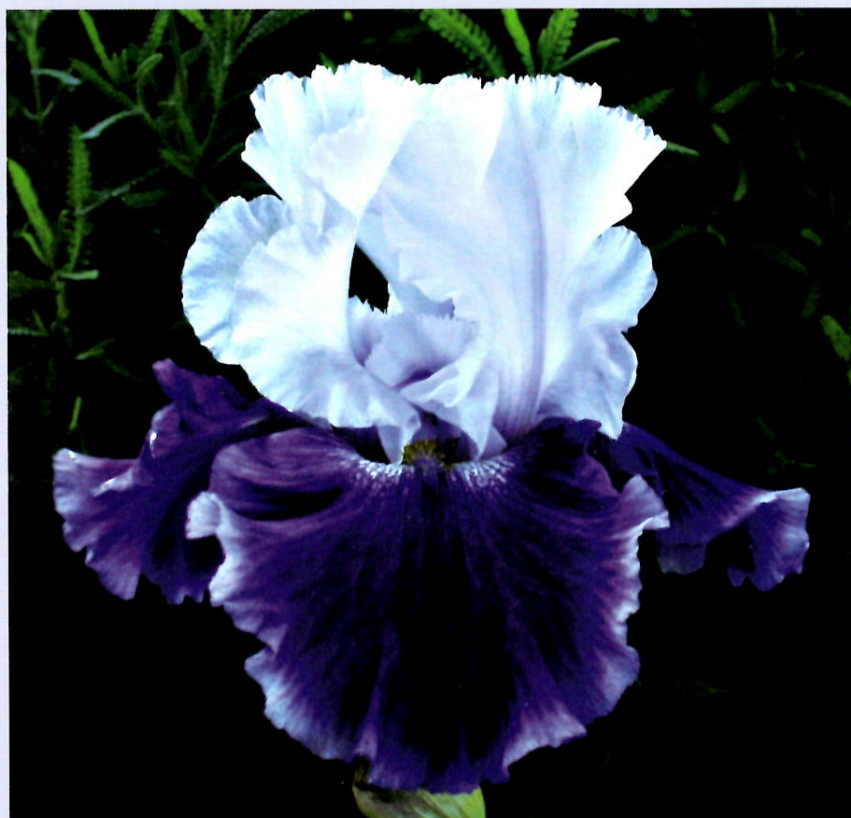


**THE
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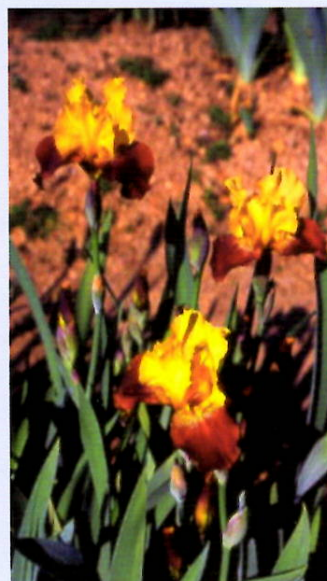


Double Shot
(G . Sutton, 00)

Spring 2006 VOLUME 67



left: Snow Melt (M. Sutton 04)



above:
Lucy Doodle (Nearpass 03) MTB



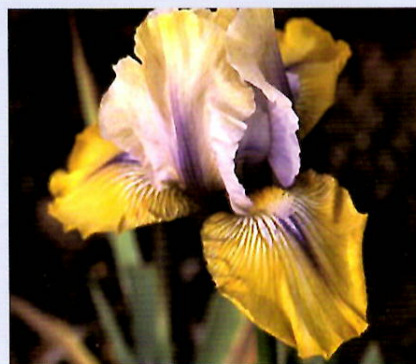
Intermediary (Sutton 05) IB



Cache of Gold (G. Sutton 04) SDB



Candy Corn (Spoon) SDB



Double Your Fun (Aitken 00) IB



Twiggy (Spoon 05) BB

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DEADLINES FOR RECEIPT OF MATERIAL ARE:

Spring Issue: March 15

Fall Issue: October 15

President's Message

Barbara Aitken – Washington State

As I write this, the daffodils are blooming along with many varieties the fruit trees. Spring is certainly in the air, which is very welcome after one of the wettest Januarys in many years in the Northwest.

I want to commend our editor Robin Shadlow on the Fall/Winter issue of The Recorder. It was a great tribute to a great hybridizer, Lloyd Zurbrigg. I think the quality of the color pictures has been outstanding since we switched to a different printer.

Also, kudos to our webmistress Nancy Price, ably assisted by her husband Dave Silverberg, for the fine update of our website www.rebloomingiris.com. Be sure to check it out.

Speaking of which, I am very pleased to advise that Dave Silverberg has agreed to become our new Northwest Director, after the resignation of Florence Wheat. This appointment is subject to member approval at our meeting in May. Many thanks to Florence Wheat for her service to The Reblooming Iris Society.

I am pleased to report that we have a new Invitation to Join color brochure available. It should be a good promotional tool for Region or club shows and sales. Be sure to order a new supply from membership chair Charlie Brown. These will also be available at The Reblooming Iris Society general meeting at the AIS Convention in Portland in May.

Work on updating the Rebloom check list is almost complete. At the spring RIS meeting we will decide what format this update should take. An addendum to the 1998 checklist would be the most practical answer, with the possibility of also having this information available online through the RIS website www.rebloomingiris.com.

In years past we have included a symposium in the spring issue of The Recorder, asking members to vote on their favorite reblooming irises in different classes, from the varieties listed. This has not occurred the past couple of years, and we would like to try something different this year. We would like members to vote for their favorite reblooming irises that they see blooming in their own gardens, or gardens in their area.

Just send us a list of your favorites, and we will report the results of this popularity poll either in the Fall Recorder, if we receive the results in time, or next spring. Please look elsewhere in this issue for specific directions on this.

Bloom in the MDBs and SDBs is not far away here in the Northwest, to be followed by the AIS convention here in the Portland area in late May. We hope to see many of you in our gardens this spring. We wish for you a great bloom season, with lots of rebloom later in the summer.

Editor's Note

Just as we go to print with the spring issue, we have received the sad news that Rosalie Figge has passed away. I was fortunate enough to have spoken with her not long ago. She was still helping us with the updates for the checklist, just weeks before she died. She was a constant supporter of the RIS, her contributions are much too numerous to try and list here without missing something. Getting to know Rosalie has been one of the best perks of being the Editor. I enjoyed so many conversations with her, and I will truly miss her friendship.

I had been looking forward to getting to see many of you again at this year's convention in Portland. Due to a work conflict, I'll have to miss this year. The season seems to be running behind from all reports and that may mean that more of the guest rebloomers will be in bloom still at convention time, especially since the Aitken's will be on the tour.

Having had a few seedlings bloom this last fall, I especially recommend that you try your hand at setting a pod or two for rebloomers. The more people we have out there making crosses, the more cultivars we will have that are suited for more and more different climates.

