

The Look of Love

The 1971 Iris Season in Review

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Every spring the iris growers in the greater Southwest await the opening of the first iris flowers in their gardens. Sometimes, even before the last snow has gone away the little miniatures poke their little heads through and shout with joy. From the minute that the first flowers appear you know that in just a few weeks you will have peak bloom. We were worried in our area whether or not we would have much bloom because of the lack of moisture, but a large snowfall the latter part of February into the first part of March saved our flowers. Whether you are a person raised in an iris growing family or you are attracted to them while driving around town, you will soon be bit by the iris bug. From the first minute that you even spend 10 cents or even as much as \$35 on irises you will be hooked. There is a popular little saying going around, "Love means you never have to say you're sorry". It's the deep eternal love that grows between an irisarian and his favorite flower, and each spring you can see the love in his eyes as he drifts through the iris patch. As soon as you see the 10 cent variety or the one that you spent \$35 on bloom you will never say you're sorry that you got that certain variety.

Our iris season started out with a big bang on March 12 this year. This was ten days early for our area. The first one to bloom for me was one of my seedlings out of BEE WINGS. After that the named varieties started coming. The miniature dwarf irises were lovely this year, though I didn't get to see very many. BUBALA (Gatty) was probably the most talked about miniature in my garden this spring. This is an odd fellow because of the deep blue hafts that accent the lovely bright white flowers. KNICK KNACK (Greenlee) is a dainty plicata with faint blue stitching. Loads of bloom on this one. CRISPY (Welch) was very good, a clean cool white, including the beard. One of Walter's best. BLUE FROST (Doriot) outdid herself. A lovely sky blue self with a charming white beard.

I saw a number of very beautiful standard dwarf irises this spring. I had some very nice seedlings and I have registered the following. N-68, out of BRASSIE X NYLON RUFFLES, has been registered AMAZON PRINCESS. From the first day I discovered it in the seedling patch I knew that she would go far. The over all color is lemon yellow with a vivid red-brown halo around the orange beard. She is 14" high and two branches make the five flowers that she averages show themselves very well. AMAZON PRINCESS was entered in the Sooner State Early Iris Show and she would have received Queen of the Show, but had to take first runnerup because she wasn't introduced. N-69, registered as OLIVER, is a real beauty, a cream self with a brown halo and a lovely orange beard. Also a runnerup at the Sooner State Show. N-67, which is being named AMAZON WITCH, is an odd baby, out of SHINE BOY X PASTEL GEM, and the over all color is an olive brown self and the beard purple tipped bronze. N-66 (ORANGE BLAZE X PASTEL GEM) will be named AMAZON PRINCE and is an old gold self with a brown wash at the haft.

The named ones that I saw and liked very well were: GYPSY FLIRT (Sindt), one of the deepest copper-red blends with a darker color around the violet beard that I have ever seen, very fine. MEADOW MOSS (B. Jones) was a show case in itself this year. Everyone who saw it was spellbound by its clear colors, lovely

forest green standards over the same colored falls with a cream haft. The violet beards are just what the flowers needed. MOON SHADOWS (Sindt), a much improved MOONCHILD with a lot more violet. PEANUTS (Hager); have had this little one ever since it was introduced and each year I like it better. The standards are cream color and the falls are peanut brown blending to the color of the standards at the hafts. The violet beards are great! PUPPET (Hager); I believe that this is Ben's most outstanding small iris. The over all color is deep lavender-blue, with mahogany hafts and a deep bronze beard. By far the most popular iris in my garden in the standard dwarf class.

