

THE

REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

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Clarence'
By
Lloyd Zurbrigg

*Bill
Ackerman*

THE REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY

A Section of the American Iris Society

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The President's Message

The iris community has lost an outstanding irisarian, Dr. Raymond G. Smith. Hazel, his wife, told me he would lie there in bed with a smile on his face, looking at his award we had sent him. Our heart goes out to her in these difficult times.

Dudley Carson, after many years as our faithful Art Editor, has asked to be replaced. He wants to spend more time with his irises and hybridizing. We wish him success.

Bill Ackerman agreed to do the next few issues. He is the most laid-back, modest person, as well as multi-talented. Bill received his B.S. in Horticulture, his M.S. and Ph.D. in Plant Genetics and Botany. Bill spent about 30 years between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. National Arboretum as a Pomologist and Research Horticulturist and was involved in the evaluation of both tree fruit and nut crops, shrub, and herbaceous ornamentals. He is still an active Research Collaborator at the Arboretum.

Bill has been the sole or primary author of over 150 research and popular articles. He has also been responsible for the release of 88 new cultivars into the nursery trade, including many cold-hardy camellias. He has been invited to lecture both here and overseas.

We are grateful to Mike Lowe for making it possible for our cover to be in color.

Dr. Weiler and I received copies of Signor Nogaro's beautiful album. As Dr. Weiler says, he is an artistic dramatic photographer. Contact me for his address if you are interested in ordering. I cannot get into that complication.

We have reprinted Signor Nogaro's comments on rebloom. John and I found this so charming, we are having it published unedited. His ebullience and simplicity reflects the sincerity of his emotional reaction to rebloom to which we all can relate.

Our good news is that the *Rebloomer Checklist* should be available in time to help you make your selections from the Spring catalogs. It was a mammoth undertaking, and accolades go to Ken Roberts for a superb job. It is more than twice the size of the previous *Checklist* (over 130 pages), with some added features included. Unfortunately, the cost of paper has increased (it will be a minimum of \$15), but we feel the

The President's Message cont....

contents will be well worth the price. Charlie Brown will be mailing it out, and we will have copies (if any are left) in Denver.

If you have wondered where the *Recorder* was, I will take the responsibility for it being late for reasons too boring to relate.

Happy and Blessed Holidays to All.

Rosalie

Membership Notes

Charlie Brown

Hello again to all our members. It has been several issues since I have had an updated report of the membership. In keeping with AIS policy, the Reblooming Iris Society has gone to yearly, January to December membership. We have adjusted our expiration dates and are now on the same basis. Renewal notices will be sent out in January, 1998 to all members with a December 1997 expiration date. The expiration date on your mailing label lists the year and month of expiration and will show a 01/- date of some kind.

We currently have over 950 members and more are updating to 3 year memberships. The new *Reblooming Iris Checklist* is scheduled to be ready this spring. It has been six years since the last checklist and many changes and additions have been made. The new checklist will show both the USDA zones and the states where rebloom has been reported.

This season only **Rosalie Figge** and an unknown Monty Byers yellow bloomed for me. Temperatures have been in the 40's at night and mid 60's to low 70's in the daytime. No frost yet (*first week of November*) within 200 miles.

Don't forget to take some extra slides of your new rebloomers and send them to Mrs. Rice-Waters. The demand for reblooming slides is at an all time high.

Coming up in the next issue: 1997 Reblooming Symposium Results, Hybridizing for varigated rebloomers, and more....

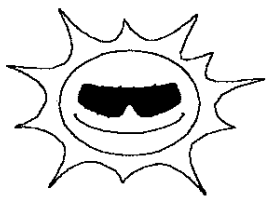
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fun In the Sun

It is unique Don Spoon mentions crossing **Jennifer Rebecca** with **Ovation**. It took me three years to find some **Jennifer Rebecca**, and it has proved an excellent grower for me. It is always one I give my good friends who are interested in reblooming iris. Two years ago my wife mentioned she liked **Ovation**, so I picked up a start for her. Since my rebloomers get more attention than the once bloomers, I put it in the reblooming garden - and would you believe right next to **Jennifer Rebecca**. I wish I could make the story even better by telling you I got a bee cross from these two, but I cannot. I am certainly going to try such a cross myself next Spring.

Sharon McAllister's article was of great interest to me as I've been trying to cross Arilbreds with my rebloomers. I do have **Persian Pattern** but never used it as I like Arilbreds with large well defined signals. However, knowing it could be a possible key, I will use it on three seedlings I produced two years ago. These three seedlings are a cross of **Low Ho Silver** and **Big Black Bumblebee**. The three seeds I got from the seed pod produced varying shades of pale yellow, one with definite Arilbred foliage and the other two more like **Low Ho Silver**. I will also use **Big Black Bumblebee** again on these seedlings. All three retained their green foliage throughout our hot Sacramento Valley heat. They are partly shaded by some nearby olive trees which gives them filtered shade. I'm hoping for rebloom this fall. This sure is FUN! I have another Arilbred seedling Mr. Leo T. Clark gave me years ago. It is a nice little iris with a fair signal, but not up to the late Mr. Clark's signal standards. Sometimes you want to use an iris for sentimental reasons of past good times with a good friend. Mr. Clark had gotten me started in iris, and I had gotten him interested in exotic birds.

Rex Leo Clark (Orland, CA zone 8/9)



Iris In the Sky

This is to thank you for editing and printing my report on rebloom '96. I'd read ½ the articles in the *Recorder* before I stumbled on my name. I love the articles and being incapacitated it seemed a special blessing. I sneak out every chance I get and clean a few hills, but if I work too long hubby calls or rides his mower out to tell me time to rest. When I came back from Sayre, PA in March we still had some snow off and on and more of the same in April. Not until the end of May do we have first dwarf blooms here in Olean.

I am fascinated with your Excel spreadsheet but I'd need one without Jan., Feb., Nov., and Dec. We can be sure of a freeze in October, usually by the 15th. Usually June is "iris time" in Olean.

I loved the Arilbred rebloom report although I have no intention of following Sharon's footsteps. Few of them survive our winters.

My favorite article? The Don Spoon's, of course. Yes, I too have gotten nowhere with **Jennifer Rebecca** so I'm so glad to hear others have had some success. Rebloom has certainly come a long way. Thank you for a great issue.

I copied the article for my daughter who is a writer and grows her iris on her patio of the 17th floor in Manhattan. She reported fantastic bloom on **Gingerbread Man** and intends to give it a bigger tub as a reward. I told her she could easier give ½ of it away. Maybe not good advice on a 17th floor.

I love the wide scope of the 49th edition. I never get to see any iris but my own, and I've run out of space with seedlings. I haven't figured out how to get them sprayed, let alone all cleaned with my limits on lifting. So far I can't run the rototiller even.

Diane said they had told her at White Flower Farm she should consider herself in one cold zone below New York City's zone 5 because of the 17th floor. She even grows trees up there - small ones - but trees. Next time you are in the Big Apple, look up - it's really surprising. Thanks.

Helen Raines (Olean, NY zone 5)

**Board Meeting of
The Reblooming Iris Society
June 3, 1997**

Our president, Rosalie Figge, presided. She welcomed all board members to our spring board meeting in Dearborn, Michigan on Tuesday, June 3, 1997, at noon.

Board members present introduced themselves; Mike Lowe, Clarence Mahan, Ginny Spoon, George Waters, Barbara Aitken, Claire Honkanen and Rosalie Figge. Five other members were also present.

Since the minutes had been in the Fall Recorder and there were no corrections or additions, a motion was made to dispense with their rereading at this time.

Our treasurer, Florence Wheat, was unable to attend the convention and sent her report to Rosalie.

Unfinished Business - Our past president requested that the membership establish a Distinguished Service Award for members who have contributed substantially to the Society. Mike Lowe had been appointed Award Chairman of a committee to choose recipients of this award. Board Members were contacted by phone in advance of the meeting, and the first Distinguished Service Award was made to Raymond G. Smith, Ph.D. Raymond Smith has contributed articles to the *Recorder*. He did his reblooming hybridizing at a time when rebloomers faced a great deal of scorn and lack of credibility. Through his efforts he developed the reblooming iris to the point where it can now "hold its own" in competition with the once-bloomers. A beautiful solid cherry plaque with brass was passed around and will be sent to him.

Mike Lowe and his committee announced there are a number of very deserving members within our Society. Mike explained this was a service award - not just a hybridizer's award. Mike then announced the nomination of John Weiler and Lloyd Zurbrigg - a motion was made and discussed and then adopted by unanimous consent to present this award to these two outstanding members; and they will receive their award at the next annual meeting in Denver, Colorado.

John Weiler had requested a bylaws revision and this project was undertaken. The president was assisted by Clarence Mahan and Sterling Innerst who felt the revision should be more easily understood and workable, brief and to the point. Bylaws form the administrative workings that hold the Society together, even though members are really more interested in irises! We also had the assistance of a professional registered parliamentarian, Edith Scales Stidman (a personal friend of your president). Edith is the past president of the National Association of Parliamentarians. Copies were passed out to board members and after a brief discussion were accepted by acclamation.

A revision of prices for advertisements in the *Recorder* was the next item of business. After discussion, it was decided that a full page would be \$50, and \$75 for the inside cover, \$30 for a half page, and no change in price for quarter (\$15) and one-eighth pages (\$10).

There was a discussion regarding establishing a web page on the internet for The Reblooming Iris Society, and our president is now seeking a volunteer.

An announcement was made in regard to the *REBLOOMING CHECKLIST* which is being finished, the price to be determined.

Meeting was then adjourned and the general meeting will be Wednesday, June 4, 1997.

Claire Honkanen, secretary.

**General Meeting of
The Reblooming Iris Society
June 4, 1997**

Our president, Rosalie Figge, welcomed all members and guests to our annual meeting of The Reblooming Iris Society on June 4, 1997. Rosalie announced that this would be a brief general meeting to allow enough time for the very special program.

The revision of our bylaws had been published in the Spring issue of *The Reblooming Iris Recorder* and copies of the bylaws were passed out to members. A proposal for acceptance was made by George Sutton and seconded by Virginia Khearsey. A vote was taken and acceptance given with unanimous approval.

Our past president, Dr. John Weiler, had requested that we establish a Distinguished Service Award to honor those who have provided so much service to the Society. Mike Lowe had been appointed Awards Chairman. The first Distinguished Service Award has been presented to Dr. Raymond G. Smith. He was unable to attend, and his plaque has been mailed to him.

It was announced that the eagerly awaited *REBLOOMING CHECKLIST* is being finished and being edited by Dr. John Weiler, Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg, and president Rosalie Figge. It will then be sent to the printer and be available shortly thereafter. A list was passed around, and those wishing copies will be notified when it is available.

Three of our outstanding members presented the program; PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF IRISES, Mike Lowe, Ginny Spoon and George Sutton. They spoke with expertise and accompanied their comments with slides. Members present were enthusiastic with their applause and appreciation of this wonderful program.

The secretary signed up new members in attendance.

All those attending were invited to be with us again when we meet in 1998 in Denver, Colorado the first week of June. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Claire Honkanen, secretary

RIS Honors It's Own

The Reblooming Iris Society established a Distinguished Service Award in 1997, and the first recipient of this award was Dr. Raymond G. Smith of Bloomington, Indiana. The award honors service to RIS that is set apart by excellence, amount and duration. The recipients of the Distinguished Service Award will be those who have given freely of talent, funds, time, and/or as a bonus, have produced reblooming irises of note. The Reblooming Society presented this well deserved award to Dr. Raymond Smith prior to his death this fall. Dr. Raymond Smith played a central role in bringing reblooming irises into prominence and was an inspiration to many.

The Honorary awards committee will be comprised of past recipients of the RIS awards and the currently serving President of the RIS. Until a group of award recipients accumulates, the RIS Eastern Director is temporarily serving as committee chairman. If you wish to recommend someone for this award, address your letter detailing the services and accomplishments of the individual to the President of RIS.

