11 SPARKLING SAPPHIRE (A. Vogt)
10 POPULAR DEMAND (C. McEWEN)
10 WILDERNESS RUBIES (J. WOOD)

**HIGH COMMENDATION**

AITKEN, T.
5 86-1-9

BAUER, B./COBLE, J.
8 J82-A-25
7 J83 J1
6 J88 H3

## HIGH COMMENDATION—1992

**TALL BEARDED**

BURCH, J.
6 44-7

BLACK, P.
5 8774A

CARR, F.
5 TRIBUNE

GATTY, J.
8 T23-5
7 T1-2

GADDIE, G.
8 TRANQUILINO
5 336-6

HOAGE, J.
5 87-74-1

HAGER, B.
15 T4840-3B1

INNERST, S.
7 2336-3
6 2369-10

KERR, F.
67B-29-1

LEVITT, M.
6 H-M-102
5 MISS PRETTY

MULLIN, R.
9 RHONDA FLEMING (84-7X)

OSBORNE, M.
8 945

SCHIFFERLI, G.
5 ELAINE'S ANGEL

STADLER, J. D.
6 CAPED CRUSADER (J25/07)

SCHREINERS
5 AA1540-1

TURNER, H.
5 5-86-1

**BORDER BEARDED**

DURRANCE J.
5 ONE LITTLE PINKIE (D86-56)

LYONS, R.
7 LY82-46-2

**INTERMEDIATE BEARDED**

BOSWELL, C.
9 84-79-I

WILLOTT, A. & D.
6 92-169
6 91-374
5 WINGS OF LOVE

**STANDARD DWARF BEARDED**

WILLOTT, A. & D.
7 85-28
6 91-136
6 88-35

**MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED**

WILLOTT, A. & D.
6 91-13
6 91-89

**ARILBRED**

GADD, F.
7 PATRIOT'S GEM

**SIBERIAN**

HOLLINGWORTH, R.
25 85B3B10
5 87P1B6

**LOUISIANA**

ROWLAN, H.
5 87LA27

**CALIFORNICAE**

KIYOMOTO, R.
7 86K-8000-1
6 86K-145-3

# FURTHER NOTES ABOUT VERSICOLOR-ENSATA HYBRIDS

**Monique Dumas-Quesnel (Canada)**

We would like to rectify what we had called our *Iris versicolor* X *Iris ensata* hybrids previously. In the April 1991 Bulletin we referred to them as ensacolor hybrids. After many consultations, we agree that it would be more appropriate, botanically speaking, to use the term *Iris x versata* instead, as this reflects the fact that *I. versicolor* is the pod parent and *I. ensata* (kaempferi) the pollen parent.

We are trying to make the reverse cross (*ensata* as pod parent and *versicolor* as pollen parent). Any resulting hybrids should then be called *Iris* x *ensacolor*, but so far we have been unsuccessful in making this cross.

We have backcrossed *I. x versata* with both parents, *I. versicolor* and *I. ensata*, and the results are very exciting. *Iris x versata* is only partially fertile and produces few good seeds.

The plants obtained by backcrossing *I. x versata* with *versicolor* show a great diversity of color, shape and vigor. Colors are often velvety and rich, with almost no white and yellow center, creating a deeper effect than *versicolor* itself. The fertility is also completely restored, the new plants producing plenty of good seeds. Their characteristics are more on the *versicolor* side, but the *ensata* touch brings great improvement. Their chromosome count is $20n = 120$, since *versicolor* gave $n = 54$ and *I. x versata* gave all 66 chromosomes (unreduced gametes). We have much selection to do among these plants due to their great number and diversity.

Backcrossing *I. x versata* with *I. ensata* is more difficult. Until now we have obtained only one plant from this cross, but the result is extraordinary, thus allowing great expectations for further results in this direction. The plant won an exhibition certificate in the seedling class of the Iris Society of Massachusetts show in Waltham in 1991 and will soon be registered; its seedling number is 90-X-DOM-064. The chromosome count is $2n = 78$, 12 chromosomes from the *ensata* parent and *x-versata* giving its full 66 in an unreduced female gamete. The plants seem completely sterile; it is very vigorous and the flowers are very special.

Some of these new hybrids will be on display as guests at the AIS convention at Salem in 1994. Slides of our research program at W. H. Perron & Co. are presently being made up and will be available through SIGNA in 1993.