There is a piece printed in the Recorder which might be seen as a bit controversial by some. But know that the comments are truly made in the spirit of seeking a solution and are deserving of consideration.

Hope your bloom seasons are wonderful and that those rebloomers of yours have enough increases to ensure a colorful fall!

Robin Shadlow

JOIN THE RIS

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Single Annual | \$7.00 |
| Single Triennial | \$18.00 |
| Family Annual | \$8.00 |
| Family Triennial | \$21.00 |
| Single Life | \$120.00 |
| Dual Life | \$150.00 |

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|--------------|---------|
| Full Page | \$50.00 |
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| Quarter Page | \$15.00 |
| Eighth | \$10.00 |

limit 1 full page/issue

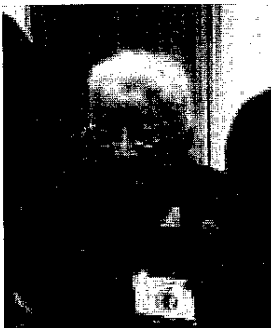
*prices for black and white
contact the editor if interested
in color*

In Memory of
Rosalie Figge

The RIS lost one of its staunchest supporters over the years. Rosalie passed away on April 10, 2006 at the age of 96.

Rosalie served as President of RIS 1996 - 1999, Editor of RIS 1978 - 1983, and received the Distinguished Service Award in 2000

*please see the inside back cover for
a color photo of Rosalie at her 96th Birthday*



Rosalie at the
National Convention
in Falls Church, VA
2003



Rosalie Figge in 1961

photo courtesy Barbara Fox

2005 Rebloom Report

by Richard Richards

Since I have at least one iris in bloom every day of the year, and have had for well over a decade, it is rather arbitrary with regard to when I break my rebloom year. I have decided that the calendar year is as good a time as any, so here is my annual rebloom report for 2005.

Garden practices in this land where there is virtually no frost involve resetting half the garden each year, and that is done in late autumn, when there is less danger of extended hot spells. Soil is renewed with gypsum, peat moss, and alfalfa pellets, and each rhizome is planted over a pocket of several types of granular fertilizer. The application of Miraclegro occurs once every month to two months, with the longest period between applications during the winter when growth is slower.

With more seedlings of my own, and fewer named varieties, the list of rebloomers is smaller every year. I list rebloom by month, and if a plant is in bloom even one day in a month, it is counted as blooming in that month. I go out several times a month and simply list the irises that are blooming that month.

Here is the list.

January 2005: Amethyst Winter, Bernice's Legacy, Bess Bergin, Coronation of David, Low Ho Silver (IB), Marty Richards, Precious Harvest.

February: Bess Bergin, Canary Delight, Cayenne Capers, Coronation of David, Marty Richards,

Over and Over, Pure as Gold, Wedding in Cana.

March 1-15: Coronation of David, Marty Richards, Over and Over, Pure as Gold.

June 15-30: Amethyst Winter, Bernice's Legacy, Coronation of David, Deborah Dances, Diana Shore, Lorna's Pride, Low Ho Silver (IB), Marty Richards, Orchid Respite (PCI), Pleasant Peasant, Return of Innocence, Snow and Wind, Solstice, Susie Knapp (PCI).

July: Amethyst Winter, Diana Shore, Lorna's Pride, Low Ho Silver (IB), Marty Richards, Misty Twilight, Over and Over, Patton Snowfall, Pleasant Peasant, Reiterate, Sea World.

August: Coronation of David, Marty Richards, Misty Twilight, Over and Over, Patton Snowfall, Pleasant Peasant, Sea World, Twice Delightful.

September: Autumn Clouds, Blatant, Marty Richards.

October: Autumn Clouds, Marty Richards, Misty Twilight, Renown, Snow and Wind.

November: Deborah Dances, Icy Ruffles, Marty Richards, Misty Twilight, Pure as Gold, Renown, Sea World, Snow and Wind, Sunny Disposition.

December: Aspen, Autumn Clouds, Bernice's Legacy, Deborah Dances, Icy Ruffles, Irish Tune, Marty Richards, Pearls of Autumn, Pure as Gold, Sea World. Soap Opera.

I consider any bloom between March 15 and June 15 to be normal spring bloom. I do not list an iris as reblooming unless it puts up a stalk during the normal spring period, and then at some other time. Thus some wonderful early season irises, like Lemon Custard, do not get listed, though it blooms in early March and at no other time.

I often talk about an iris which has been outstanding during the year. A quick look at the list reveals that Marty Richards, my own introduction, was in bloom every month of the year. Of course I have quite a long row of it in my garden. Off-season bloom stalks are usually short, with fewer than the requisite number of buds, but sheer exuberance counts for a lot with me. This iris can produce show stalks at any time of the year if it is given good garden conditions.

Can it perform that well outside of southern California? In Tennessee it gives strong autumn bloom, so it seems to adjust to a less favorable climate than in its home garden. Since one of its parents is the very adaptable iris Feed Back, I see no reason why it cannot adapt to most climates in the US, but there is not much feedback on that yet.

Next year this will no doubt be an even shorter report as I replace more and more named varieties in my garden with my own seedlings.

Southern California could be the reblooming iris capitol of the world. The climate is ideal. But most southern California gardeners seem to garden as if they were the Schreiners, or maybe potato farmer in Idaho. They do not grow many rebloomers, if any at all. One crop of flowers a year is all they expect, in late April. What a waste in this climate! It seems to me obvious that it is more enjoyable to have bloom all year round than for just a few weeks. But the influence of most iris publications, from the less favorable climates in the country, seems absolutely pernicious in this case.

WESTERN NEBRASKA REBLOOM REPORT for 2005

Kathie and Leonard Jedlicka Alliance, NE

| Cultivar | Yr. Intro | July | Aug | Sept | # of stalks |
|---------------------------|-----------|------|-----|--------|-------------|
| Midsummer's Eve | 99 | 24 | 20 | | 2 |
| Diamond Blush | 98 | 24 | | | 1 |
| Precious Little Pink (IB) | 95 | 24 | 14 | | 4 |
| Oasis Rainbow | 02 | 28 | | | 2 |
| Elegaball (Muska) | 99 | 28 | | | 1 |
| Frost Echo | 95 | 28 | | 17 | 2 |
| Hold Everything | 01 | 30 | 5 | | 2 |
| Sky King Returns | 03 | | 3 | 17 | 2 |
| Again and Again | 99 | | 7 | 30 | 2 |
| Cameo Blush (BB) | 98 | | 7 | | 1 |
| Invitation | 82 | | 7 | | 1 |
| Prince George | 97 | | 7 | | 1 |
| July Yellow | 01 | | 3,9 | 5,17 | 4 |
| Prince Charming | 88 | | 14 | | 1 |
| Bright and Sunny | 00 | | 14 | | 1 |
| Summer Radiance | 96 | | 19 | 25 | 2 |
| Io | 99 | | 19 | | 1 |
| Oasis War Bonnet (BB) | 03 | | 20 | 2, 17 | 3 |
| Pinkness | 89 | | 20 | | 1 |
| September Frost | 98 | | 25 | 17, 30 | 6 |
| Celestial Sunshine | 89 | | | 5 | 1 |
| Plum Pretty Whiskers | 03 | | | 5, 30 | 3 |
| Frappe | 91 | | | 7 | 1 |
| Silver Dividends | 91 | | | 7 | 1 |
| Tenderly | 00 | | | 11,18 | 2 |
| September Replay | 92 | | | 11 | 1 |
| Unbelievable Love | 98 | | | 17, 25 | 2 |
| Rock Star | 91 | | | 18 | 1 |
| Wine Punch | 96 | | | 17, 25 | 2 |
| Baby Blessed SDB | 79 | | | 18 | 1 |
| Remember Spring | 85 | | | 25 | 1 |
| Lady Essex | 91 | | | 30 | 1 |
| Midnight Caller | 90 | | | 30 | 1 |

