

<i>Position</i>			<i>Position</i>				
<i>1956</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>Votes</i>	<i>1956</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>Votes</i>		
41	34	Starshine	279	72	46	Lady Boscawen	189
42	31	Cascade Splendor	278	73	61	Cloth of Gold	187
43	32	Pink Formal	275	74	65	Pretty Quadroon	186
44	51	Top Flight	274	75	70	Master Charles	181
45	37	Dreamcastle	264	76	74	Party Dress	180
46	74	Cloudcap	254	77	81	Frances Kent	178
47	52	Extravaganza	247	78	63	Mystic Melody	173
	49	Melody Lane	247	79	93	Caroline Jane	172
	59	Port Wine	247	80	74	Vatican Purple	171
50	41	Blue Valley	241	81	82	Russet Wings	167
	47	Mulberry Rose	241	94	94	Sierra Skies	167
52	43	Ranger	240	83	55	Firecracker	163
53	55	Golden Russet	235	73	73	Grand Canyon	163
54	67	Tranquility	229	85	96	Cliffs of Dover	162
55	36	Pink Cameo	226	86	96	Maytime	161
56	65	Ballerina	225	87	72	Paradise Pink	156
	62	Temple Bells	225	88	New	May Hall	151
58	57	Bryce Canyon	222	89	100	Rainbow Room	144
59	41	Rocket	221	90	86	Helen Collingwood	142
60	New	Swan Ballet	218	90	90	Cloud Castle	142
61	40	Sunset Blaze	217	92	79	Indiana Night	141
62	47	Casa Morena	216	93	New	Ruffled Organdy	138
63	New	Rehobeth	215	94	New	Cathedral Bells	137
64	New	White Peacock	212	74	74	China Maid	137
65	68	Amigo	211	96	84	Three Oaks	135
66	83	Blumohr	208	97	78	Lynn Langford	134
67	69	Gold Sovereign	207	79	79	Staten Island	134
68	86	Lady Ilse	198	99	86	Danube Wave	133
69	86	Black Forest	195	100	New	June Meredith	132
70	64	Prairie Sunset	194	94	94	Pretender	132
	60	Raspberry Ribbon	194				

## THE JUDGE'S CHOICE Of Very New Varieties, 1956

A record number of Judges participated in the balloting for the favorites among the very new irises this year. A total of 339 on-time ballots were received, compared with 276 last year. This year only 186 of our Judges failed to return a ballot on time. This is an exceptional record, and the Awards Committee is grateful to the Judges for such a fine response.

In this balloting, as in so many Society activities this year, there is an entirely new spirit evident. The balloting is prompt and enthusiastic. Truly, there is a new feeling abroad in the Society, and one which is vigorous and growing. Nowhere is this more evident than in the balloting on our various Awards and Honors.

Many members still ask: "What is this Judge's Choice thing?" And quite a few Judges have sincerely questioned the value of it. One Judge said that it is a balloting, not of favorites, but of extent of distribution. There is much truth in the statement. However, the balloting does some good. It furnishes a yardstick of sorts, with which to measure the very new irises. There may be weak spots in the method, but by and large it is a valuable tool for the fancier, for the average gardener, and for the dealer or grower. It does point out the new things which are likely to find wide favor in the next few years. When someone thinks of a better way to do this, the Awards Committee will gladly listen.

A list totalling 107 varieties was sent to the Accredited Garden Judges. These are the varieties which received Honorable Mention in 1955 or 1956. They all, therefore, are marking time, awaiting the season when they will be eligible for the Award of Merit. This is the only spot on our ladder of success where a measurement such as this can be taken without affecting our official Awards system.

The Judges were asked to select from the list of 107 varieties their favorites. Not less than 10, not more than 15. Some Judges complained that they had not seen ten. Some Judges failed to read the instructions and voted for 25. But the great majority turned in thoughtful ballots. The reason for asking that not less than 10 be selected is to make sure the Judges who vote have seen a representative selection of the 107 varieties. The reason for limiting the choice to 15 is to simplify balloting and tabulation. Besides, it is an unusual Judge who has seen many more than 30 of these very new varieties. It is tough enough to pick 15.

The favorite 25, including ties, are:

Rank	Variety	Votes	Rank	Variety	Votes
1	Swan Ballet	180	16	Constant Comment	59
2	Queen's Lace	125	17	Star Fire	52
3	Lavanesque	105	18	Bold Contrast	50
4	Techny Chimes	100	19	Dreamy	49
5	Deep Black	99		Ruffled Taffeta	49
6	Black Taffeta	97	20	Pastella	48
7	Crispette	95	21	Big Ute	46
8	Native Dancer	85	22	Bang	44
9	Cascadian	83		Orange Banner	44
10	Harbor Blue	80	23	Crystal	42
11	Gold Cup	77	24	Convention Queen	41
	Phoebus Apollo	77		Trim	41
12	Toast 'n Honey	75		Violet Grace	41
13	Eleanor's Pride	68	25	Sassafras	40
14	Beechleaf	64		Sky Crystal	40
15	Regina Maria	61		Tahola	40