

mix to help spread the fertilizer more evenly and thinner. I mixed about 10 parts gypsum to 3 parts superphosphate, 2 parts potash, 1 part commercial 5-10-5, a little trace elements and iron, and 2 parts bonemeal. Kind of a hodge-podge, but it allowed me to spread the fertilizer fairly liberally without over-doing it. Then I also use gypsum to mix with a fungicide, about 20 to 1, and will use it to mix an all-purpose insecticide and fungicide dust.”

*Iris Salad*

For those of you who are troubled with rabbits in the iris patch, Bill Darr, Millville, New Jersey, writes, “Dried blood is both a rabbit and a deer repellent, as well as a nitrogen fertilizer. It may attract dogs; in that case, add some cottonseed meal.”

Bill Carter, Mitchellville, Iowa, gives counsel on rabbit control. “Drop a few moth balls around your prize plants.”

Rena Kizziar had reported earlier of a near cat-astrophe in the iris plantings. This time she writes, “For those who may wonder how I made out with the cat—I dispatched him with moth balls. I know this will discourage rabbits, and luckily it also works with cats. Now for a dog remedy! And a remedy for the kids who like to toddle through the iris beds to pick up the moth balls . . .”

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## Exhibitions Committee Report, 1965

WILLIAM T. BLEDSOE, *Chairman*

As this is being written in late July, 109 show reports have been received—a decrease of 18 compared with 1964. We know that several shows were held for which official reports have not been submitted.

VIOLET HARMONY again led the field in BEST OF SHOW awards by being chosen for that honor five times. ROCOCO, BUTTERSCOTCH KISS, GRACIE PFOST, and FIRST VIOLET tied for the runner-up spot with three victories each.

Thirty-eight states reported shows. California led with 14, followed by Texas with 10, Kansas with 9, and Alabama and Oklahoma with 7 each.

Many of the shows were large. Modesto, California exhibited 842 entries to 4,000 viewers; Minneapolis, Minnesota had 837 entries and 15,000 spectators; Las Vegas, Nevada, showed to 7,250 lookers.

Again interest ran high in the exhibition of seedlings. Judges viewing the Salt Lake City show voted five Exhibition Certificates by individual ballots alone! More than half of the shows exhibited a seedling class.

Nearly all shows provided for entries in more than one section of irises. Special shows were held in California for arils, in Kansas for the medians, in Louisiana for the Louisianans, and in Iowa for the Japanese.

More and more, show committees are providing competition for the younger irisarians. This is a trend which we hope will become wide-spread.

It has long been my feeling that an iris show is an important means of attracting new growers and AIS members. In 1966 I hope that the record will be even more impressive. Especially do I urge that every show be officially reported!