THE BEST OF THE BEST

by George Sutton

2005 was a dream season in Region 14, probably a once-in-a-lifetime for rebloomers. We had twelve months of bloom, with many multiple rebloomers. Our fall and winter temperature average was cooler than usual, but nothing lower than 30 degrees here. Downtown Porterville still had bloom as of January 23rd.

Excluding Low Ho Silver which has rebloomed every month without fail for over seven years, the named multiple rebloomers were as follows:

Five months of rebloom

TBs: Autumn Tryst, Golden Immortal, Raspberry Frost
IBs: Concertina, Intermediary, October Storm, Winter Pearl

Four months of rebloom

TBs: Berry Ripple, Blatant, Broken Record, Duo Dandy, Double Shot, Glitzy,
Innocent Star, Mother Earth, Violet Turner (late)
BBs: Winning Streak
IBs: Candy Rock, Holidaze (late)

Three months of rebloom

TBs: Anxious, Autumn Circus (late), Bountiful Harvest (late), Cantina, Dashing,
Elainalope, Feed Back, Golden Road (late), Matrix, Pearls of Autumn(late),
Pure As Gold, Royal Monarch, Straight Up
BBs: Baby Bengal (late)
IBs: Champagne Encore, Fast Forward
MTBs: Clara Doodle
SDBs: Ahwahnee Princess, Blueberry Tart, Candle, Plum Wine, Sugar Maple

Two months of rebloom

TBs: Again and Again, Banana Cream, Dawn of Fall, Firebeard, Frequent Flyer,
Frost Echo, Grand Circle (early), Hemstitched, Holy Fire, Snow Melt,
Speed Limit

I haven't named them all and probably missed some of them. Wow! What a list!

We were very happy with our seedlings as well. We green-flagged over one thousand the need to be saved and evaluated another year. We have some color breakthroughs that I've not seen before, even in oncres. Most of them are Michael's seedlings. About 1/3 of the T's, crosses made in 2004 and planted out in 2005, bloomed in the fall of 2005. Our most consistent named remontant parents were 'Cache of Gold' SDB and Snow Melt (TB). Our new line of MTBs X SDBs produced numerous rebloomers.

Michael will be posting photos on the web of all the good ones off and on throughout the year, so keep watching! We're really excited and can't wait for March to start making more crosses. Remontants are here to stay!

MAGNIFICENT IN MARYLAND

by Bruce Hornstein, Monkton, MD zone 7

This past bloom season was phenomenal not only in number of bloom stalks but in length of season. We had a long cool spring and despite a summer drought, rebloom began in June, progressed into July and finished on November 10th when we had our first heavy frost.

This was the second year in a row when 'Immortality' started reblooming in July and finished in November. Some old rebloomers that hardly have bloomed in past years just took off and were absolutely magnificent. To name a few: 'Witch of Endor', 'I Do', 'Red Revival' with tall stalks blooming from September 'til frost, 'Southern Spy', 'Grape Adventure', 'Frances Iva', 'Autumn Twilight', 'Autumn Bugler' which had tremendous bud counts (10-12 buds per stalk) and started reblooming in June and continued into November.

The reliable remontant cultivars did what was expected of them throughout the season- 'Silver Dividends', 'Purple Magic', 'Pink Attraction' which rebloomed from July 'til November, 'Clarence', 'Sunny Disposition', 'Olive Reflection', 'Hindenburg' (7th season it has rebloomed), 'Maryland Ho', 'Lady Emma', 'Belvi Queen', 'Cantina', 'Champagne Encore', 'Now and Later', 'Redelta', 'Feed Back', 'Eternal Bliss' which started in July and bloomed into October, 'Queen Dorothy' which rebloomed from June until frost, 'Matrix', 'In Retrospect', 'Autumn Circus', 'Cherry Supreme', 'Remarkable', 'September Replay', 'Northward Ho', 'English Cottage' most fragrant in the garden), 'Light Rebuff', 'Istanbul', 'Harvest of Memories', 'Swiss Majesty', 'Violet Returns', 'Then Again', and 'Sea Fluff'. The SDBs were: 'Blitz', 'Plum Wine', 'Hot', 'Marita', 'Baby Blessed', 'Smell The Roses', and 'Little Show off' with its bright lavender blue beard just impressed everyone in the October garden.

'Zurich' which has rebloomed in the past but with small insignificant blooms this year put out a flush of large erect crisp ruffled white blossoms that shone in the October sun. 'Unchained Melody' which reblooms reliably for me but tends to have twisted stalks got rid of its kinks this year and made a nice showing. Those of you unfamiliar with Clarence Mahan's beauty (it's a pristine white self with a golden glow unlike some whites which have a bluish or green cast.)

Some of our newly acquired cultivars performed well in October such as 'Pink Reprise', 'Autumn Orange', 'Lunar Whitewash', 'Apollo's Robe', and 'Billionaire' which rebloomed from September until November.



Istanbul (Byers 90)

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home of Cornhusker, Patty Ann, Pleasant Peasant, Aunt Mary
and Days of Summer