SILKIE (Hager) is a deep indigo violet that is very tailored. WILD LIL (Shelton) was an odd devil. No two flowers are the same. The standards ranged in my garden from cream white to grey and the falls a pale green, or yellow, or a combination of both, and they are splashed red. FINE P RINT (Keppel) is a sister to FOOTNOTE and every bit as good, a lavender plicata that has grace and good growing habits. FOOTNOTE (Keppel) is about the only iris that was new to me that everyone really drooled over. Grey-lavender standards, falls deep plum purple bordered grey. How about that! A color that reaches out and grabs you. WATERCOLOR (E. Roberts) grows like a weed and practically blooms the same way. A yellow self with a deep brown halo. YOUNG LOVE (Schmelzer), a miniature red heart. Standards are cornflower blue and falls are deep red bordered cornflower blue. BRIGHT BABY (A. Brown). The name describes this iris. Orange-yellow standards and falls slightly darker. CARTWHEELS (A. Brown) is a cream with a pale brown halo and it's very nice. CHERRY GARDEN (B. Jones) is almost a smaller version of CAPTAIN GALLANT and is lovely in a large clump. IRISH LILT (A. Brown) has white standards and green falls with a white beard. MERRY SUNLIGHT (B. Jones) is a sunshine gold self with bright orange beard. PLATINUM GOLD (E. Roberts) is another sister to LENNA M and every bit as good. Gold standards and the falls are white bordered gold, and a gold haft surrounds the yellow-orange beard. Striking! RED HEART (A. Brown) took the garden visitor's hearts. The standards are lavender-blue and the falls are a bright oxblood red bordered lavender-blue. REGARDS (Hager); smoky orchid standards over maroon falls make this little creature a living beauty. Why can't all irises be as attractive as this one? BLOODSPOT (Craig), the minute that I saw this one I was so thrilled to have it in my garden. I had expected a very dull iris, but it is a cool red self with a blood red spot below the dark beard. A real heavy bloomer. GLEAMING GOLD (E. Roberts), a full sister to LENNA M and it is a rich gold self. Open standards on this one. LENNA M (E. Roberts), an apricot-pink self that is a step toward the pink standard dwarf. MYRA (Greenlee) is my favorite of Wilma's introductions, a lovely orchid-blue self and a great parent. VELVET TOUCH (Dennis) is an iris that came from our Region, a lovely deep purple self with a white beard. This one is a rapid grower and a heavy bloomer. GRACE NOTE (Hamblen) is deeper in color than LAUGHTER but the beards are about the same type. LAUGHTER (Stephens) is a delightful yellow self with a blue beard. EYE SHADOWS (E. Roberts) has to be one of the most favorite standard dwarf irises ever produced, a red-purple self with a red-purple halo around the beard. One that you will have to get when you see it. MARINKA (Dennis) is another one that is being discussed all the time and it also came from our Region. A delightful blend of deep gold washed with a blend of green and brown. Nice bronze beards. MOONBLAZE (Peterson) is a tan self with a blue blaze below the grey beards. Nice. ORANGE CAPERS (Warburton) is an iris that I fell for, a bright orange

yellow with an orange beard. SUNNY HEART (A. Brown), a fast growing white with a deep yellow halo, one of the best of its kind. TWICE BLESSED (Dennis), almost a yellow cream and those tangerine beards almost drive you nuts. Best of all, it is a dependable rebloomer in our area. WATER NIXIE (Vallette) is my favorite aril-med. Grey standards over green falls. Very interesting. ARRANGEMENT (Goett), the most improved KNOTTY PINE to date. A much better bloomer and a rapid increaser. BABY SNOWFLAKE (Peterson), cool white with slightly green hafts. BLUEBERRY MUFFINS (Warburton) is probably the most sought after iris in the dwarf and median world. Beautiful tan flowers are accented with blue beards. Its only problem is that it doesn't like to increase. CIRCLETTE (Goett), a violet plicata that has a tendency to bloom itself out. GREEN METEOR (Motsch). I have had more requests for this bright and unusual fellow. Lovely flowers have sky blue standards bordered green and green falls bordered grey-blue, and the thick blue beard adds the final touch to this beautiful flower. RICHSHAW (Hager) really made a bright spot in my garden. A deep yellow with a red halo. Very dependable. VELVET CAPERS (Warburton), a full sister to the famous BLUEBERRY MUFFINS, is a deep velvet blue-purple and the beard is almost midnight purple. A lot better grower than its sib. DEAR LOVE (Warburton), a very nice blue self with a white beard. NYLON RUFFLES (Doriot), one of the most dependable standard dwarfs I know of. Cream self with a yellow-brown halo. ROYAL THUMBPRINT (Stephenson) is a blend of pinkish-purple and a good bloomer. SKY BABY (A. Brown), a grown up BLUE FROST. SHINE BOY (Brizendine) is a very tailored black self and when the sun hits it just right you can see a faint pink glow. GOLDEN FAIR (Warburton) is my favorite standard dwarf next to BRASSIE. She is about the same color, but there is more orange and the flowers are very large. KNOTTY PINE (Goett) was superb! That tan and brown blend is hard to match. A fine grower and sometimes stingy on bloom. BRASSIE (Warburton). What can a person say about the greatest standard dwarf that has ever been produced? In my opinion this brass colored iris is worthy of the Dykes and I would like to see her get it some day.