Autumn Twilight (G. Percy Brown '45)

by Mike Lowe, Virginia

Irisarians have raised questions concerning **Autumn Twilight's** description and dating since its listing in Lloyd Austin's catalog. During the 40s, 50s and 60s this iris was widely grown and was a significant parent in reblooming iris hybridizing. It was not registered until 1971 and the listed introduction date and color description disagreed with some catalog data. This fostered speculation that a 1948 G. Percy Brown registration, **August Twilight** was actually the iris sold and grown under the name, **Autumn Twilight**. As the chronology of these irises is complicated, a timetable of events will detail their story.

Mid 30s-early 40s: Dr. G. Percy Brown hybridizes the seedling that will be selected and named **Autumn Twilight**.

1945: **Autumn Twilight** is introduced to commerce through in-garden sales in G. Percy Brown's Barre, Massachusetts, Everblooming Iris Garden.

1948: A seedling is selected, named **August Twilight** and registered. This iris was never used in breeding nor offered for sale in 14 years worth of Brown's catalogs. However, it may have been sold from Doc Percy's garden. (Doc Percy—the name used by iris friends.) The parentage of this iris is listed as September Skies X Autumn Sunset.

Late 40s-early 50s: Lloyd Austin offers **Autumn Twilight** in his catalog, *Iris Color Guidebook*. Austin always listed pedigrees, when available. No pedigree was ever given for **Autumn Twilight** in Austin's catalog.

1952: Doctor G. Percy Brown issues his first *Iris Sale List*.

1953: G. Percy Brown offers a small, printed flyer or catalog, listing all his introductions and a few originations of others that did well in his garden. In this catalog, **Autumn Twilight** is listed with an introduction date of 1945 and is so listed in all subsequent catalogs through 1967.

1960: Lloyd Austin features a color photograph of **Autumn Twilight** in his catalog.

1971: Because of **Autumn Twilight's** wide distribution and importance in breeding, Doc Percy is urged to register it.

1971: **Autumn Twilight** is duly registered with a parentage of: (Autumn Sunset X September Sparkler) However, Doc Brown, age 82, was then living in an apartment and did not have access to his records, thus at least two mistakes were made in the registration. The first is the listing of the introduction date as 1958 rather than the correct 1945. Second, the description of color is listed as: "S. brownish yellow; F. light yellow" instead of the correct description in Doc's '53 catalog: "S. brownish yellow; F. light yellow and lavender." The '55 catalog had an slightly expanded version: "S. brownish yellow; F. light yellow and pinkish lavender."

1971: A complete listing of G. Percy Brown introductions is listed in the March 1971 *Reblooming Iris Reporter*, edited by Edwin Rundlett. (This newsletter was started by Rundlett prior to formation of the *Reblooming Iris Society* and was a large factor in generating interest sufficient to make possible a *Reblooming Society*. When Rundlett gave up the editorship, he requested that the name be changed and it was: from *The Reblooming Iris Reporter* to *The Reblooming Iris Recorder*.) The data given for **Autumn Twilight's** pedigree was obtained from correspondence between Edwin Rundlett and Dr. Brown and agrees with that in the registration submission and the 1971 R & I. The date of introduction and color description listed in the *Reporter* article is in agreement with that in Doc Percy's catalogs.

1971: Dr. G. Percy Brown is awarded and receives the 1971 AIS Hybridizer's Medal.

1971: Doctor G. Percy Brown dies in December

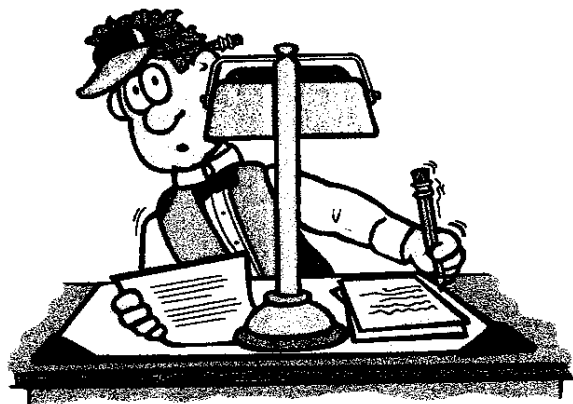
1975: Lloyd Zurbrigg compiles the *Reblooming Iris Societies' 1976 Reblooming Iris Checklist*. Lloyd speculates that the 1948 registration **August Twilight** was in error and the 1971 registration **Autumn Twilight** was made to correct this error.

Early 1990s to present: Libby Cross has grown and distributed **Autumn Twilight** since the mid 60s. A picture of her AT illustrates this article (*in HIPS*) and is indistinguishable from the **Autumn Twilight** photo in Lloyd Austin's catalog. A question of Libby's in an earlier ROOTS kicked off this investigation and a write-up from Libby furnished the framework around which the facts are organized.

Conclusion: **Autumn Twilight** was introduced in 1945, however conflicting date and color information has been published in catalogs, articles and the AIS R & Is and Check Lists. Two errors in the '71 registration can be shown using early G. P. Brown and L. Austin catalogs. The most credible interpretation of the '48 registration would be that it was a seedling that never went further. We can be reasonably sure that there is, and has been, only one **Autumn Twilight**. Further, it is nearly certain that the cultivar pictured in Austin's catalog and growing in gardens today, is **Autumn Twilight** and is traceable from the late 40s to the present.

This article was made possible by help from Libby Cross, Keith Keppel, Scott Jordan and Sharon McAllister.

This article was published in an earlier edition of ROOTS, the publication of HIPS (Historic Iris Preservation Society) and sent to us by the author, Mike Lowe.



It never ceases to amaze me.
Is it comical or is it crazy?
Why visitors to our Fall Reblooming Show
Admire a stalk and want to know,
But, does it rebloom?

Don Spoon

A LILTING SLIDE SHOW REVIEW

by Ginny Spoon

Hi to all our RIS members. I would like to **Reiterate** what our **Genteel** RIS President said about the reblooming slide show at the National Convention in Dearborn. It was a **Doozey** of a show with a great **Concoction** of **Sheer Class** rebloomers and a **Bountiful Harvest** of the **Latest Style, Latest Trend, Refined, and Lovely Again** irises from **Curtain Up** to the **Final Fling** on the **Silver Screen**. **Dashing** Mike Lowe was a **Royal Crusader** for the historic rebloomers with **Renown** that have achieved **Immortality**. George Sutton was quite the **Showman** with his **Sunny Disposition**. He had a **Progressive Attitude** towards the **Merit** of the new spageagers that definitely deserve **Silver Dividends** and are **Ahead of Times**. I was **Anxious** at first, but I have gotten some positive **Feed Back** from **Clarence**, who especially liked my slide of **Suky** in the **Second Show**. Although I don't have **Total Recall** of all the **Hot** new rebloomers, nor an **Inkling** of all the **Chatter** that went on, it was a **Harvest of Memories**. I **Do** hope that we will be **Blessed Again** with an **Invitation** to do a **Dashing, Second Act** of these **Pearls of Autumn** so we can have another **Blitz of Magic Memories**. In **Retrospect**, all the rebloomers were **Top Flight**, and my **One Desire** is to have them all **Be Mine**. My motives, though somewhat **Gilded**, are **Pure as Gold**; but **Then Again**, you may not believe **All That Jazz**. So, **Come What May**, I will **Remember Spring** and our **Remarkable Re-Treat** in Dearborn with **Sweet Reflection** and **Dance for Joy** if **Rosalie Figge** asks me to do an **Autumn Encore**. I also hope the other speakers will say "**Ditto**", or "**What a Beautiful Surprise**", and not "**O My Goodness, What Again.**" **Be Happy!**

Forever Yours,

Please send your articles, comments, rebloom and show reports. We need your support in order to have a great RIR. Send your questions to: Ask the Expert care of Lloyd Zurbrigg. Our e-mail and addresses are on the front page. I really appreciate e-mail articles. I don't have to type as much. Just hit that attach button! Thank you.

Your Editor

THE FOUR SEASONS OF IRISES

by John Weiler

Excitement about receiving an album of beautiful iris photographs, some rebloomers, representing our first, ever, reports of rebloom in Italy, sent me scurrying to books and maps to find more information about the area where the irises were grown. My hope was that those growing remountant irises in the U.S. would have a way of comparing climates and making use of the information in their own gardens. The album of photographs was sent to me by the author, an artist, photographer, and professional gardener, Giovanni Edoardo Nogaro living in Lecco, Italy.

Lecco lies at the southeast extremity of an arm of Lake Como, 650 feet altitude (198 m) which is about 31.5 miles (50 km) north of Milan, Italy. This means that it is located in the foothills of the spectacular, towering Alps. Most of this northern quarter of Italy has a continental climate of warm summers and cold winters. However, the northern Italian lakes at the base of the Alps, sheltered from cold north winds, tend to have mild, near subtropical conditions, warm enough to grow a number of somewhat tender plants but not warm enough for growing oranges or lemons commercially. On rather steep slopes above the lake are grown walnuts, chestnuts and olives. Olives can be grown where temperatures do not drop below 15 degrees F.

The fact that irises rebloom in northern Italy is well documented in exquisite photographs in the album entitled *Le Quattro Stagioni Dell'Iris*, (The Four Seasons of Irises.) Some photographs were taken in autumn after a snow had fallen and show snow piled high on the petals. In addition to noting that certain cultivars rebloom in northern Italy, I include the data taken from the Checklist of Reblooming Irises to indicate which states, other countries, and the USDA hardiness zones where rebloom has been recorded for each of the cultivars. Varieties reblooming in Italy were, **Champagne Elegance** (Niswonger 87) CA, CO, ID, KS, MD, MO, NE, NM, NY, OK, PA, TX, VA, VT, WA, WV, Australia, Ontario Canada, England, Holland, Italy, USDA zones 4,5,6,7,8,9,10; **Chatter** (Ghio 93) CA, MD, SC, Italy, USDA zones 7, 8, 9; **Morocco** (Keppel 80) Italy; **Pagan Goddess** (L. Miller 95) CA, IN, Italy, USDA zones 6,9; All the foregoing are tall bearded irises. To those can be added the SDB, **Hot** (Byers 89) CA, MD, MO, NC, NY, VA, Ontario Canada, Italy, USDA zones 5,6,7,8,9.

Permission has been granted by the author to reprint his comments about reblooming irises.

THE REBLOOMING IRIS

*From the Four Seasons of Irises
by Giovanni Edoardo Nogaro*

Emotion and joy have arisen in my heart while I was photographing the reblooming Irises just as I saw my first Irises blooming 25 years ago.

During these years my love for Irises has been more and more increasing specially now that I can stay by my flower beds not only in the spring-time but also in other seasons. In fact the reblooming rhizomes bloom until late December and early dwarf reblooming rhizomes bloom end of February.

The autumn Irises spread out a romantic light full of mystery which gives sensations of dreaming and peace. It is a chromatic range, a real blow up of colors which can now be seen regularly also in summer autumn and winter.

The blooming and reblooming of these masterpieces of nature in a rainbow of colors and lights create a magic and unique atmosphere around us. In my "Eremo", like in an everlasting "jardin du soleil" Irises have bloomed from March to December. During the frozen days they stopped, but as soon as the cold was over they went on again.

In the fall the new kinds of reblooming Irises last much longer than in springtime. Some of them bloom also three times a year. In May the blooming lasts about one month while in autumn it lasts from September to December due to the fresher temperature.

The reblooming Irises need regular sprinkles and fertilizing during all summer. The nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium rate must be 1-2-2. They will also be more generous in yielding than the blooming Irises.