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GREEN, YELLOW, ORANGE, PINK, AND RED REBLOOMING MEDIAN IRISES

By Don and Ginny Spoon

We have plenty of reliable median rebloomers that are blue-violet, red-violet, maroon, many off-whites and a few snow white, pale yellow, and pastel and medium lavender blue. What we want is richer, more intense tropical colors in grass green, chartreuse yellow-green, vivid chromium yellow, Cajun peach, citrus orange, hot pink, and spectrum red. This article tells of the cultivars that are progressing toward these goals of intense tropical colors in median rebloomers. This progress has been made possible by determining which cultivars are rebloom carriers (REc) and crossing them on rebloomers (RE) to produce rebloomers. (Rebloom carriers do not rebloom in any zone yet when crossed on rebloomers can produce reblooming offspring.) Also, one can use nonreblooming spring bloomers (SB) by crossing them on rebloomers to produce rebloom carrier (REc) offspring. We believe that rebloom carriers have two (VVvv) or four (vvvv) doses of the essential recessive allele that turns off the requirement for vernalization, an extended winter cold period prior to bloom stalk production. There are also cultivars that bloom throughout the bloom season. They used to be called continuous rebloomers, similar to the term everblooming used for rose cultivars; however, these iris cultivars can only be continuous rebloomers in zone 9, while in colder zones the bloom season is shorted by the period of winter cold. Some have suggest multiple rebloomers, we guess meaning more than twice as in the cyclic fall rebloomers. We prefer to call these cultivars all season bloomers and designate them a REAS. All season bloomers have lost in addition to the requirement for vernalization, the photoperiod control mechanism found in fall rebloomers. In this article we will use the abbreviations RE, REAS, REc, and SB in front of the cultivar to avoid writing rebloomer, all season bloomer, rebloom carrier, and spring bloomer or non rebloomer. We try to avoid the term oncer or once bloomer because they contain a value judgment. Another important finding is that a cultivar with any orange in the beards shows that the cultivar is a carrier of the recessive tangerine factor (tttt) for lycopene and crossing it with pink, peach, and orange cultivars (tttt) can produce these lycopene based colored offspring. You have to break off the falls to find the orange color deep at the base of the beards.

Since the traits for modern form of wide and ruffled petals are recessive traits we can obtain them by first breeding for rebloom in the colors and color patterns we are striving to produce and then crossing on similar rebloom carriers followed by inbreeding to obtain the wide and ruffled petals. If the color is new then only inbreeding, such as sibling crosses, will retain our progress. This is putting the horse in front of the cart that make forward progress easier and faster. Reliable rebloom involves several homozygous recessive genes (vvvv- loss of vernalization requirement, dddd -loss of summer dormancy, and pppp- loss of photoperiod control) and high doses of dominant genes (AAAA, AAAa, and AAaa, BBBB, BBBb, BBbb, etc.) while modern form involves only two homozygous recessive genes (www - wide petals and rrrr - ruffles). We are finding that simply crossing the best rebloomers on the best rebloomers we are producing more reliable and floriferous rebloomers as well as some with more modern wide and ruffled form. We believe that the incremental improvements in modern flower form are due to modifier genes with dosage effects.

GREEN MEDIAN REBLOOMERS:

A decade ago, few thought we would ever see a grass green iris. There were SDBs with olive spots (REc WITH CASTENETS) and olive whiskers (REc SNOW TREE). The nonreblooming olive SDB SENOR FROG hinted at of the color of a frog. This olive color was a mixture of yellow and lavender blue that often occurred in the beards. Crossing Weiler's SDBs RE GOLDEN VIOLET (for its lavender blue beards) X RE LEPRECHAUN'S DELIGHT we obtained RE WISE WILLOW with greenish yellow standards, olive green falls, and lavender beards tipped deep orange showing each of Weiler's parents had two hidden

doses of recessive tangerine factor (TTtt) for lycopene. At its maiden debut at our median show several judges thought WISE WILLOW was the first major step towards a green iris. The next year many could see the grass green color in the whiskers of our non-reblooming GREEN TREE out of Zurbrigg's pale olive green RE MARITA X SB CREAM CAKE. Our 2006 introduction REc SNOW PEAS with a grass green spot out of REc SNOW TREE X REc GREEN TREE. Crossing REc SNOW TREE X RE TUTU TURQUOISE we have the reblooming SDB registered as RE GRASS GREEN, a light greenish white with grass green spot on the falls. One of our most reliable rebloomers is SENORITA FROG out of REc RAT-A-TAT X RE BABY PRINCE from the pale yellow RE BABY BLESSED. SENORITA FROG has yellowish, olive green standards and falls with darker olive spot and lavender blue beards that are orange in the throat (carry tttt). WISE WILLOW X SENORITA FROG produced our 2006 RE JACK LOVING, a lavender blue with light olive green spot. RE HOT CHIC X REc PELE (with tangerine beards) produced our RE SKY WILLOW, a bright chartreuse yellow-green with olive spot that was our best rebloom performer in 2006 giving three months of fall bloom covering the clump with three buds per stalk. Also, our 2006 RE OLIVE SPOT is light yellow with a large olive spot out of REc WITH CASTONETS X RE HOT CHIC. Our goal is to produce a reblooming, wide ruffled white with grass green spot and showy red-orange beards similar to the SB MURPHY'S LAW by Bennet Jones. There is much progress to be made by crossing these green RE SDBs with green TBs like RE LICHEN to produce green IBs.

YELLOW MEDIAN REBLOOMERS:

There are few MDB rebloomers, and only a few of them like RE DITTO even rebloom sporadically for us in zone 6b. RE ORANGE TIGER X RE BABY PRINCE produced our rich golden yellow bitone RE HILDA'S GIFT with darker old gold spot and golden yellow beards. It has flared, wide and ruffled flowers, is a prolific fall rebloomer with 2-3 buds, and never grows out of class for us. (REc HILDA'S GIFT is named for Hilda Cunningham who gave transfusions of a rare blood type to save the life of Don's mother, Lilla, two years before he was born.) We are using it with other yellow MDBs in hopes of finding a rebloom carrier so we can create reblooming MDBs with the dainty, petite form so beloved by MDB aficionados.

One of our most dependable rebloomers is our flared, wide and ruffled RE PRETTY GIRL (named for Rosalie Figge's beloved cat) that is white like brightly lit snow with golden yellow beards and hafts. RE PRETTY GIRL was best seedling in a fall show with Rosalie Figge as the oldest practicing AIS garden judge. Paul Black's REc TWEETY BIRD has flared wide, ruffled falls and tangerine in the beard is a tremendous garden performer and parent. RE HOT X REc TWEETY BIRD gave us RE HOT CHIC, a flared wide, ruffled, bright medium yellow with maroon spot dissected by a yellow line and deeper golden yellow beards. Judges who saw it at its first medium show where it was best seedling raved on its form and intense yellow color. Its fall rebloom can cover the clump. It passes its wide, ruffled form and reliable rebloom to its offspring.

Terry Aiken's REc PELE was named for its hot, intense tropical volcanic colors and tangerine beard. REc PELE X RE BABY PRINCE produced RE PRINCE PELE, our flared, lightly ruffled intense golden yellow with darker golden yellow beards and orange in the throat (tttt) showing that RE BABY PRINCE has two doses of recessive tangerine (TTtt). RE PRINCE PELE has closed standards and only moderately wide falls yet has the unique feature of being diamond dusted in golden sparkles. When we first saw Terry Aiken's REc LUMILITE we were amazed at its intense, glowing yellow at the bases of the pure white petals and big, showy tangerine beards. RE DITTO X REc LUMILITE produced RE SOLAR MAX, our most intense golden yellow spot on very light yellow flower and the beards are golden yellow and orange in the

throat (tttt) showing that RE DITTO has two doses of recessive tangerine (TTtt). In addition, RE SOLAR MAX is wide and ruffled with diamond dusted, arched falls.

