folk, and to the best of my knowledge, will grow well enough if treated in the same manner as *I. kerneriana*.

Incidentally, Jean Stevens in THE IRIS AND ITS CULTURE, says, "I. kerneriana was introduced into cultivation by the plant collector, Mr. E. K. Balls, from his expedition to Armenia in 1934-35. From seed sent out by Mr. Balls, I. kerneriana first flowered in New Zealand in 1936." The New Zealand Iris Society kept in touch with Mr. Balls, who had retired to the north of England, until his death in October 1984. He was well into his 90's and had kept active enough to plan a trip to Australia the previous month.

Note: Paul Richardson is from Upper Hutt, New Zealand. He is a member of the Siberian Spuria and Japanese Group of the BIS. His interest is in the species and hybridizing somewhat along the lines suggested by Dr. George Rodionenko.

Although Paul is not a member of SIS, some of you may wish to correspond with him about his hybridizing efforts. His address is

Mr. Paul Richardson
78 Thackery St.
Upper Hutt, New Zealand

Finally, let us not forget the other members of the Spuria Family, such as I carthalinae, I orientalis, I crocea, I x monnieri, I halophila, I demetrii, I maritima, I musulmanica, I notha, I klattii, I kerneriana, I graminea, and I sogdiana to name a few. There are others less well known, and are available only in seed form. (About I ssp sogdiana, Mr. Brian Mathew says in his book THE IRIS "is an unimpressive plant, one of the least attractive of its group, but its compact habit might make it a useful parent in breeding shorter cultivars.") A very few of the above species and subspecies are easily raised from seed; to be successful demands a knowledge of the habitat and weather patterns if the area from which they come.

Two members of this society who are active in working with these interesting species and subspecies are Hugh Humphrey and Ben Hager.

(ED. The first installment of this article appeared in the Spring 1985 issue of the SIS Newsletter, page 3.)

Joan Trevithick is editor of the newsletter issued by the Siberian, Spuria, and Japanese Group of the British Iris Society.

extra protection from the weather. All except those that were planted very closely together were transplanted to another polystyrene box, using the same compost mix, plus a little potting grit to increase the drainage. I have found that the close planting of the seeds seems to stimulate germination.

If you have placed a piece of polythane at the base (or bottom) of the box, you will find the transplanting very easy. Simply pick up the clump of seedlings in it, and then slide it out when you put them in the prepared hole. Spuria seedlings resent disturbances so much that I have evolved this method of transplanting them. Soon they are established and growing merrily.

Carry on feeding with a weak solution of high phosphate fertilizer about once a week. Water the seedlings first in dry weather. Never fertilize a dry plant. Change over to a granulated fertilizer mixed well with peat and sand when the wet weather has leached out all the goodness from the soil.

Snails and slugs love the succulent young shoots. Bait can be dangerous to birds and pussies, use it only if you have to, then putting it in a safe spot, perhaps covering it with a bit of slate or stone, or part of a broken clay pot. Potting grit mounded round the base is quite successful, but constant inspection is necessary at all times.

One or two points about Spuria seeds. Do not throw away old seeds. I have germinated seeds which were at least five (5) years old, they are now five foot plants, and ready to flower. Some seed raisers advocate soaking the seeds before planting. I visualize how they would be if they dropped from the pod, and favor waiting until they respond to weather conditions. All we do is give them a better chance of survival.

SPURIAS IN SAN JOSE

Ray John

Northern California must be Spuria heaven...because these irises grow there like no where else.

The following are some of those which we were fortunate enough to have observed, some of them are newer introductions, while some of them are the old standards.

ADOBE SUNSET (McCown 76) Dark brown standards and deep orange falls with dark brown veins and border, Wide rounded falls. This is one of my favorites from this outstanding hybridizer.

ARTS ALIVE (Hager 84) Lavender blue with shading of light brown surrounding the small yellow signal. It on my "must have" list.