REBLOOMING IRISES ON SANDY SOIL IN MARYLAND (ZONE 6)

by Kitty Ackerman (Francis Scott Key Iris Society)

History - Like many others, my first experience with reblooming iris was with **Immortality**, which I obtained from an iris plant sale (one of the pluses of a sale is getting an amateur hooked on growing irises). Soon after, I met Joan Roberts, and ordered a number of rebloomers, asking her to send me a reliable group for our area. I also joined the Reblooming Iris Society. The year after I established my first rebloomer bed I had blooms off and on until frost. That sold us on rebloomers! I had never been much interested in bearded iris because of the labor involved for their relatively short blooming season. We have now expanded our beds to include over 100 rebloomers.

Our Culture - The method we use for establishing new areas for planting fruits, vegetables or ornamentals (where there is existing sod), is to put black plastic down tightly over the area in spring or early summer, and leave it until the next spring. We don't like to use herbicides except where absolutely necessary. For the rebloomers we add peat moss, composted cow manure, 5-10-10 and alfalfa pellets before rototilling. Our soil is so well drained we can rototill right after a heavy rain! After the plants are established and warm weather arrives, a mulch of pine bark nuggets is added, keeping it away from the rhizomes. The mulch cuts down on splashing of dirt after a hard rain, and there seems to be less leaf spot than when no mulch is used. It also keeps the soil cool and weeds down. Following Joan Robert's advice, we spray with Cygon for borers in the spring when growth is about 4-6" and again 2 weeks later. This is the only chemical used, and it is handled with extreme care. I hand weed. Bill (my husband) has been experimenting with Lime-Sulphur on one half of the iris beds to see if it helps on leaf spot there. Will let you know what happens.

After fertilizing in March, we again apply 5-10-10 fertilizer after spring bloom. I am afraid of fertilizer burn, so usually wait for a rain to do the fertilizing.

Since our garden is not for show, I am most interested in having flowers on the table and to give to friends. Therefore, I usually cut a stalk as soon as it starts to bloom using a slanting cut at ground level. We read that Comet cleanser powder could be used on the cut, and so I keep a container handy. Last year's blooming season started in late March with the Miniature Tall

Bearded Iris and continued through May, ending with the Tall Bearded Iris. This was followed by the Siberian and Japanese Irises. The rebloomers started in July. Rebloomers are more work, as you have to water and fertilize in the summer, but are well worth the effort. To me, there is no thrill greater than going out in the garden in summer or fall and suddenly seeing a bloom stalk which seems to have appeared overnight!

Our Best Performers - **Peach Reprise** (BB Moores 83) won hands down with blooms for 4 months (several times a month), followed closely by **Low Ho Silver** (IB Byers 89), **Immortality** (TB Zurbrigg 82), **Eternal Bliss** (TB Byers 88), and **Baby Blessed** (SDB Zurbrigg 79). The month of October had almost everything blooming, with September the next best month. There was always something in bloom in July and August too. The hit of the October bloom was a new plant of **Clarence** (TB Zurbrigg 90) which sent up two stalks of 8 buds each!

A November freeze ended almost 8 months of iris bloom.



REBLOOMERS AND THE 1997 AIS AWARDS

By John Weiler

With increasing frequency, reblooming irises are winning AIS awards in direct competition with once blooming irises. This year it is welcome to see reblooming beardless irises better represented than before in spite of the fact that votes are not yet available on Japanese irises because of their late blooming date. The list of award winners below has been gleaned from all AIS awards available at this time for 1997.

Each cultivar has been checked for rebloom records in the *Checklist for Reblooming Irises*. A single report of rebloom qualifies the cultivar to be included in the checklist. While records at one time were kept by state name and those reports were not kept by precise location in the state, the checklist still records rebloom records by states. However, in recent years we have found that a more accurate prediction of rebloom potential is reflected in USDA hardiness zones where the rebloom is recorded. Once the cultivar has rebloomed, for example, in zone 5 of eastern Nebraska, it is likely to rebloom elsewhere in zone 5 as in Salt Lake City or upstate New York, and generally in all higher numbered zones, 6-10, where growing season is longer and winters less severe.

For that reason, the new checklist, (*which should be available early spring of '98*), includes not only states but also the USDA hardiness zones where possible from data sent by members. Sometimes a cultivar may rebloom only in warmer climates with a long growing season. Other times, a brief listing of rebloom records is due to limited distribution of the cultivar. In such cases, the plant may later have a growing list of rebloom locations. Obviously, those cultivars with a long list of rebloom locations and hardiness zones are among the most dependable if you are selecting rebloomers for your garden.

Dykes Memorial Medal

Runnerup

Supreme Sultan (Schreiner) CA

John C. Wister Medal

Acoma (T.Magee) AZ, WA (8,9)

runnerup

City Lights (M.Dunn) CA, WA, (8,9)

Knowlton Medal (BB)

Sonja's Selah (A.Ensminger) CA,OR (6,8,9)

Hans and Jacob Sass Medal (IB)

Runnerup

Low Ho Silver (Byers)

CA,CO,CT,IL,MD,MI,MO,NC,NE,NM,NY,OH,OK,
OR,TX,UT,VA,WA,WV, Ontario, Holland
(4,5,6,7,8,9,10)

Cook-Douglas Medal (SDB)

Runnersup

Little Showoff (E.Hall)

CA,KY,MD,MO,NC,NM,OH,TX,UT,VA,WV, Ontario
(5,6,7,8,9)

Cimarron Rose (H.Nichols) CA,OK (6,9)

Campagne-Welch Medal (MDB)

Grapelet (T.Aitken) OR, WA (8)

Morgan Wood Medal (SIB)

Runnersup

Reprise (B.Warburton) MA,VA,WI (6,7,8)

Springs Brook (B.Warburton) MA,WI (5)

Award of Merit

(MDB)

Runnerup

Hey There (C.Lankow) WA (8)

(SDB)

Runnerup

Little Blue-Eyes (Weiler)

CA,ME,MO,NE,VA,WV(5,6,7,8,9)
(IB)

Runnerup

Orange Petals (D.Niswonger) WA (8)

(SIB)

Roaring Jelly (Schafer-Sacks) MA,WI (5)

(TB)

Clarence (Zurbrigg)

CA,IA,ID,MD,NC,OR,PA,TX,UT,VA,WV (4,5,6,7,8,9)

Honorable Mention

(SDB)

Harlem Nocturne (A.&D.Willott) OH (5)

(IB)

Season Ticket (J.Gatty) CA (9)

(TB)

Autumn Tryst (Weiler)

CA,ID,MD,NC,NE,PA,TX,UT,WA,WV (5,6,7,8,9)

Pagan Goddess (L.Miller) CA,IN, Italy (6,9)

Winds of Change (Hager) CA (9)

Species

Arctic Rebloomer (Carla Lankow) WA (7) - *Iris setosa*

STIMULATING REBLOOM IN IRISES, YOURS, MINE AND THOSE WAY OVER THERE

By John Weiler

Bearded irises grow and bloom well the first spring after planting. Irises may grow and bloom well the first spring after planting. Irises usually wait for good growth and typical bloom until the second year after planting and some may be best during the third year. All these statements have been made by gardeners, iris hobbyists and commercial growers, generally referring to spring blooming cultivars. All statements also have an element of truth. Why can't we make just one of these statements and apply it consistently? What impact does this have on culture of reblooming irises?

Generally, when transplanting my own reblooming irises, I can expect to get nearly 100% bloom the following spring from sizeable rhizomes if I complete planting before November. For several years while operating a commercial garden in California I was unable to complete replanting until November, December, or even into January. Although transplants completed during September and October flowered well, for each week delay after October, the performance of irises the following spring showed progressively fewer bloom stalks, ever shorter stalks, and smaller blooms, this over fields having 30,000 plants representing hundreds of cultivars. The indication here is that timing of replanting is important to first year performance. Data suggest that transplanting should be completed at least six weeks before hard frost. Somewhat different results were experienced from purchased plants.

While plants purchased within or near my own area and climatic zone behaved much as my own plants, those obtained from farther away, from different climates or drastically different soil types and length of growing season behaved very differently. All were planted before the end of September. Instead of having nearly 100% bloom the first spring following planting, the performance consistently dropped to 50-60% first year bloom, occasionally less. While the number of plants purchased was only in the low hundreds instead of the 30,000 of my own plants, their trend was unmistakable. I also recall that in the Great Plains of Nebraska where I grew only spring blooming irises, my garden would rarely produce more than 50% first year bloom from locally produced plants and even less from plants purchased from other areas.

Two aspects of climate are likely responsible for some of these plant responses, relative severity of winter and length of growing season. Plants growing where winters are very cold and the growing season is limited to 150 days are likely jolted when planted in an area where low temperatures reach only the low 20s and growing season is 300 or more days. Similarly, plants grown in a mild climate and long growing season are often reluctant to enter dormancy by the end of September in a colder climate when they customarily would continue growing well into November. Another factor which probably affects early performance is soil type where the plant had grown in contrast to local soils. I vividly recall visiting iris gardens on both coasts of the continent where rhododendrons and azaleas thrived adjacent to iris plantings indicating somewhat acidic soils. In my garden in the midwest and now here in California, soils tend to be neutral or alkaline. Such differences in climate or soil are very likely to affect plant performance until there has been some time for the plant to adjust to its new environment, assuming the plant can adjust. This is known as acclimation, a topic not often discussed in iris circles.

Why, though, should irises be much different from many other plants? Specialists offering daffodils state when sending planting instructions that plants may not be true to color advertised, especially during their first year. Further they state that plant height, flower size, and even proportions of flower parts may vary. For double daffodils, it is cautioned that doubleness may not appear or may not be typical until plants have acclimated. Likewise for lilies, typical stem height and more abundant flowers tend to occur after a period of adjustment, generally the second or even third year following planting. Other plants show similar reactions.

As an example of how difficult it may be for iris plants to adjust to a new environment, there are data documenting transfer of irises from the southern to the northern hemisphere where winter/summer seasons are reversed. Plants imported from down under often don't grow well or perform normally until two to three years after importation. Some plants overbloom and are gone the first spring. Others do not bloom until the second or third year. Stem height, branching, bud count, flower size, vigor and increase are all affected until the plants acclimate, even though they were grown in a climate of similar mild winters and long growing season but with seasons reversed. Once acclimated, the

irises grow and flower wonderfully, so well, in fact, that many have won well deserved honors and awards of the AIS. Irises are known to be very adaptable, growing well in many climates and varied soil types. With a few exceptions, most cultivars given a year or two to settle into a new environment perform beautifully even though first year bloom was wanting. What has this to do with reblooming irises?

Remontants have often been unjustly criticized for failing to rebloom as advertised. However, these rebloomers are not significantly different from their spring blooming relatives in most traits other than rebloom. When obtained from different climates or areas with much different soils, the rebloomers may not only fail to bloom the first spring but also may not bloom the following autumn. While nearly all will bloom the second spring, a few cultivars have taken a third year to begin reblooming in autumn. Yet, once these plants are acclimated, they may be consistent remontants even after transplanting if they remain in the same or similar environment.

One other aspect of culture affecting rebloom is the lack of bloom the first autumn. Generally, irises tend to perform below their potential when they have grown for three or more years and become crowded. Still, those interested in reblooming irises may often further delay transplanting because they don't want to lose the fall bloom season the year of transplanting. When remontants are transplanted, over much of the country, gardeners wait until mid to late summer to do the work. This usually means that only a small percentage of the transplants will give bloom the first autumn and the stalks may be shorter and less well-branched and budded.

By trial and error I have discovered after many years of growing remontants that, again, timing transplanting has an effect on bloom the first fall. By starting transplanting only two weeks after the spring flowering, I have been able to get as much as 30% of the plants to bloom with normal stalks the first autumn. When transplanting at this early date, the rhizomes are smaller than those of mid-summer, but there is quite a long growing season still remaining after the plants establish roots. Continuing transplanting through the summer yields fewer fall blooms. Any transplants after mid July give relatively little fall bloom and those that do bloom are atypical for stalk height, branching, and often, bud count.