We are now crossing these intensely golden yellow SDBs on our best orange, peach, and pink TBs to produce intensely yellow IBs like Lloyd Zurbrigg's RE BLESSED ASSURANCE. For 2007 introduction we have a very wide Cajun orange space ager REc KRISTEN FAITH (named in honor of Region 4 Krissy Lang, 2005 Cosgrove winner, AIS's youngest practicing garden judge, and first recipient of the 2006 C&P Youth Hybridizers award with golden engraved Swiss made twissers) from SA SB COLLEEN'S DREAMSICLE X SA REc MAGIC KINGDOM that has produced rebloomers when crossed on rebloomers. Crossed on these intensely golden yellow SDBs it could produce reblooming space age IBs in an array of tropical colors. REc KRISTEN FAITH expresses many of the amazing traits of color and sturdy stalks of Monty Byers' REc MAGIC KINGDOM and it has the vigorous growth of COLLEEN'S DREAMSICLE.

We are crazy about Terry Aitken's IB REAS DOUBLE YOUR FUN that is an all season bloomer for us, it is extremely vigorous and floriferous. The flower is modern in form with great bright light yellow color with a medium violet area down the middle of the falls. It is entirely unique and a truly fun iris. A must have cultivar. We will continue trying to see if it is fertile.

PINK REBLOOMING MEDIANS:

While there are many pink median irises, except in the MDBs, there are very few pure pink median rebloomers. SDBs RE PINK FAWN and REc CHANTED seldom if ever rebloom for us, and the first is a buff pink with lavender beards, tangerine in the throat and the second a smoky pink with lavender beard and also tangerine in the throat. Paul Hill crossed RE CAUTION SIGN by George Sutton X REc CHANTED to obtain his beautiful, flared and ruffled SDB RE SWEETHEARTS AGAIN with light pink standards, cocoa pink falls, and lavender blue beards that are tangerine deep. It blooms reliably for us in late October. Paul was visiting our garden one spring and made some crosses. He crossed our RE AUTUMN TANGERINE on his SWEETHEARTS AGAIN because they both have pink standards. AUTUMN TANGERINE is out of (REc ORANGE TIGER x REc PELE) X RE AUTUMN MAPLE and is flared and lightly ruffled with orange falls and tangerine beards. We obtained our sporadic reblooming PLUM PINK, a flared and lightly ruffled pink with striking plum spot on the falls and white beards tipped tangerine from the cross (REc TWEETY BIRD x SB FAIRY LORE, a pink plicata) X RE AUTUMN MAPLE.

Ken Fisher produced the first introduced reblooming, pink MTB, RE OZARK BEAUTY with apricot beards from PINK KEWPIE X PUPPY LOVE.. (We named and introduced for the late Charlie Nearpass his MTB RE EMMA DOODLE, a ruffled rosy pink with darker venation and tangerine beards with in class flower and thin stalks with 5-7 buds that he spent twenty years of crosses to produce.) Out of Keppel's BB REc FAUX PAS X RE OZARK EVENING we produced our rebloomer BB RE PEACH PARASOL that is a flared and ruffled peachy pink with darker peach beards with 19 inch stalks with 7-9 buds. PEACH PARASOL has bloomed every fall for us for the last ten years. Crossing the MTB RE OZARK EVENING on our TB RE RONEY'S ENCORE produced BB RE PERSIMMON PIE, a lightly ruffled creamy light yellow-orange self with darker yellow-orange beards that to us smells like persimmons.

Probably our most important contribution to reblooming medians is the all season bloomer BB REAS MIDSUMMER'S EVE out of TB REAS IMMORTALITY (TTtt) X REc ENCHANTED WORLD (tttt)

that has moderately wide and lightly ruffled flared form, pink standards, peach pink falls and tangerine beards. It puts up stalks with the MDBs and blooms in every month of the summer and fall for our complete season from last spring freeze to first fall freeze. It can also put up a second stalk from the same rhizome. It was a challenge to classify as it occasionally has stalks just over 27" tall in the fall and looks more like an IB when it blooms with them. RE BB MIDSUMMER'S EVE X REc FANCY WOMAN produced our REAS BB TWIGGY with its ruffled petite flowers reminding us of the British supermodel by this name. TWIGGY is a peachy pink self with a mauve blush, darker shoulders and white zonal around the orange beards. It can put up a stalk throughout the summer and fall with extra watering and fertilizer. It has MIDSUMMER'S EVE's all season bloom but has a more modern form flower. Another of our all season bloomers is REAS BB LOVE GOES ON from very different parentage. It is out of an interesting inbred sibling cross RE DIAMOND BLUSH that is (SB CATALDO x REc INFINITE GRACE) X RE PINK ATTRACTION)) X (SB CATALDO x REc INFINITE GRACE) x RE PINK ATTRACTION)). For us TB RE PINK ATTRACTION comes close to being an all season bloomer. Our REc LITTLE JOHN has been the parent of several of our reliable fall rebloomers. One of our goals was to produce a reliable rebloomer with a flower the color pattern and form of LITTLE JOHN. Our BB LOVE GOES ON like TB LITTLE JOHN is flared and ruffled with rich pink standards and style arms, lavender falls, and cherry red beards. Walter Moores' BB RE PINK REPRISE is an iris that has not received the attention it deserves. Its wide, lightly ruffled form nears the best of modern formed spring bloomers, yet it is its clarity and intensity of peach pink color that is so striking. Its 27" inch stalks make it a tall BB. We really like Gary Sides BB RE OCTOBER SPLENDOR, a ruffled and lightly laced intensely pink self with tangerine beards. Crossing reblooming pink Border Bearded with reblooming pink SDBs could produce super vigorous pink reblooming IBs.

ORANGE MEDIAN REBLOOMERS:

There are presently no introduced orange reblooming MDBs. The best avenue to producing them is to obtain a shorter stalked dwarf with diminutive flowers from reblooming orange SDBs. John Weiler produced RE AUTUMN MAPLE a reliable reblooming pinkish orange with dark orange beards from RE RAINBOW SHERBET X RE BLITZ. The golden yellow BLITZ is one of the most vigorous rebloomers we grow. Our RE AUTUMN ORANGE is a flared and ruffled intense orange with an olive spot and tangerine beards. It was obtained by the cross (REc ORANGE TIGER x REc PELE) X RE AUTUMN MAPLE. From this cross we also obtained RE AUTUMN TANGERINE a flared, ruffled bicolor with peach pink standards, orange falls, and tangerine beards. The sibling cross of AUTUMN ORANGE X AUTUMN TANGERINE, both with 14" flower stalks, produced a flared, ruffled reblooming orange MDB self with stalks only 7 inches tall we have registered as QUAQUAT. Bennett Jones has given us a large number of wonderful intensely orange SDBs with orange and red beards from his many years of productive crosses. Out of his SDBs REc ORANGE TIGER X REc DESERT ORANGE we obtained the reliable SDB rebloomer named CANDY CORN that is flared, wide and ruffled with the confectionary's colors of yellow orange standards and style arms, deeper and more intense yellow orange falls with 1/8 inch yellow orange, and showy orange beards. CANDY CORN has stalks only 9 inches tall and should be a good parent to produce orange reblooming MDBs.