BARBARA'S KISS (McCown 82) The standards are violet with slight streaks of pale yellow while the falls are a stronger shade of violet around the orange signal with brownish veins. Lots of ruffling here.

BORDER TOWN (Ghio 84) This smallish dark brown has a small yellow signal. An interesting plant to watch in the future.

CROW WING (Ferguson 72) Dark red-black self with small yellow signal. Too bad it is such a poor performer in growing habit.

CUSTOM DESIGN (Hager 81) An outstanding deep brown with bright yellow signals.

DRESS CIRCLE (Hager 85) The standards on this interesting flower are blue-violet with white veins on the inner surface, and the styles are violet. The falls have a bright yellow signal surrounded by a white band with a slight edging of violet. Another "Must".

Spurias in San Jose (continued)

EURASIA (Ghio 84) A nice burgundy colored flower with yellow shading on the center of the falls. I would like to see this one again.

GUEST ARTIST (Hager 83) A medium purple with golden yellow signals veined purple. I'll certainly add this one.

HEADWAY (Hager 85) Another golden orange yellow from Ben's line of breeding. I know I'll have to have this one.

HIGHLINE CORAL (McCown 86) My notes say this is an approach to the elusive pink in Spurias, but not much more. I remember that I want it.

MISSOURI STREAMS (Niswonger 83) A nice light blue self with a small yellow signal spot.

SOCIAL CIRCLE (Corlew 79) This ruffled white self from Glen Corlew has a bright yellow signal. Why doesn't Glen work more with Spurias?

SON OF SUN (Wickenkamp 83) This is a very nice bright yellow self with slight ruffles. Good!

Of course there were many more that we were unable to see because of time limitations, however, this small representative list will give you a sample of what was missed if you failed to get to San Jose.

Now, if only there is more time for the gardens in Phoenix... maybe there will be more to list next time.

NOTES ON GROWING FROM SEED

THE NATURAL WAY

Joan Trevithick

PART II

Well...here we are again with our seed sowing venture. I left you in the spring with the seeds nicely "tucked up" and given protection from predators. However, there are one or two more hazards. After a period of time, the peat-based compost may develop a crust of moss and lichans. I have been told this does not affect the seedlings, but I am not convinced. I usually sprinkle some sharp sand over the offending growth which will then gradually disappear.

Years ago an old friend gave me a tip...if you gently stir the compost without disturbing the seeds too much it can have a good effect on germination, but always smooth the surface afterward, and make sure the seeds are all covered.

At last, when you look in the box, tiny spears of green are showing. In the case of Spurias, to say exactly when this will happen is rather difficult as their germination is very erratic. I regard this as "Natures Way" and just accept the fact they have germinated. Of course, results are entirely different when controlled by laboratory methods, but, perhaps, not so much fun.

Taking care of the tiny seedlings is the great testing time. This year we have had so much rain (Ed. 1985) that I have used a weak solution of Bordeaux Mixture to help prevent "damping off", and sometimes covering the boxes with rigid plastic. Other times I took the boxes of seedlings into the greenhouse, something I had not done before. But then, we are having a record-breaking wet summer. In normal years they would stay in the boxes until large enough to set out without

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SPURIA IRIS POPULARITY POLL

USE THIS SPACE FOR ANY COMMENTS

After looking over many of the past newsletters, I notice it has been several years since we have had a popularity poll. The last one I can find was in 1983. Have I missed one, or has it really been that long? It appears that only about 12% of the Spuria Iris Society voted from 1981 to 1983. COME ON PEOPLE surely we can do better than that! I think this information would help give our newer members an insight on varieties to buy, and maybe something others have overlooked.

List your choices in order of preference as a weighted scale will be used in determining the winner.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

SPURIA GARDEN INFORMATION

NAME _____

LOCATION _____

PEAK BLOOM _____

APPROX. NO. _____

ARE VISITORS WELCOME? _____

SHOULD THEY PHONE IN ADVANCE _____