Since time is important here, one other piece of information can help obtain first autumn rebloom. When transplanting we are cautioned to dig and separate rhizomes and then let the cut or broken ends heal over before replanting to prevent soft rot from destroying the rhizome. Twenty four to forty eight hours out of the ground is sufficient. If planted this soon, those roots remaining on the plant will sprout lateral roots readily within a few days and the plant establishes much more quickly than plants left out of the ground several days or more. Those roots on plants out of the ground much more than forty eight hours fail to produce lateral roots and the old roots die off gradually. This forces the plant to grow an entire new crop of roots before becoming established, a process which takes four to six weeks.

In summary, things to remember when growing reblooming irises are listed below.

1. Irises from your garden transplanted very late in summer or autumn may not flower the first spring. For best results, transplanting should be completed at least six weeks before hard frost.
2. Plants obtained from areas having a different climate and, perhaps soil type, may have to acclimate for a year or two, occasionally longer before performance becomes reliable.
3. If you have a nursery source in your area offering reblooming irises, you may not have to wait for plants to acclimate. The problem here is that some outlets purchase bare root rhizomes from afar and resell them. Such rhizomes will grow well but may have to acclimate just like those you purchase from outside your area.
4. There is nothing wrong with waiting for acclimation to occur, especially when you want some of the newer cultivars that are not widely available. Indeed, most of the newest ones are available only from a single source, the hybridizer. Who can resist?
5. If you are dividing your irises and hope for the first autumn rebloom, try transplanting as early as two weeks after spring bloom finishes.
6. Whenever you transplant, give the rhizomes only 24-48 hours to heal over before replanting. This simulates much earlier establishment, growth, and first autumn rebloom.

Reminiscing About Raymond G. Smith, Ph.D.

by Lloyd Zurbrigg

Indiana University was an excellent choice for the writer. Not only did it give him very valuable studies in music, but it also brought him in contact with Dr. Raymond G. Smith of the Speech Department. Raymond just happened to be one of the scant half-dozen members of AIS who was interested in remontancy. What a twist of fate that I was another member of that tiny minority!

Raymond's home was in Wisconsin, and his earliest studies of genetics were in Holstein-Friesian cattle. After he left his parents' farm to become a teacher, he continued this study for the sake of his parents and his brother.

When I first knew Raymond, I was struck by the amount of time he gave to visual study of growth patterns. He would go up and down rows of seedlings just intently inspecting them. As a result, his iris introductions always were good-growing plants with better-than-average foliage. Good size blossoms in remontants was obtained by some seedlings from Edwin Rundlett of Staten Island, NY. I was fortunate indeed to have Raymond's rebloomers to use as the foundation of my own subsequent line of remontant iris.

Not all of his ventures were successful. I recall a long row of seedlings with excellent growth but very inferior flowers, that came from the use of **Lieutenant de Savagnac**. Given his intense scrutiny, they all failed the test and none were perpetuated or bred.

Raymond gave me several rows in his garden in which to grow seedlings, so that my hybridizing did not have to stop during the four years of study in Bloomington, a remarkable witness to his generosity. It was amazing to find that some of my seedlings which had never rebloomed in Canada, would rebloom in southern Indiana. **Northern Spy** was one of these. **Technicolor**, a red from Agnes Whiting of

Mapleton, Iowa, rebloomed several times for Raymond. The AIS judges of the time believed this to be a serious fault. Far from being an asset, remontancy was deemed a liability.

Tom Craig of Escondido, CA was one of the few hybridizers who stood against this mode of thinking. He introduced many rebloomers, most of them suitable, however, only in southern California, because they contained too much of the genetic material from *I. mesopotamica*, a desert plant that grows mainly in the winter. Another such hybridizer was Tell Muhlestein of Provo, Utah, and Lloyd Austin of Placerville, CA was a third. Raymond Smith tried many introductions from these growers, as well as the famous **Gibson Girl** from James Gibson of Porterville, CA.

Of course, the introductions of Dr. G. Percy Brown of Barre, MA were well represented in Raymond's garden when I first saw it in 1959. Dr. Brown had an all-consuming interest in remontancy in irises, and produced dozens of introductions that rebloomed faithfully in northern gardens. Raymond used these rather sparingly in his crosses, because of the inferiority of their blossoms.

Some of the more widely known of Raymond's introductions are: **Summer Olympics**, a yellow; **Re-Treat**, a light violet with "silver" edge on the falls; and **Returning Peace**, a white with orange-tangerine beards. These and many others have given hybridizers very valuable genetic material for work with remontant irises, and we shall continue to be very much in his debt.

I shall always recall his generosity, his trenchant wit, and his laughter. Our sympathy goes out to his faithful companion and widow, Hazel.

We Have a Pond - What Do We Do Now?

By Joan Roberts (Francis Scott Key Iris Society)

Three weeks after moving into a new home with 22 acres and a "dream come true" pond, we looked out one morning and discovered that our "beautiful" future home for beardless irises, and the water supply for rebloomers, was covered with algae! Knowing absolutely nothing about ponds, much less algae filled ponds, I called the people at the local Extension Service. They were very understanding, and sent us their "algae packet" with various treatments we could use for control. Reading down the list of "cures" and their environmental dangers, we decided to go to a shop that specialized in water gardens. The owner of the shop was very helpful, told us about Triploid Grass Carp, and gave us an application to apply for a permit to buy the carp. Apparently carp are very big algae eaters, but they also eat trout. He kindly gave us the names of two people who specialize in pond problems. For a fee, they could test the algae, tell us what measures were necessary to control this particular type of algae and generally monitor the situation. Unfortunately, the house came only with a mortgage, not the winning lottery ticket.

A customer from another state called and told us to buy water hyacinths (*Eichhornia crassipes*). We looked in a water gardening magazine and found an article about water hyacinths and their ability to help with the algae - there was one big drawback - it is illegal to transport them across state lines. After thinking about various ways to smuggle them into Pennsylvania, I decided that they weren't worth a stretch in the pen.

All of the above being done in our precious little free time. Between unpacking cartons, finding all those important things that were intentionally put somewhere so we couldn't lose them, repairing lawn mowers that broke after one pass at the 4' high Timothy Hay "lawn", tilling the good earth for new flower beds, planting trees, hanging curtain rods and catching up on correspondence that took ten days to forward (we moved only one hour away from our old house)....

We finally asked our new son-in-law, Dave, to research the situation. After reading volumes of information on every device, fish, and chemical known to man, he came up with a very simple solution: A bale of straw!!! According to Dave, this method was discovered by a farmer in England who accidentally dropped a bale of straw into his algae-filled pond. After a couple of weeks the algae was gone. He reported it to the

powers-that-be and they did research on the subject and found it really works.

In our spare time we had to buy a car. The man at the dealership was very nice and said, "Oh you have algae in your pond - use a bale of straw, that will cure the problem." But he then cautioned us to put it in an old shopping cart. "A shopping cart?" I questioned (thinking this could also land me in the pokey) - well he then said we could also wrap it in hardware cloth - if the straw breaks up we'd have a worse problem than the algae.

After further research on the "straw cure", it seems that some scientists believe that it will work better if the straw breaks up in the pond. So, we tossed a bale of straw into the pond - or I should say what is left of the pond. Since we have had a three month drought, there really isn't much of a pond left to worry about. We have decided to forget about the algae and concentrate on watering and fertilizing the irises. Ken suggested that the algae might be a good fertilizer. Now if we can find a way to "harvest" that algae!

Joan and Ken Roberts raise and hybridize reblooming and other irises in their new home in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Region 4 Reblooming Show Report

The Region 4 Fall meeting was held in Lewisburg, West Virginia on October 3rd and 4th. There were some lovely iris stalks but unfortunately, not enough for an official show. It didn't stop everyone from enjoying **Violet Music, Clarence, Feed Back, Artistic Gold, Fall Primrose** and others, while the meetings and judge's training sessions were held.

On October 18th, the C&P Iris Society held their fall show at Behnke's Nursery in Beltsville, Maryland. There were a number of lovely bloom stalks and the public was very appreciative of the information given about reblooming irises. The Queen of Show was **Harvest of Memories** exhibited by Chuck Canada, The runner up was **Clarence** exhibited by Valerie Canada, and the third runner up was MTB **Lady Emma** exhibited by Dick Sparling. The best seedling was a lovely pink BB (94-404) from the garden of the late Charlie Nearpass exhibited by Don Spoon. The silver medal was won by Ginny Spoon and the bronze medal by Valerie Canada.

This was published previously in the 1980 Fall issue of the RIR. We republish it as a tribute to Dr. Raymond Smith.



From

Dudley Carson
Robin Chairman

Excerpts selected from
robins directed by the
Reblooming Iris Society

Raymond G. Smith, Bloomington, IN: Last winter (1979) was the best of the last four years. In fact, the preceding three were the worst I can remember for severe consecutive winters. I transplanted everything last summer and tossed out nearly 4/5 of everything I had. I now have only one "field" instead of five. I usually plant them (my seedlings) with the plants about 8" apart and the rows about 32" apart. This summer I will have several tons of rabbit manure-compost to feed the plants. A couple years ago I dug a deep trench, square, about 10' x 16' and laid in some slabs of limestone. Then I laid up 3 rows of concrete blocks without mortar, with a block divider down the middle. Into these pits has gone everything from the house and garden except fat and meat products. I have always found compost to be much better than commercial fertilizer, but do use some of the latter, also. The best fertilizer for irises that I ever concocted was:

I part sharp sand
1 part rotted sawdust
1 part sludge from the city sewage system

I started out with hard, infertile, yellow clay. Also used some wood ashes, compost, and commercial fertilizer.

In my experience, mold does not adversely affect the germination of iris seeds. In fact, I have felt that it enhances germination, so long as the outside coat isn't perforated.

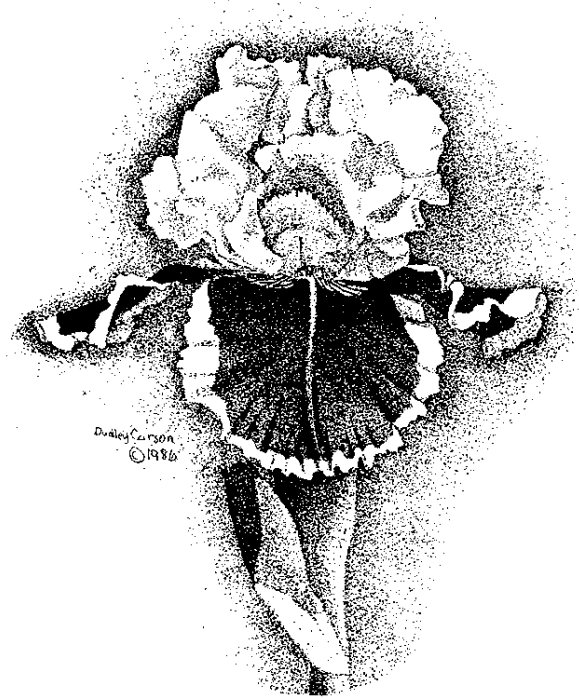
The complete story of germination has not been written. It is thought that several factors may operate. One seems to be leaching. Plenty of rain seems to help. Some hybridizers have placed seeds in net bags and held them under running water for several days. Also freezing and thawing also seems to affect the inhibitor. There likewise seems to be a symbiotic effect, for when a cluster of seeds is planted in contact, the germination of one appears to release something that affects the others and start them also. Finally, the growth of mold also seems effective. Perhaps the spores, as in cheese, grow through the outer layers and into the endosperm or even the embryo and release the inhibitor.

I have observed that seeds harvested when the pods are slightly green, that is, before the seeds are real brown and the pods begin to split open, will germinate better than the completely ripe pods. This has led me to speculate that the inhibitor is one of the last parts of the seed to form. I also have an alternative speculation, but it is probably of no general interest. A practical hybridizer is more concerned with what happens and what to do to make it happen than why it happens.

From the Spring 1979 issue of the RIR.

THE ARTIST AT WORK

OOOOO Dudley Carson OOOOO



Deep inside each of us, we are all artists at heart. This artistry expresses itself in many ways. Some of us, if not all of us, use artistic discrimination in selecting the clothing we wear, our drapes, furniture, and accessories we use to make our homes more pleasant to live in.