The magnificent winner of the Knowlton Medal in 2000 the BB RE APRICOT FROSTY by Dave Niswonger is an amoena with snow white standards and intensely pigmented, deep apricot falls and beards. This occupies a prominent place in our garden. It doesn't rebloom for us but will rebloom in zones 7-9.

RED-MAROON AND RED MEDIAN REBLOOMERS:

Our little ROYAL MAROON out of REc PELE X RE BABY PRINCE is the only red-maroon MDB SELF we know to have been introduced. It has dark amber borders on its style arms with standard, falls, and beards a red-maroon that glows red when back lighted. It has 6-8 inch tall, unbranched stalks with three buds. For us, it very rarely grows out of class, but in other climates and soils it might occasionally top 8 inches. What we love about ROYAL MAROON is its long season of rebloom from August to November being as floriferous in spring as in the fall with 4 to 6 increase on each rhizome with a bloomstalk. We have had reports of it reblooming reliably in zone 4. If asked which of our reblooming SDBs is our favorite we will answer ROSALIE LOVING (sibling to SOLAR MAX) that is flared, wide, and ruffled, a snow white with golden yellow at the bases of the petals and rich red-maroon spot. The beards are white tipped golden yellow-orange. We love its sweet fragrance. It is very cold hardy and can extend its rebloom into December and can open a flower after being dusted with snow. From the final seedpods set by Charlie Nearpass that we rescued from his garden we grew a remarkable MTB, RE LUCY DOODLE, that is one of the most colorful reblooming irises we grow. It has golden yellow standards and beards and wide, ruffled eye-catching ruby red falls. Its sibling REc MOON AND STARS is a snow white BB with bright yellow beards with flowers just larger than the MTB size restrictions. These siblings are terrific spring bloomers giving clumps that are glorious bouquets. We only wish Charlie had lived to see his lovely creations. His main goal for 25 years was to produce a snow white reblooming MTB. We are crossing these siblings, LUCY DOODLE with MOON AND STARS and hoping to make it for him

One of our favorite SDB rebloomers is Chuck Chapman's RUBY ERUPTION that is fertile both ways and crosses nicely on reblooming TBs. It came from REc RUSTY DUSTY X REc CHUBBY CHEEKS and has its pollen parent ruffled form. It is a dark ruby red plicata with a bright yellow ground and cream beards tipped dark orange-red. RUBY ERUPTION blooms every fall in late October or early November for us. It blooms late in the spring for us so it is in bloom when the reblooming TBs are starting their spring bloom.



"Don, an SDB doesn't have to have 5 buds!"

from left to right Dick Sparling, Don Spoon, Barry Blyth and Keith Keppel at the 2003 Convention

(clever caption and photo courtesy Ginny Spoon)

The closest color to spectrum red we had ever seen in an iris was in the falls spot of Carol Lankow's 1993 SDB REc JEWELER'S ART from the splendid cross of CHERRY POP by Ben Hager X (CHERRY TART by Terry Aitken x CHEERY CHERRY by Steve Varner). Carol had created the progenitor for a spectrum red SDB, and as we discovered, it is also a rebloom carrier. Don used JEWELER'S ART pollen on Terry Aitken's burgundy plicata LOW LIFE with russet beards the rebloom carrier from the very wide, ruffled REc CHUBBY CHEEKS by Paul Black X TRICKS by Barry Blyth and got several interesting red, red-maroon, and burgundy seedlings. The best formed seedling with wide, ruffled falls was named RED RABBIT, a deep red with bluish cast with a falls spot nearly the same red color as JEWELER'S ART. A sibling seedling, named CERISE BOY was burgundy (cerise) grading darker in the center. Crossing these two siblings

gave a slightly bitone seedling that is very close to fire engine red with similar colored beards. One fall after its introduction RED RABBIT put up a single late stalk, and when crossed with Carol Lankow's nicely ruffled REc NUT RUFFLES it produced an October red maroon rebloomer showing that RED RABBIT is a rebloom carrier. It was no surprise when we looked up the pedigree of NUT RUFFLES, a smooth chocolate brown with charcoal brown falls spot and bronze beards. It is from the same cross that gave JEWELER'S ART. We feel so close to producing the first reblooming spectrum red SDB that Don is seeing it in his dreams. He fervently believes that we are just one cross from a reblooming spectrum red.

EXTENDED BLOOM WITH BEARDLESS IRISES

Terry Aitken, Vancouver, Washington

We have enjoyed extensive sequential rebloom on beardless irises, particularly Siberians, in the Northwest in recent years. One of our best performer has been CORONATION ANTHEM which begins to color up in mid May and continues until the last sprinkling of color in August. In casual conversation, Dr. Hollingworth indicates that the same plant in Michigan has shown no inclination toward regular rebloom. Other good rebloomers for us are DEVILS DREAM and CARELESS SALLY. Marty Shaffer indicates that he gets some rebloom on these plants in the Boston area. So what environmental factor justifies this variation?

My current theory is that soil temperature determines bloom and extended bloom. Our west coast day temperatures are comparable to the Great Lakes and east coast marine temperatures at the same latitude during bloom time. However, our west coast night temperatures drop dramatically because of cool Pacific Ocean breezes which would tend moderate the soil temperature. I would appreciate some help from our readers to collect data which either justifies the theory or debunks it. My suggestion would be to record soil temperature at the beginning of Siberian bloom and then again at the conclusion of bloom. (I will try it here for comparison purposes.) Recording these temperatures at 2 week intervals might be enlightening.

Most rebloom literature recommends the use of fertilizer and irrigation to encourage rebloom. I would certainly expect these factors to enhance performance. At the same time, I should say that I have observed CORONATION ANTHEM and DEVIL'S DREAM blooming in August in an abandoned field that had been totally neglected – no irrigation or fertilizer for two years. In contrast, our main plantings are mulched with horse manure and wood shavings and are watered at regular intervals. The plant response has been highly enthusiastic with overwhelming sequential bloom. What did not change was BLOOM TIME LENGTH.

Another phenomenon associated with reblooming irises is the increase in bud count and branching during the rebloom cycle. That feature has certainly carried through to the beardless irises. I need to collect more data on just how great the change may be. It seems significant.

For those who may wish for an extended bloom season on (some) of their Siberian irises, I would recommend a heavy mulch (wood shavings or loose straw), composted horse manure (or any other manure) and at least one half inch of water per week to maintain active growth.

Suicide on the Installment Plan

or

"A few ways the awards and judging system retards iris markets, iris distribution, and iris popularity"

By

Bill Burleson

Much of the effort we put forth in life is well intended and altruistic in nature. Man, by nature is good and seeks to do good with and for others. Regardless of how well intended, this same effort often results in diametrically opposed results from those originally intended. Such is the case with how we presently face in the iris world.