It takes a great deal of artistic sense just to arrange the design of our landscaping. Then another dimension of artistry is found in the sensitivity employed in making color arrangements of the many irises we plant in our gardens. Some colors clash exceedingly when placed adjacent to each other. Again, what is jarring and garish to one taste may be exciting to another. It depends largely on the effect one is trying to create, but artistry is being used to achieve it.

The great artists in the iris world are found in many of the hybridizers. Here we find the creator cooperating with the CREATOR in producing all the elegant new irises. It requires a real sense of judgement in beauty, as well as in the various qualities or characteristics found in the genes and chromosomes of irises to determine the best of possible crosses.

Even the most carefully made plans are sometimes capable of leading to great surprises. Unexpected colors, lace, fringes, and many other breaks may occur that the hybridizer had no envisioned. These are examples of the CREATOR stepping in and lending assistance.

The CREATOR is also at work when some pollen dabbers are busy. (Pollen dabbers are those eager beings who select the two "prettiest" irises in their yards and cross them, without regard for anything else.) That some of these far out crosses sometimes produce outstanding beauties attest to a Higher Hand at work in the universe.

Then there is the artist who makes the drawings for the *Reblooming Iris Recorder*. He loves to draw many things: landscapes, birds, mammals, mushrooms, flowers, and (being an ardent lover of the reblooming varieties) irises. Of all subjects, the iris is his favorite topic to discuss, hybridize (dab pollen) and to draw and paint pictures. He has been drawing irises for fifteen years, as well as dabbing pollen and discussing them. But, within the last year, he wanted to improve his drawing technique. Another local artist, who does nature drawings to perfection, was contacted and now more lessons are being taken to improve his ability. This "new" technique of pen drawing is called stippling. Examples of it are to be found in this issue of the *Reblooming Iris Recorder*.

Stippling is one of the most time consuming ways of making a drawing. It is done by making one dot after another dot until the proper degree of lightness or darkness is achieved. Using the finest pen point, it takes about five minutes to make an area one fourth inch square fully black. That is about six dots per second.

The drawings are not usually made of reblooming subjects. Occasionally a reblooming seedling or a named rebloomer is drawn. However, the material is usually selected from a catalog of Schreiner's, Cooley's, or some other commercial grower. First a light pencil sketch is made to obtain accuracy of proportions and likeness of the original. Then the stippling begins. It usually takes a day to make the more complicated ones, sometimes longer. The simplest may take only two to six hours to make. So, a great many hours go into the drawings of all the pictures found in your *Reblooming Iris Recorder*. After the stippling is finished, any visible pencil marks are erased.

Once in awhile a drawing or painting is made of an iris that is purely imaginative. When it is completed, particularly if it is a pastel drawing, it is scrutinized carefully and the question is asked, "What two or more irises must be crossed to create such an iris?" This is followed by a careful search through the irises in the garden and in the seedling plots to find appropriate parents. If any, but not all of the necessary irises are found, a search through long lists and descriptions in many catalogs and *AIS Registrations and Introductions* is made to find the missing and needed parents.

On one occasion one of these imaginary iris drawings was shown to Robert Schreiner. His comment was, "Oh, you take the easy way out to create an iris." It was an iris that had pink standards and blue falls. Since then, there have been several irises that approach that combination. However, none of them are reliable rebloomers, and that is the trait we are looking for. Two of the closest approaches to pink and blue are now getting established in the artist's garden awaiting the proper reblooming iris pollen.

These are two areas of art being used by the author to try to bring joy, pleasure, and beauty into the iris world. Someday, with the TRUE ARTIST helping,



these may be made real to you in the *Reblooming Iris Recorder* and in your own reblooming iris garden.

From the Spring 1980 issue of the RIR

YOU SHOULD BE A POLLEN DAUBER! *

Raymond G. Smith

* Excerpts from a speech to the NIIS, Bluffton, Indiana, March, 1980.

We have at our university a famous young basketball coach. What makes him outstanding in his work? Is it because of his ability to play basketball? Not at all. He is now too old to play. He is able to coach so well because he is able to see and comprehend things that the rest of us are blind to.

Similarly, the reason that Leonard Bernstein is able to conduct a symphony orchestra better than most other people is that he is able to hear things to which they are deaf. I have often wished that I could go to a basketball game sometime and see what Bobby Knight sees, or to attend a symphony concert and hear what a famous conductor is able to hear.

I am sure that you are all aware that we don't hear with our ears, or see with our eyes. These sense organs are necessary, of course, but they are far from sufficient. We can have perfect senses, but if the areas of the brain to which these are attached are injured or diseased, we will be unable to see or hear. I am sure that you all know how frequently a stroke resulting in injury to the speech center of the brain results in a loss of speech.

But within the range of abilities of the so-called normal person there are also wide variations. These variations partially account for the talented artists of all sorts. Some persons have inherited better equipment than others.

Such individual differences apply with equal force to what irisarians can see and do with their irises. There are equally wide variations in our abilities to see and appreciate the iris plant and flower. These are partially due to inherited differences in sensory equipment and partially due to the knowledge that we have acquired from our pertinent experiences. I am saying, in effect, that the signals that reach our brains are filtered through two filter systems: One we were born with, the other is acquired. For example, if individual differences of a certain kind and severity occur, we say that the individual is color blind. All persons without exception have inherited strengths and weaknesses of their intellectual systems. The acquired filter is a function of the experiences that have been present or absent in our environment, but they result in similar strengths and weaknesses. These two systems determine our abilities to see, to judge, and to understand.

Can anything be done to improve our judgements of irises? It is impossible, of course, to correct inherited disabilities, but all normal persons have plenty to build upon. I am certain that you have had the experience of someone pointing out to you things about an iris that you had previously failed to note. But from this time forward the discerned trait became part of your judgmental system. Such enrichment of your experience and background can indeed augment your perceptual abilities.

A specific and most effective way of doing this is very simple: Grow some iris seedlings each year. I have grown, with assistance, as many as 6,000 new ones annually, and I firmly believe that anyone can grow at least a few hundred without undue difficulty. After nearly 30 years of growing seedlings, I still learn new things, see new things, each new bloom season.

In order to develop new powers of observation, it is necessary to grow great numbers of seedlings. Just a few hundred will do the trick. When you do, you will see things that puzzle you. Why are certain seedlings in a cross growing better in some spots than others? You will begin to discover answers to such questions in soil type, moisture content, encroaching tree and plant roots, fertilizer residues, soil leaching, and numerous other factors. You will also note that some flowers fade while sister seedlings, perhaps immediately adjacent, retain full color until the flower shrivels. You will observe plants with unusually sturdy and vigorous growth characteristics that sister seedlings do not have. Some plants will attract borers and others will be unaffected. Some will have clean, bright foliage while sister seedlings will show virus and leaf blight. Some will be susceptible to root rot, but some will not.

You will learn which differences are genetically determined and which are due to environmental influences. Soon you will be able to look down a row of 50 or 100 seedlings from the same cross and be able to see how the good and bad traits are expressed in the particular cross. But even more importantly, you will, in your mind's eye, be able to create a new plant, one that doesn't yet exist, but can be made up of the most desirable characteristics expressed in all of the plants from the cross.

The important point I am stressing, to paraphrase a late President, is NOT what you can do for the seedlings, but what they can do for YOU.

I am fully aware of how easy it is to marshall a string of arguments against doing any hybridizing. Let me deal with a few of the more common. First, we frequently hear that there is insufficient time. If your time is extremely limited, this can be a valid argument, of course, but most of us can find time to do what we really want to do. Seedlings don't require as much work time as does a display garden. Some of you have seen my fields of seedlings lined out like field corn. These require a minimum of hand care for usually a tiller will suffice to keep the weeds under control. You are not trying to bring each seedling to its full potential. All you need to is select the few that might possibly have potential. Ninety-five per cent of them will be composted at first bloom.

Second, is the argument of too little space. Again a choice of how you use your space must be made, but this too is largely a phony argument. I recall the instance of when my father-in-law moved to a new location at the time of his retirement. He had a very small lot with no room for a vegetable garden, which had always been one of his loves. But along the back of the lot was a fence, and between the fence and sidewalk was a narrow strip of sod about 16 inches wide. He turned over this sod and developed a garden. It was 1 1/4' wide and 40' long, and you would never believe what he was able to grow. Corn, beans, tomatoes, enough for him and the neighbors, as well as lettuce, carrots, radishes, and all the rest. He then had a half-dozen hills of potatoes!

A third objection I have heard is that "I am too old to begin". Nonsense! I got my mother interested in hybridizing when she was past 70, and she has not only had a great deal of fun and pleasure, but has developed some very beautiful seedlings. And she is as proud of them as if each had won a Dykes Medal. She is pushing 90 now, and is no longer quite certain of her crosses. When I visited last summer, she somewhat unsteadily led me out to the iris bed and pointed out each pod and what she was hoping to get from it. One is never too old to begin!

Finally, we hear the argument "I don't know how to hybridize." This reminds me of the time I gave a young boy a few seeds and told him to punch some holes in the bottom of a coffee can, set it outside (in the ground) and he would find it full of little iris seedlings in the spring. When I saw the young man six months later, I asked him about his success with the iris seeds. He said he wasn't able to plant them. I asked, "Why not?" "Because I didn't have a coffee can".

Obviously if you don't have a coffee can you can't grow iris seedlings! But if there are less serious reasons, such as not knowing how to pollinate a flower, I suggest that you either ask someone, or read the article beginning on page 17 in the January 1980 *AIS Bulletin*.

But are there any disadvantages to raising iris seedlings? Yes, aside from the rather modest requirements of space, time, and energy, there is one of somewhat more importance. It is this: If you do begin to hybridize, your perceptive powers will be increased to the point where you will never again see exactly the same things in an iris plant that you did previously. You will discard some varieties because of your new perceptions of color, form, plant, disease resistance and the like.

This affects your judgment. An exhibition judge is expected to evaluate only what is in front of him. This becomes most difficult for the hybridizer, for he now sees potential for fading color, collapsing substance, and disease susceptibility that should not be a part of exhibition judging. You no longer see the iris as it is, but as it was and as it will be. Like the basketball coach or the musician, your horizons have been enlarged.

Now, I probably haven't convinced you, but for the sake of the argument, assume for the moment that I have. What advice might I give about how to begin? Or, alternatively, how might I change my own approach if I were now beginning a hybridizing career rather than ending one?

First, I now doubt that I would ever undertake a program as difficult as attempting to develop good reblooming irises. The rewards of such a project are few. If you will devote an equal amount of time and energy to an easier project, your chances of success will be much greater. Of course, I am speaking about the state of the art of the reblooming iris of a quarter century ago. Avoid such intractable objectives as developing a cardinal red iris. Actually the red color mutation has probably occurred numerous times, but the initial amount of pigment would be so slight as to be covered up by the other anthocyanins; consequently the hybridizer would have discarded the muddy colored seedling. Until a quick field method is developed for identifying new pigments, your chances of success would be minimal.

Also, I would limit my efforts to a few color or patterns or other objectives. Unless you have a large labor force and can grow 50,000 or more seedlings annually, like Schreiners, you really should not attempt to cover the entire iris spectrum. Stay within one species, line, or pattern. Many improvements can be introduced within reasonable time frames, and there is still plenty to be done. Of course you should always be alert to the unusual in color, pattern, form, or what-have-you. But these changes are frequently serendipitous rather than the results of planning.

If I were starting now, what parents would I select? I would look for those that have already been proven as parents of good irises, that is those with progeny that have been registered and introduced. In this fashion you will meet with some success early on, and everyone needs a modicum of success to sustain him.

Finally, begin this spring. Don't postpone your efforts for another year. Begin, modestly perhaps, but begin. If you are under 80, you will reap excellent rewards, and you can continue to reap them after you are 80 as well.

What are the rewards? There are many, of course, and you have heard most of them. The health bit, with the highly touted sunshine, fresh air and exercise. Then there is the mental activity, with all of the questions that arise calling for speculation, testing, and hard answers. There is the virtual explosion of knowledge required when you discover that you want to take pictures and therefore must learn all about cameras, photography, posing, color, background, contrast, balance, harmony, and all the other esthetic and artistic qualities;

Also all about genetics, alleles, diploids, tetraploids, dominants, recessives, crossing over, the double helix, etc., etc.;

And all about soils, plant nutrition, fertilizers, horticulture, moisture, mulches;

And all about diseases, insect pests, insecticides, fungicides, nematodes, and other toads;

And all about convention travel, and overcharges in hotels and motels, combined with a wealth of fun, fellowship, and appreciation of like-minded iris fanciers.

BUT, most of all, there is something that we usually don't mention out loud. Growing seedlings is a form of gambling. You can get hooked just as firmly as on any of the games at Las Vegas. It is not quite as public, generally, as the activity of the show fanatic, the person who lives and exists to win all the marbles at every show within driving distance – but it is fully as addictive. No two seedlings, even from the same parents, are ever exactly alike. There is always the possibility, the chance of the genes combining in such a fashion as to create something tremendously exciting and wonderful. Each bud, as it begins to show color, has the potential for something new and startling. This gambling fever gets in your blood, and you are up in the morning as the first rooster crows to see what opened up during the night. Rain, mud, wind, hail, floods and other natural disasters cannot deter you. Whether it takes raincoat, overcoat, umbrella, boots, or flashlight, out you go, with a like-minded friend to see what nature and you have wrought. If the U.S. Post Office would only employ ex-hybridizers, there would never be any question about the mail being delivered.

I have devoted about 120 months full time, the equivalent of ten years to hybridizing. Actually, there is not a great deal that is tangible to show for it. Perhaps as many as ten really good irises. Some would say that such rewards are minimal. They certainly are, if one weighs them only in fame and fortune. But I disagree. I feel that the rewards are tremendous. I have not only created several fine irises, but I have supplied others with genetic material that enabled them to do likewise. Besides, I am reminded of the wife who was berating her husband and pointed out that she had given him ten of the best years of her life. "And what", he replied, "would you have done with them otherwise?"

But we cannot spend our time in reminiscing. April is gone and May has arrived. Will you work with the blacks or the oranges this year? Perhaps the decision should be delayed until the bloom is here. Oh yes, there is that jet black with the magnificent ruffled flower on the too short stem. Will it rebloom? What should I cross it with? Probably **Al Segno** will be best, tall stem and lots of vigor. Must not let the blacks get too short. Blacks and reds both act as if they were too much inbred, even if they came from opposite ends of the country.

Got to get Malathion from the Farm Bureau. Are the tools all sharp and polished?

Wonder if we will get a late cold snap like last year? Where can I get some well-rotted manure? There is beauty concealed in that!

Time is wasting. Life is short. Now WHERE did I put those tweezers?

Have you thanked a hybridizer lately for developing a beautiful iris? Two of our favorites of Dr. Smith's are Sonata in Blue (94) (Raymond had told us that it was the best iris he ever introduced), and Redelta (94) both of which rebloom here. We will all miss him very much.

Ginny Spoon



REBLOOM IN ZONE 6

by Ginny Spoon (Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society)

The spring and summer of '97 were extremely hard for iris bloom over most of the country. The late freeze in April eliminated over half of our median bloom, and three continuous days of freezing temperatures (18 degrees F) in May ruined much of the tall bearded bloom. The remainder of the season didn't get much better with extremely dry weather the rest of the year. Still, we have had some surprises, and here are rebloom results from our northern Virginia garden (zone 6b). Everything that rebloomed for us is not listed, just some which have either not rebloomed here before, or ones that were noteworthy. Last season we had about 100 more varieties that rebloomed than during this one.

There were a large number of Lloyd Zurbrigg's irises that rebloomed for us. Perhaps it was because he came to our garden this spring and did a judge's training on rebloom for C&P that made those irises perform. Lloyd's rebloomers: SDB **Baby Prince** (95) gets the prize for the most continuous rebloomer. It bloomed in early May (as it was supposed to) and continued to rebloom every month through November. Others of Lloyd's irises that rebloomed here for the first time were: IB **Cherry Supreme**, IB **Blessed Assurance** (95) a striking bright yellow, **Red Grapes** (76), **Southern Spy** (69), **Latest Style** (79), and **Grand Baroque** (69).

A most beautiful surprise (we didn't know it rebloomed) was **Romantic Evening** (Ghio 96), lilac standards and dark blue-purple falls with brick red beards. **Twice Told** (Maryott 94) and **Pagan Dance** (Blyth 89) were two other beauties in exciting color patterns that had us and the garden visitors spellbound. **Champagne Elegance** (Niswonger 87) was magnificent with great stalks and rebloomed in August. **Midnight Caller** (Byers 90) rebloomed in July and was well-branched with beautiful dark violet-purple flowers.

Total Recall (Hager 90) was the tall bearded with the most continuous rebloom in our garden. Some of the stalks were not straight, but then, neither were a number of others in the garden. The warm days of summer and our cool nights caused snaking in some of the tall bearded and made some of the medians grow out of class. (Greenhouse growers call it **DIF** - difference between night and day temperatures.) They can control stretching of greenhouse plants by cooling the greenhouse during the first two hours after sunlight to

within a few degrees of the night temperatures by venting, fan/pad cooling or misting. Outdoor gardeners must rely on mother nature to cool down the days. Withholding water and fertilizer will help control stretch but the rebloomers need both.

Recurring Dream (Hager 83) was a real show stopper in September and October. **Gideon Victorious** (Bernice Miller 86), **Leah Traded** (B. Miller 90), and **BB Heaven's Bounty** (B. Miller 82) were also very nice October rebloomers with great branching and bud count. Another lovely dark purple, that rebloomed in October was **Midnight Pacific** (Foster 88).

The outstanding rebloom clumps were a toss up between **Pink Attraction** (Hall 88), **Autumn Tryst** (Weiler 93), **Feedback** (Hager 83) and **Redelta** (R. Smith 94). Each clump had many stalks which were well-branched with a large number of buds making weeks of bloom in October.

Others which rebloomed for the first time (many were newly acquired) for us were: IB **Palm Springs** (Byers 90), SDB **Seneca Rebound** (Borglum R.95), SDB **Rusty Dusty** (Hager 88), **Sweet Solitude** (Nearpass R.96), **Rotunda** (Byers 91), **Anxious** (Hager 92), **Color Watch** (Innerst 87), SDB **Plum-Plum** (Boswell 80), SDB **Twinkle Twinkle** (Byers 89), MDB **Cyanea** (Goos & Koenemann 1899), MDB **Fey** (Hager 94), **Jaunty Texan** (Denman 73), **Emma Louisa** (Buckles 69), **Genteel** (Byers 91), **Coral Charmer** (Wright 83), **BB Champagne Junior** (Niswonger 94), **BB Spitfire** (Hager 92), **Artistic Gold** (Denman 72), and IB **Pride and Glory** (Palmer 92).

Pride and Glory puzzles me as do some of the others that have not been reported to rebloom. **P&G** did not spring bloom, but bloomed in July (in the off-season as Richard Richards wrote in the last *RIR* - and here I like the term since it is not re-blooming). Last year **Black as Night** (Meek 92) rebloomed, but nothing this year, not even a spring bloom. Last season we had a record amount of rainfall which may have accounted for the large number of rebloom stalks.

There seem to be more questions than answers in the world of rebloomers, but even so, they are wonderful, mysterious, and they give us beauty more than once a season.

1996 REBLOOMING SYMPOSIUM RESULTS

Tall Bearded Irises

Total Votes	Cultivar Name	Hybridizer & Year Introduced	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8	Zone 9	Zone 10
53	Immortality	Zurbrigg 82	6	11	13	13	3	6	1
51	Feed Back	Hager 83	5	8	5	11	2	18	2
50	Queen Dorothy	Hall 84	4	11	12	13	2	7	1
43	Pink Attraction	Hall 88	5	4	12	13	2	7	0
42	Jennifer Rebecca	Zurbrigg 85	1	8	9	12	3	9	0
40	Earl of Essex	Zurbrigg 80	3	5	10	12	2	7	1
39	Harvest of Memories	Zurbrigg 85	1	7	8	17	1	4	1
36	Champagne Elegance	Niswonger 87	1	8	8	8	3	7	1
36	Buckwheat	Byers 89	0	5	8	10	1	12	0
35	Corn Harvest	Wyatt 77	5	7	10	11	0	1	1
29	High Ho Silver	Byers 89	1	5	7	7	1	5	2
28	Clarence	Zurbrigg 91	1	1	8	9	1	7	1
27	I Do	Zurbrigg 74	2	5	4	13	2	1	0
27	Matrix	Hall 91	3	3	3	8	2	7	1
26	Grape Adventure	Jones 86	1	6	7	3	0	2	1
26	Bountiful Harvest	Hager 91	1	2	4	5	2	10	2
23	Autumn Bugler	Jones 86	2	4	6	7	2	2	0
23	Rosalie Figge	McKnew 93	1	2	4	3	4	8	1
22	Eternal Bliss	Byers 88	2	1	5	9	2	3	0
21	Sugar Blues	Zurbrigg 85	4	4	6	4	0	1	2
20	Istanbul	Byers 89	0	0	4	5	0	11	0
20	Billionaire	Byers 87	0	3	5	4	1	7	0
19	Autumn Circus	Hager 90	2	2	3	0	0	7	1
19	Bonus Mama	Hager 90	2	2	1	8	1	2	3
19	English Cottage	Zurbrigg 76	2	1	5	11	0	0	0
19	Speed Limit	Lauer 92	0	3	3	2	0	10	1
18	Best Bet	Schreiner 88	2	3	3	3	3	3	1
18	Coral Charmer	Wright 83	5	2	3	6	0	2	0
18	Golden Encore	Jones 73	4	6	3	5	0	0	0
18	Total Recall	Hager 92	0	1	5	4	0	8	0
18	Violet Music	Mahan 91	0	2	2	9	2	2	1
17	Anxious	Hager 92	2	1	1	3	0	7	3
17	Hemstitched	Hager 88	0	0	2	5	0	8	2
17	Mother Earth	Hager 88	0	1	2	1	2	9	2
17	Zurich	Byers 89	1	1	5	4	0	6	0
16	Northward Ho	Byers 91	0	4	3	8	0	1	0
16	Perfume Counter	Zurbrigg 72	1	3	2	9	0	1	0
16	Sunny Disposition	Zurbrigg 91	1	1	5	7	1	1	0
16	Tennison Ridge	Begley 89	0	1	1	2	2	9	1
15	Blazing Sunrise	Black 85	0	2	4	2	0	7	0
15	Brother Carl	Zurbrigg 83	0	0	4	7	1	2	1
15	Halloween Halo	Weiler 91	1	1	0	1	1	10	1
15	Summer Olympics	Smith 80	1	0	6	5	0	3	0
15	Winesap	Byers 89	1	2	3	0	0	9	0
14	Pure as Gold	Maryott 89	0	0	0	3	4	6	1
13	Eggnog	Byers 90	0	0	1	2	1	9	0
13	Happy New Year	Byers 90	1	0	1	5	1	5	0
13	Renown	Zurbrigg 92	0	1	2	6	2	2	0
13	Suky	Mahan 91	0	0	3	5	1	4	0
13	Victoria Falls	Schreiner 77	2	0	3	1	1	4	2
13	Winterland	Byers 89	0	1	2	1	3	5	1
12	Autumn Tryst	Weiler 93	1	1	2	2	1	4	1