Clearly, as an organization, we are charged with the responsibility for the promotion of irises and just as clearly we are charged with the education of the public concerning the merits of this plant. These obligations fit neatly into our concept of how we should be if we are to be happy with ourselves. Rightly or wrongly so, we perceive gardeners in general and iris gardeners in particular as being more so inclined this way than other identifiable groups.

Sadly, as humans we have a darker side. We seek to promote self-interest. We are sometimes lazy, shirk responsibility, and seek to have someone else do the work. We fear change. We refuse to think completely through the cause and effect relationship between our actions, the actions of others, and the subsequent results. We sometimes, arguably often, subscribe to a herd mentality. The kindness in our soul encourages us to accept what has become rather than offend seeking what should be.

Sometime in our history and most likely over a lengthy time period, perhaps in an effort to present a more sophisticated front but more likely with genuine intent to "improve" irises, a cornucopia of organization leaders chose to remove organization influence with the public and garden community, from the general membership and have it vested in the board and the judging group. I leave what transpired when to the historians and judges, for I am neither historian nor judge. But, I also summarily reject granting either having a corner on the thinkin' market.

Allow me to put forth this seemingly wild assertion. "Few if any other plant species is as adaptable to the broad range of culture conditions, offers a greater range of bloom color, form, and characteristic as that comprised of irises." For me this is close enough to true to be deemed fact. Does the public or even the general gardening communities have this same perception? Why?

Boiled down to its essence the judges group, God bless 'em, produce lists. Lists purported to be superior irises and more beautiful/better plants than their peers etc. In reality these lists are at best a compilation of irises that more or less meet a prescribed set of rules. Maybe even the product of a herd mentality in less kind circles. The rules are adjusted and tweaked periodically by the judges themselves producing an increasingly narrow concept of what constitutes a good iris.

From a marketing perspective limiting options in available product translate into limited market appeal.

Cries arise, "We do not!" But yes, that is exactly what happens. Mentally one easily enough can construct black and white photos of many varieties in any given pattern group. Within a relatively narrow range of bloom characteristic they all look the same if they conform to the judging/award system rules. So what is the result of the judging system? Limited garden flexibility, narrow appeal to broad markets, but still satisfying to the confines of a privileged group mentality.

We also need to examine our product (irises) and what the judge's lists actually produce in relation to larger ignored markets like cut flowers. Bearded irises go un-represented here. This happens for at least two reasons. The first being the widely branched, difficult to package and ship, stalk so revered by this group. The second being shelf life of our product. To boggle your mind a bit this is a \$20 billion (\$34 billion by some accounts) annual market. Should we not be attempting to satisfy this market's need? Should we not be "building" and "promoting" products that do?

The influence that could be exerted on demand driven market distribution is totally ignored. As is any evaluation and improvement in product shelf life.

We need only examine the ranking of the different species by popularity in the cult flower trade to illuminate the failures. One source offers the five most popular with roses as number one. Followed by dianthus (carnations), gladiolas, dendranthema (chrysanthemum), and tulips. The dominant feature these flowers have in common as they are used in the cut flower trade is stems and bloom presentation that facilitate both commercial shipping and the arrangers art. While the produced lists doggedly pursue an opposite agenda for the bearded iris. Bloom longevity (shelf life) and opening sequence goes, un-rewarded, un-recognized, un-evaluated. Indeed, accolades are garnered by iris stalks that present blooms that go "Bam!", open all at the same time and then swiftly go away.

People seek pretty much the same things in a general sort of way from their fellow man. We all desire to a greater or lesser degree position, influence and respect of intelligent people.

When lists/awards promote products, implied in that promotion is the assertion that these are worthy, maybe even cutting edge products. Given the propensity of modern bearded irises to give stellar performance under only a relatively narrow range of climate and culture conditions exactly what is being promoted? Failure? Perhaps. Or, at best another black eye for bearded irises in the garden market.

Often enough iris gardeners as willing, paying members of a volunteer organization for iris promotion, we find our intelligence insulted with little or no respect beyond lip service afforded this support. The majority of us have no say, no input, and no vote with which to influence outcome. We read these list and are influenced by what they promote. As our comfort level with iris gardening increases we discount them more and more. We learn the hard way. Too, if we happen to be producers (growers) for profit, we know the penetration of the general gardening market will be retarded and largely limited to the irises that make these self limiting lists should we endeavor to expand beyond a small local market. Knowing full well, we cut our own throats and limit our future by promoting them and their regionally limited stellar performance. As hybridizers (creators of new product) some know to bite tongues and create within that tight little box of thought, garner influence of the few, and get the product on the lists.

We'll not need to address what is erroneously implied of the thousands of irises introduced that do not make these lists regardless of performance or capacity to meet market place needs.

It may be that reblooming irises can slow our directed march away from the concept of form following function. It would be difficult to argue these jewels of the iris world do not increase functionality from a garden perspective. It is just as difficult to argue that beauty in our end product is not the culmination of what should be multifaceted objectives.

The time worn cliché, "thinking outside the box" comes to mind but somehow it doesn't fit here. More likely, "how to build a box that retards thinkin'" does. As a point in passin', the Miss America Pageant comes to mind too. I always kinda' liked seein' pretty girls everywhere I looked. Wonder if that organization strayed from providin' what the market sought and participants provided while becoming preoccupied with doggedly pursuing the agenda of a few? Whatever happened to those folks anyway?

www.rebloomingiris.com

Further Information on South Australian Rebloom

by Ann Head

In the Fall/Winter 2005 issue of the Rebloom Recorder, a report appeared on iris rebloom in South Australia, and the pH levels of the gardens in which the rebloom occurred.

At the time, we did not know the pH level of 2 of the gardens involved – now we do, so I can provide more information on the following:

Rebloom in pH 7.5 – 8:

Autumn Memory, Decolletage, Double Scoop, For Dad (LA), Horned Sunshine, Light Beam, Maricopa, On Wings (BB), Pagan Dance, Praise the Lord, Rosalie Figge, Royal Cartwheel (Laev.), Scented Bubbles, Soul Sound (BB), Sunny Dawn (IB), Welcome Home, Wind River.

Rebloom in pH 6.5 – 7:

Bama Berry, Bengal Tiger, Berry Blush, Beverly Sills, Blonde Bombshell, Brazen Beauty, Broadway, Broken Dreams, Champagne Elegance, Cherished, Cherry Glen, Chickasaw Sue, Designer Gown, Double Mint, Double Vision, Dreaming Lilac, Drinks at Sunset, Everybody's Dream, Fame, Feminine Wiles, Final Episode, French Gown, Girls' Favourite, Gnu's Flash, God's Handiwork, Grecian Goddess, Green & Gifted, Holy Night, Imprimis, Ken Ware, Light Beam, Lightning Streak, Love the Sun, Lunchtime Lover, Lysandra, Magenta Glow, Meagan Elizabeth, Mountain Violet, Pagan Dance, Perfect Couple, Pinball Wizard, Polar Queen, Saucy Sue, Scented Bubbles, Soaring, Spiced Tiger, Spring Child, Wearing Rubies, Who's Your Daddy, Wild Vision, Yarrabee's Child, Yes.