1996 REBLOOMING SYMPOSIUM RESULTS

Tall Bearded

Total Votes	Cultivar Name	Hybridizer & Year Introduced	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8	Zone 9	Zone 10
12	Cantina	Byers 90	0	1	3	3	2	3	0
12	Holy Night	Mohr 83	0	0	1	9	1	1	0
12	Misty Twilight	Byers 88	0	3	1	4	1	3	0
12	Peach Jam	Ensminger 89	3	2	3	2	1	1	0
12	St. Petersburg	Byers 90	1	0	1	2	2	6	0
12	Violet Returns	Hall 88	3	3	1	4	0	1	0
11	Autumn Encore	Mohr 77	0	3	3	3	0	2	0
11	Grace Thomas	Zurbrigg 80	0	2	4	5	0	0	0
11	Pinkness	Byers 89	0	4	1	1	0	5	0
11	Spirit of Memphis	Zurbrigg 77	0	1	3	5	0	2	0
11	Then Again	Byers 89	0	1	3	4	0	3	0
10	Orange Harvest	Jones 88	0	3	2	1	1	1	2
9	Cayenne Capers	Gibson 59	0	0	1	3	1	4	0
9	Juicy Fruit	Byers 89	0	0	2	1	1	4	1
9	Now and Later	Zurbrigg 72	1	3	1	3	0	1	0
9	Tea Leaves	Byers 87	1	3	2	2	0	1	0
9	Witch of Endor	Miller 78	0	3	1	4	0	1	0
8	Blue Moonlight	Byers 89	0	1	1	2	0	4	0
8	Christopher Columbus	Hager 92	0	1	0	0	0	6	1
8	Dorcas Lives Again	Miller 84	0	3	3	1	1	0	0
8	Floorshow	Byers 89	0	1	0	0	0	6	1
8	Lichen	Byers 89	0	3	3	1	0	1	0
8	Sign of Virgo	Zurbrigg 91	0	0	1	4	1	1	1
8	Silver Dividends	Zurbrigg 91	0	0	2	4	0	2	0
8	Sunny Shoulders	Hager 90	0	0	1	4	0	3	0
8	Violet Classic	Zurbrigg 77	0	0	2	5	0	1	0
8	Violet Miracle	Zurbrigg 79	0	0	3	5	0	0	0
7	Amanda Erin	Zurbrigg 85	0	0	2	3	1	1	0
7	Barn Dance	Byers 91	0	1	1	1	0	4	0
7	Belvi Cloud	Jensen 88	2	3	1	0	1	0	0
7	Double Scoop	Ghio 81	0	1	3	1	0	2	0
7	Fire on Ice	Weiler 90	0	0	0	1	1	5	0
7	Hallowed Thought	Zurbrigg 77	1	0	1	5	0	0	0
7	Hand Painted	Byers 90	0	1	2	2	0	2	0
7	His Royal Highness	Byers 89	0	0	2	1	0	4	0
7	October	Byers 89	0	1	1	4	0	1	0
7	Pepper Blend	Moore's 77	0	0	0	2	0	5	0
7	September Replay	Jones/Lowe 92	0	2	0	5	0	0	0
7	Skookumchuck	Gibson 83	0	0	0	1	0	6	0
7	Stingray	Byers 89	0	0	0	1	0	5	1
6	Blatant	Byers 90	0	0	0	2	1	3	0
6	Dance for Joy	Byers 92	0	0	0	1	0	5	0
6	Dantes Inferno	Moore's 79	0	0	0	1	2	3	0
6	Invitation	Schreiner 82	0	1	1	0	0	4	0
6	Late Lilac	Niswonger 74	1	3	0	2	0	0	0
6	Many Happy Returns	Hager 89	0	0	2	3	0	1	0
6	Orchid Cloud	Applegate 74	1	0	2	1	0	3	0
6	Saxon	Byers 90	0	0	3	1	0	2	0
6	Second Look	Muhlstein 70	0	1	0	3	0	1	1
6	Time and Again	Hager 91	0	0	0	0	1	5	0
6	Trick or Treat	Osborne 84	0	1	0	0	0	4	1

1996 REBLOOMING SYMPOSIUM RESULTS

Border Bearded

Total Votes	Cultivar Name	Hybridizer & Year Introduced	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8	Zone 9	Zone 10
14	Faux Pas	Keppel 90	0	0	0	0	2	11	1
14	Whoop 'Em Up	Brady 74	0	0	0	6	1	6	1
8	Baby Bengal	Sutton 90	0	0	0	5	1	2	0
8	Color Brite	Ensminger 86	0	2	0	1	2	3	0
8	Marmalade Skies	Niswonger 78	1	0	1	2	0	3	1
7	Lenora Pearl	Nichols 90	0	3	2	1	0	1	0
7	Little Susie	Quadros 70	0	0	1	2	1	3	0
7	Miss Scarlett	Moore's 80	0	1	2	1	0	3	0
6	Pet Kin	Zurbrigg 69	0	0	2	4	0	0	0
5	Apricot Frosty	Niswonger 92	0	0	1	0	1	3	0
5	Pink Reprise	Moore's 91	0	1	2	2	0	0	0
5	Spitfire	Hager 92	0	0	3	0	2	0	0

Intermediate Bearded

Total Votes	Cultivar Name	Hybridizer & Year Introduced	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8	Zone 9	Zone 10
43	Low Ho Silver	Byers 89	3	5	4	13	2	14	1
23	I Bless	Zurbrigg 85	1	2	5	14	1	0	0
19	Blessed Again	Jones 76	0	2	4	11	1	1	0
17	Eleanor Roosevelt	Sass H.P. 33	0	3	1	5	2	2	4
17	Honey Glazed	Niswonger 83	0	2	4	5	0	5	1
9	Pink Kitten	Wood 77	0	0	0	1	1	6	1
9	Tawny	Pray 74	0	0	2	5	1	0	1
7	Black Magic	Wayman 35	0	2	0	3	0	1	1
6	Constant Companion	Marsh 95	0	5	1	0	0	0	0
6	Blessed Assurance	Zurbrigg 95	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
5	Sixteen Candles	Byers 89	0	0	0	1	0	4	0

Miniature Tall Bearded

Total Votes	Cultivar Name	Hybridizer & Year Introduced	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8	Zone 9	Zone 10
28	Lady Emma	Jones 86	0	7	10	5	2	4	0
2	Merit	Fisher 96	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

Standard Dwarf Bearded

Total Votes	Cultivar Name	Hybridizer & Year Introduced	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8	Zone 9	Zone 10
40	Baby Blessed	Zurbrigg 79	1	6	9	18	1	4	1
29	Plum Wine	Weiler 86	1	2	3	9	3	10	1
26	Jewel Baby	Hall 84	0	3	4	9	5	3	2
24	Smell the Roses	Byers 88	1	2	5	7	1	7	1
22	What Again	Ensminger 91	1	2	4	4	2	9	0
18	Dark Crystal	Byers 88	1	4	3	5	2	3	0
18	Little Showoff	Hall 89	0	2	5	5	1	5	0
14	Flower Shower	Weiler 90	0	2	0	1	1	8	2
13	Hot	Byers 90	0	1	4	5	0	3	0
11	Gray Poupon	Byers 89	1	1	3	2	0	3	1
11	Twice Blessed	Dennis 66	0	1	3	2	0	4	1
10	Baby Prince	Zurbrigg 95	0	0	2	8	0	0	0

Standard Dwarf Bearded

Total Votes	Cultivar Name	Hybridizer & Year Introduced	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8	Zone 9	Zone 10
10	Golden Child	Byers 89	2	3	4	0	1	0	0
10	Golden Violet	Weiler 93	0	0	1	1	1	7	0
10	Thrice Blessed	Weiler 81	0	0	2	4	0	4	0
9	Be Happy	Aitken 90	0	0	2	4	2	1	0
9	Blitz	Weiler 88	0	1	2	4	2	0	0
9	Little Blue-Eyes	Weiler 93	0	0	1	3	0	5	0
9	Sunstrip	Weiler 86	0	1	0	3	1	3	1
7	Auroralita	Weiler 90	0	2	1	0	1	3	0
7	Autumn Maple	Weiler 92	0	0	3	1	0	3	0
7	Baby Boom	Byers 90	0	2	1	2	0	1	1
7	Darkling	Byers 89	0	3	0	3	0	1	0
7	Refined	Weiler 87	1	2	2	0	1	1	0

Miniature Dwarf Bearded

Total Votes	Cultivar Name	Hybridizer & Year Introduced	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8	Zone 9	Zone 10
15	Ditto	Hager 82	0	0	3	3	3	5	1
3	Velvet Toy	Dunbar 72	0	0	3	3	3	0	5
3	Grapelet	Aitken 89	0	1	0	0	2	0	0

BEARDLESS IRISES

Louisiana

Total Votes	Cultivar Name	Hybridizer & Year Introduced	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8	Zone 9	Zone 10
4	Red Echo	Rowan 84	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
3	Blue Duke	Army/Carjoy 63	0	0	0	3	0	0	0

Siberian

Total Votes	Cultivar Name	Hybridizer & Year Introduced	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8	Zone 9	Zone 10
9	Reprise	Warburton 87	2	1	6	0	0	0	0
4	Pink Haze	McGarvey 80	1	0	2	0	1	0	0
3	Chartreuse Bounty	McEwen 83	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
2	Early Bluebird	McEwen 70	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
2	Lavender Light	McEwen 74	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
2	My Love	Scheffy R.49	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

Japanese

Total Votes	Cultivar Name	Hybridizer & Year Introduced	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8	Zone 9	Zone 10
2	Southern Son	McEwen 90	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
2	Taffeta and Velvet	Ackerman 90	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
2	Triple Treat	McEwen 81	0	2	0	0	0	0	0

Species/Californiae

Total Votes	Cultivar Name	Hybridizer & Year Introduced	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8	Zone 9	Zone 10
2	Chief Sequoia	Weiler 90	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

HOW TO BE A PART OF THE 1997 SYMPOSIUM!

Symposium results are very important to the Reblooming Iris Society. Thank you Tim for doing such an excellent job of compiling these results for us. Your rebloom reports from your garden are also very helpful. The information gives us a history of iris rebloom performance across the country. It is also a good recommendation to advise newer members which irises are likely to perform in their area. Please send your **completed 1997 Symposium (inserted in this issue) to Tim Stanek, 23329 Ellington Ave., Glenwood, IA 51534 -by February 1.** Send the rebloom results from your garden (as soon as your rebloom is finished) to your **AREA DIRECTOR**, as follows:

AREA	REGIONS INCLUDED	AREA DIRECTOR
Eastern Area	1,2,3,4,7,16,19	Mike Lowe, 12219 Zilles Rd., Blackstone, VA 23824
Southern Area	5,10,17,22,23,24	Judith Earp, RR 3, Box 0A 45, Tuttle, OK 73089
Midwestern Area	6,8,9,18,21 & overseas	Opal Wulf, 7172 South 70 th , Lincoln, NE 68516-2607
Western Area 98685-3802	11,12,13,14,15 & 20	Barbara Aitken, 608 NW 119 th St., Vancouver, WA

Thank you in advance for your participation! We can't do it without you.

INDOORS, OUTDOORS

By Julie Allen

Visit me in iris season.
We'll stay outdoors, and here's the reason.
Although my garden is my pride,
My house is something I must hide.

The dust can wait, the laundry, too—
For I have better things to do.
The cookie jar is never full
When I have all those weeds to pull.

The iris blooms are calling me,
Their lovely hues and shapes to see.
Come share the beauty of my garden,
But my poor house you'll have to pardon.

My sentiments exactly! Printed with permission of the author from the Region 7 Irisarian - fall 1997 issue. Thank you Julie.



Reblooming Iris Society
Ginny Spoon, Editor
1225 Reynolds Road
Cross Junction, VA 22625

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1997 Reblooming Symposium

USDA ZONE _____ STATE _____ COUNTY _____
SIGNATURE(S) _____

Vote only for varieties that have rebloomed for you at least once in the last 3 years or that you have seen reblooming in your area. Place an X in front of each of your selections. Vote for no more than 30 Tall Bearded varieties, including write-ins. Vote for no more than 15 Medians including write-ins. Beardless varieties will not have a limit until we accumulate enough data to set realistic values. The second member of family membership should use an O to designate votes, third and so on should use a number (1,2,3etc.) All voters should sign the ballot. Please list your USDA Hardiness Zone. If you are not familiar with your zone, list county and state you live in.

RETURN BY FEB. 1, 1998

TALL BEARDED

AARON'S DREAM
ALL AMERICAN
ALL LIT UP
AMANDA ERIN
ANGELIC WINGS
ANXIOUS
AUTUMN BUGLER
AUTUMN CIRCUS
AUTUMN CLOUDS
AUTUMN ECHO
AUTUMN ENCORE
AUTUMN GRANDEUR
AUTUMN HARBOR
AUTUMN MISTS
AUTUMN TRYST
BARN DANCE
BELVI CLOUD
BELVI QUEEN
BEST BET
BILLIONAIRE
BLATANT
BLAZING SUNRISE
BLUE ANEW
BLUE MOONLIGHT
BLUE REVIEW
BLUE SUEDE SHOES
BONUS MAMA
BOOMERANG
BOUNTIFUL HARVEST
BRASS HORN
BRIDGE IN TIME
BROTHER CARL
BROWN DUET
BUCKWHEAT
CANTINA

CARIBBEAN DREAM
CAROLINE GIBBS
CAYENNE CAPERS
CEASE-FIRE
CEE CEE
CELESTIAL HAPPINESS
CELESTIAL SUNSHINE
CERTAINLY CERTAINLY
CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE
CHEROKEE TEARS
CHINESE EMPRESS
CHRISTOPHER
COLUMBUS
CIRCUS JEWEL
CLARENCE
CLOUD CAP GALILEE
CLOUDLESS SUNRISE
COLORWATCH
COMPETITION
CORAL CHALICE
CORAL CHARMER
CORN HARVEST
CREATION TWILIGHT
DANCE FOR JOY
DANTE'S INFERNO
DASHING
DAWN OF FALL
DESTROY RIDES AGAIN
DORCAS LIVES AGAIN
DOUBLE CHARM
DOUBLE SCOOP
DUKE OF EARL
EARL OF ESSEX
EGGNOG
ELAINEALOPE
ENCHANTED ONE

ENGLISH COTTAGE
ETERNAL BLISS
ETERNAL WALTZ
EVELYN WARLICK
FALL PRIMROSE
FALL SPOTLIGHT
FEED BACK
FIRE ON ICE
FLOORSHOW
FOREVER GOLD
FOREVER IN LOVE
FOREVER YOURS
FORT BRAGG
FRAPPE
FREQUENT FLYER
FROST ECHO
FROSTICO
GARDEN CLUB DELIGHT
GENTEEL
GILDED
GLACIER KING
GOLD BURST
GOLDEN ECSTASY
GOLDEN ENCORE
GOLDEN IMMORTAL
GOLDEN GALAXY
GOOD FAIRY
GRACE THOMAS
GRAPE ADVENTURE
GRAPE REPRIS
GREEN AND GIFTED
HALLOWED THOUGHT
HALLOWEEN HALO
HAND PAINTED
HAPPY NEW YEAR
HARVEST OF MEMORIES

HEART OF ICE
HEAVENLY BLISS
HELLO HOBO
HEMSTITCHED
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS
HIGH HO SILVER
HIGH WATERS
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
HOLY NIGHT
I DO
ICELAND
ILLINI REPEATER
IMMORTALITY
IN RETROSPECT
INVITATION
ISTANBUL
JEAN GUYMER
JENNIFER REBECCA
JOAN'S PLEASURE
JUICY FRUIT
JULY SUNSHINE
JUNGLE CAT
LADY ESSEX
LAKE REPRISE
LAS VEGAS
LATE LILAC
LEMON DUET
LEMON REFLECTION
LICHEN
LIGHT REBUFF
LILLA'S GLOVES
LILLA'S STRIPES
LILTING
LUMINOSITY
MAGIC MEMORIES
MANY HAPPY RETURNS
MARIPOSA SKIES
MATRIX
MIDNIGHT CALLER
MIL BYERS
MISTY LADY
MISTY TWILIGHT
MOTHER EARTH
MOTHER EVE SMILES
MT. SINAI AFLAME
MY FRIEND JOHNATHAN
NORTHERN FLAME
NORTHWARD HO
NOW AND LATER
OCEAN PACIFIC
OCTOBER
OFF BROADWAY
OKLAHOMA CRUDE
OLIVE REFLECTION
OLYMPIC RINGS
ORANGE HARVEST
ORCHID CLOUD

PAGAN GODDESS
PAPRIKA FONO'S
PEACH JAM
PEARLS OF AUTUMN
PEPPER BLEND
PERFUME COUNTER
PINK ATTRACTION
PINKNESS
PLATINUM
PORCELAIN FRILLS
PRECIOUS HARVEST
PRICILLA OF CORINTH
PRINCESS PITY PAT
PROGRESSIVE ATTITUDE
PURE AS GOLD
PURPLE MAGIC
QUEEN DOROTHY
RAVEN'S RETURN
RAVENWOOD
REBOUND
RECALLED TO LIFE
RECURRING DREAM
RECURRING RUFFLES
REDELTA
RED REVIVAL
REINCARNATION
REMARKABLE
REMEMBER SPRING
RENOWN
RETURNING CHAMELEON
RONEY'S ENCORE
ROSALIE FIGGE
ROSE TEALL
ROTUNDA
ROYAL SUMMER
SAXON
SCANDIA DELIGHT
SCORPIO STAR
SEA DOUBLE
SEA FLUFF
SEA WORLD
SEASONS
SECOND ACT
SECOND LOOK
SECOND WIND
SEPTEMBER REPLAY
SIGN OF LEO
SIGN OF VIRGO
SILVER DIVIDENDS
SILVER SCREEN
SISTER MIRIAM SINGS
SKID MARKS
SKOOKUMCHUCK
SNOW IN SUMMER
SOAP OPERA
SOLSTICE
SONATA IN BLUE

SPACE PIRATE
SPEED LIMIT
SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS
ST. PETERSBURG
STARSHIP
STELLAR LIGHTS
STINGRAY
STONEWASHED
SUGAR BLUES
SUKY
SUMMER HOLIDAYS
SUMMER OLYMPICS
SUMMER SURF
SUNMASTER
SUNNY DISPOSITION
SUNNY SHOULDERS
SUNRISE IN EDEN
SWEETHEART RING
SYLVAN
TANG FIZZ
TEA LEAVES
TEMPERANCE
TENNISON RIDGE
TEST PATTERN
THEN AGAIN
THREE SEASONS
THUNDER MOUNTAIN
TIME AND AGAIN
TOTAL RECALL
TOUCH OF SPRING
TRICK OR TREAT
TWICE DELIGHTFUL
TWICE TOLD
VICTORIA FALLS
VIOLET CLASSIC
VIOLET MIRACLE
VIOLET MUSIC
VIOLET REPRISE
VIOLET RETURNS
WALTZ ACROSS TEXAS
WAVES OF GRAIN
WELCOME HOME
WHITE REPRISE
WINDS OF CHANGE
WINESAP
WINTERLAND
WINTER QUEEN
WITCH OF ENDOR
WRIGHT FLYER
ZURICH

TB WRITE-INS

TB WRITE-INS

BORDER BEARDED

ALTAR FIRE
APRICOT FROSTY
AUTUMN ORANGELITE
BABY BENGAL
BROADWAY DOLL
CHAMPAGNE JUNIOR
COLOR BRITE
DOUBLE UP
FAUX PAS
FLAVOURS
JAZZ STAR
LATE MAGIC
LEAH TRADED
LENORA PEARL
LITTLE SUSIE
LUCIE ANDRY
MARMALADE SKIES
MISS SCARLET
MOUSE
OCTOBER SPLENDOR
PEACH PARASOL
PET KIN
PINK REPRISE
SONJA'S SELAH
SPITFIRE
STANZA
ULTRA ECHO
WATERS OF MIRABA
WHOOOP 'EM UP

BB WRITE-INS

**INTERMEDIATE
BEARDED**

ANGEL HEART
BLACK MAGIC
BLESSED AGAIN
BLESSED ASSURANCE
BRIGHT EYES
CANDY FLOSS
CHAMPAGNE ENCORE
CHERRY SUPREME
CONCOCTION
CONSTANT COMPANION

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
ERECT
FOND REMEMBRANCE
GLORIOUS DAY
HALLOWEEN RAINBOW
HI
HISSY-FIT
HONEY GLAZED
I BLESS
LIKE A CHARM
LOW HO SILVER
PALM SPRINGS
PINK KITTEN
PRECIOUS LITTLE PINK
RIDDLE
SANGREAL
SEASON TICKET
SIXTEEN CANDLES
SOUTHLAND
TAWNY
TIE DYED TYKE
ULTRA

IB WRITE-INS

**MINIATURE TALL
BEARDED**

LADY EMMA
MERIT
OZARK EVENING

MTB WRITE-INS

**MINIATURE DWARF
BEARDED**

DITTO
GNUZ SPREAD
GRAPELET
VELVET TOY

MDB WRITE-INS

**STANDARD DWARF
BEARDED**

ALENE'S OTHER LOVE
AURORALITA
AUTUMN EMBER
AUTUMN MAPLE
BABY BLESSED
BABY BOOM
BABY CAKES
BABY PRINCE
BABY TEARS
BE HAPPY
BLITZ
CIMARRON ROSE
CAUTION SIGN
CINDERS
COMEBACK TRAIL
CORNHUSKER AUTUMN
CRY BABY
DARK CRYSTAL
DARKLING
DOUBLE BYTE
EVER READY
EXTRA CHARM
FLOWER SHOWER
FRANKINCENSE
GLITTER BIT
GOLDEN CHILD
GOLDEN VIOLET
GRAY POUPON
HARLEM NOCTURNE
HAVEN
HOT
INDIAN BEAUTY

INDIAN JEWEL
INKLING
JEWEL BABY
KIWI SLICES
LITTLE BISHOP
LITTLE BLUETS
LITTLE BLUE-EYES
LITTLE SAPPHIRE
LITTLE SHOWOFF
LITTLE VIOLET CHARM
MARITA
MILANO
MINI BUSY
MINI MIGHT
PINK FAWN
PLUM WINE
PRINCESS BLUE EYES
RAINBOW SHERBET
REFINED
SERENITY PRAYER
SILK AND VELVET
SMELL THE ROSES
SPARK PLUG
SUNDOLL
SUNSTRIP
TART
THIRD CHARM
THIRD WORLD
THRICE BLESSED
TU TU TURQUOISE
TWICE BLESSED
TWINKLE TWINKLE
WHAT AGAIN
WILLOWMIST

SDB WRITE-INS

JAPANESE
EXUBERANT CHANTEY
PRAIRIE MANTLE
PURPLE PLUS
ROYAL CROWN
SAKURAGAI
SOUTHERN SON
TAFFETA AND VELVET
TRIPLE TREAT

JP WRITE-INS

LOUISIANA
BLUE DUKE
RED ECHO

LA WRITE-INS

**SPECIES/
CALIFORNIAE**
ARCTIC REBLOOMER
CHIEF SEQUOIA
COOK'S BROTH
KING CLOVIS
LINDA WEST

SPEC/CAL WRITE-INS

SIBERIANS
CARELESS SALLY
CHARTREUSE BOUNTY
CREME CHANTILLY
EARLY BLUEBIRD
EVER AGAIN
GLOW OF HAPPINESS
HARBOR MIST
HARPSWELL PRELUDE
HELICOPTER
HELIOTROPE BOUQUET
LUCKY LILAC
MY LOVE
PINK HAZE
PURPLE SAND
REPRISE
SPRINGS BROOK
WHITE PRELUDE

SIB WRITE-INS

Return to:

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