Also, since the first report was written, Coral Chalice and Twice Delightful have rebloomed in the garden with pH 6.1, and Blue Eyed Susan and Low Ho Silver have rebloomed in the garden with pH 8 - 8.5

There were also a couple of errors discovered in the original information:

Jacob's Mantle is not a registered name – this was possibly a mislabelling of Joseph's Mantle, and it rebloomed in pH 7.5 - 8.

The rebloom report for Fantast is incorrect, as the plant was mislabelled.

A number of the varieties listed in the original rebloomed for several people. Those which rebloomed in 3 or more gardens are:

Autumn Circus, Autumn Echo, Bonus Mama, Bountiful Harvest, Coral Chalice, Double Shot, Feedback, Light Beam, Pagan Dance, Rosalie Figge, Scented Bubbles, and Victoria Falls.

It was interesting to see that a variety which only rebloomed once in Garden A would rebloom reliably in Garden B, and vice versa.

Many thanks to those who contributed information on the rebloom in their gardens:

Ronda Burg, Julia Jacobs, Marg Kuchel, Colleen Modra, Sue Stribley, Darrelle Watson, Ann Head.

Reblooming Iris

Resource List

AMBERWAY GARDENS

(Ken & Susan Kremer)
5803 Amberway
St. Louis, MO 63128

BLOOMING FIELDS FARM

(Jim Puckett)
P.O. Box 8416
Riverside, CA 92515

SUPERSTITION GARDENS

(Rick Tasco)
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Cathey's Valley, CA 95306-9708
(catalog \$1.50, refunded with Order)

SUTTON'S IRIS GARDENS

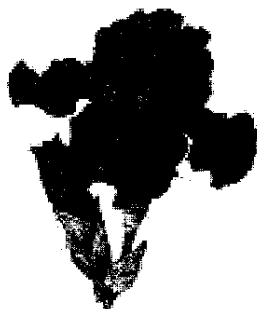
(George & Margaret Sutton)
16592 Road 208
Porterville, CA 93257
1-888-558-5107
<http://www.suttoniris.com>

BRIDGE IN TIME IRIS GARDEN

(Betty Wilkerson)
3057 Mitchell Weaver Rd.
Scottsville KY 42164
Email: BridgeInTime@aol.com
Phone# 270-618-5603
www.thegardensite.com/irises/bridgeintime/

SAND HOLLOW IRIS GARDEN

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Caldwell, ID 83607
(208) 459-7185
www.sandhollow.com



COLLIER'S GARDEN

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(913) 764-0586

FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

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Gettysburg, PA 17325-8622

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Tjstane@aol.com
send self addressed stamped envelope for a pricelist

SAND HOLLOW IRIS GARDENS

OASIS AMY (Chadwick 04) TB

Amy is a multiple rebloomer in USDA Zone 6 (Idaho.) It has substance and branching and sends up several stalks when it reblooms

OASIS GLACIER (Chadwick 04) TB

This white iris has heavy substance and excellent branching on the many rebloom stalks which come most of the summer in zone 6.

OASIS CRAIG (Chadwick 05) TB

This maroon gray iris has heavy substance and branching and is a multiple rebloomer in zone 6.

JULYYELLOW (Chadwick and Werner 01) TB If you live in a cold climate this rebloomer is for you. This yellow iris has substance and reblooms in zone 3.

ELMERS THUNDER (Morrison 02) TB

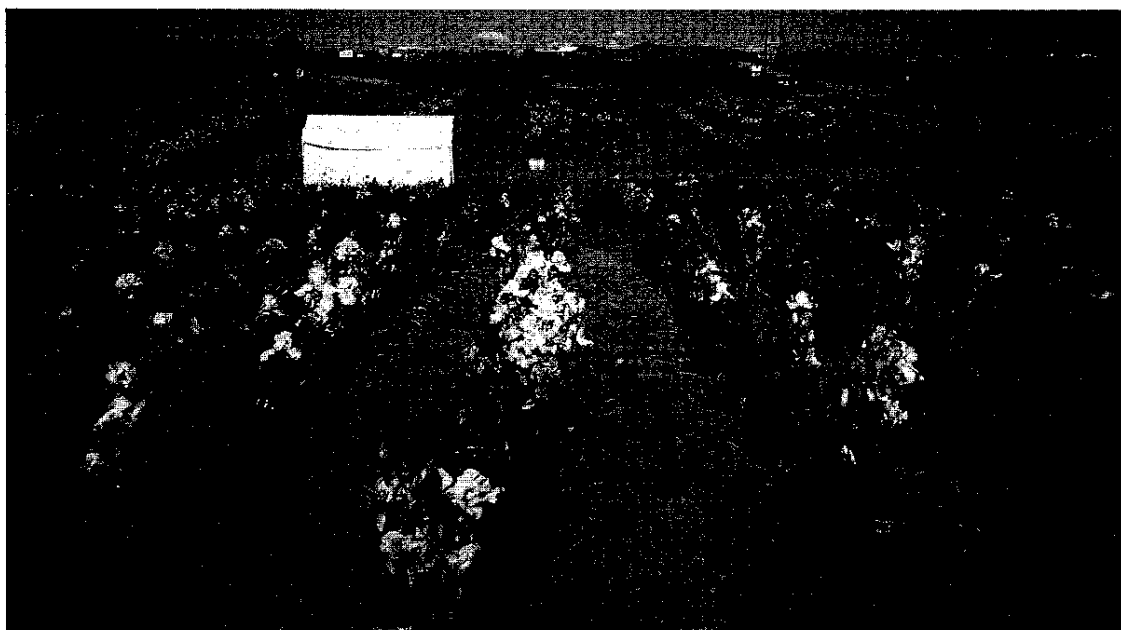
Thunder is a violet purple and is a multiple rebloomer in zone 6. It has good form and substance.

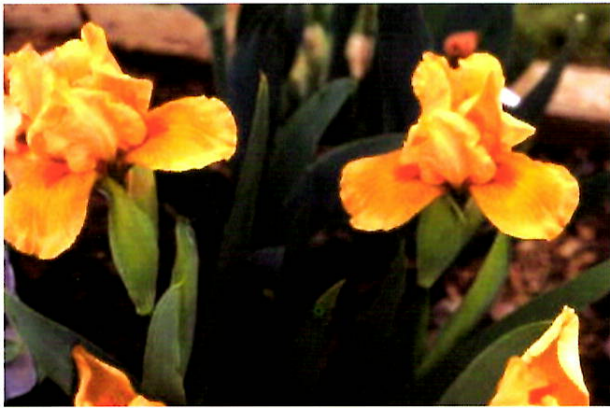
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Autumn Orange (Spoon 03) SDB



Plum Pink



Hot Chic (Spoon 02) SDB



Jack Loving (Spoon 06) SDB



Rosalie Loving (Spoon 06) SDB



Rosalie Figge on her 96th Birthday July 05
photo courtesy of Barbara Fox