The intermediate irises were very good this year. The ones that pleased me were the following: Hamblen No. M66-4-1 is the most "spellbinding" iris seedling in my garden, a baby ribbon pink self with a self beard. This is a clean flower and no haft markings. AZURE ECHO (Durrance). Very nice. You can say that it is a grown up version of BLUEBERRY MUFFINS. The beard is much bluer and wider. BUTTERSCOTCH FRILLS (Hamblen), a butterscotch self with lots of lace and ruffles. Non-fading in our sun, and a joy to behold. CLIQUE (Keppel), better than most of the smaller plicatas. A deeper version of PALE CLOUD. PALE CLOUD (Keppel), a very nicely formed light plicata. PINK REVERIE (A. Brown), a good approach to a pink intermediate iris. This was almost a hot pink in my garden this year. RASPBERRY ACRES (Greenlee); being a very deep colored raspberry plicata makes this one distinct in itself. LIGHT CALVALRY (B. Jones), a deep red self with deeper colored hafts. Nice in a clump. PREAMBLE (Keppel), a close approach to a amoena-plicata. White standards edged with blue specks at the base, and falls that are white bordered with blue plicata markings. COLUMBA (Tim Craig), a true violet self that likes to bloom itself out. SING AGAIN (Plough), a small SING ALONG, but a much better grower. ARCTIC FANCY (A. Brown), just a small STEPPING OUT and that's all. BEEBOP (Plough), my favorite intermediate. The standards are blue-white and the falls are bright gentian blue. The hafts are accented with a

blend of white veined olive and an orange beard makes the whole flower seem unreal. LEMON FLURRY (Tell), one of my favorite irises, a lemon yellow self with branching and bud count that can't be matched. LITTLE BIT BLUE (Plough). The standards are gentian blue and the falls are slightly lighter in color. A darker area surrounds the orange beard. A real charmer. PING PONG (Plough), almost a miniature MELODRAMA and the stalks all had two flowers open at once. DOLL TYPE (Hager), one of the most beautiful intermediate bearded irises I have seen in any garden. The flowers are displayed on beautifully branched stalks. Though it is not marked heavily, the stitching is similar to STEPPING OUT color. PINK PRIDE (A. Brown), a good approach to the pink intermediate bearded iris. A tangerine beard makes up for the oversized flowers. ARABI TREASURE (Burnett) really outdid herself. I have her in several places in my garden and each clump was loaded with bloom. The flowers are deep violet with a blue-purple beard and a darker halo around the beard. LILLIPINHPUT (Douglas), an apricot colored iris with a tangerine beard. This one can be seen clear across the garden and blooms for at least three weeks. Tremendous branching display the flowers perfectly. LIME RIPPLES (A. Brown). When I can get this one to bloom she does well. A green gold self.

I don't grow many of the arilbred irises, but the ones that I do grow usually bloom real nicely for me. I liked the following: ESTHER THE QUEEN (Hunt). Everyone has heard about this iris. Probably the most outstanding arilbred produced in the last decade. Standards are blue-green and falls are willow-green to an unusual mustard color. The thick rich black beard adds zest to the flowers. SONI CE (Peterson), a pale lavender self with a dark signal; very nice. MOONCHILD (Craig), a deep violet self with a dark spot around the violet-blue beard. Lovely branching. An excellent arilbred.

The border bearded irises were very fine this year. These impressed me. BABY SHOWER (Ghio), a small version of WINTER OLYMPICS and that's all you have to say. CARNIVAL GLASS (B. Jones). The name describes it perfectly. Everyone wants this iris after they see it. A good increaser. CUB SCOUT (Plough). An old gold self with a brown wash. Nicely branched stalks. LACE VALENTINE (Warburton), a clear pink with lots of lace and very nice stalks. SMALL TALK (Sexton), a small version of Ribbon Round. TULARE (Hamblen), a rich yellow with lace and ruffles. JUNGLE SHADOWS (Sass). Speaking of the devil. By far the most ungodly looking iris that you have ever seen. You hate it at first, but by the time you leave the garden you have to have it.

Since I didn't see many tall bearded iris this year I will have to tell you about the dependable varieties. DANCING EMBERS (Martin), a real knockout. The color is a deep bronze-brown and the branching and bud count are excellent. Non-fading. JEWEL DROP (Rogers), a better and improved version of ORCHID JEWEL. A rather short tall bearded. JUANITA T (Tallant), sea blue self with excellent plant habits. STEP CHILD (Hamner '69), almost a border STEPPING OUT. Excellent. CALIENTE (Luihn), a nice red self with a bit of gold at the haft. Non-fading. NEW MOON (Sexton), a lovely deep yellow self which is like new moon on a summer night when you are spending the evening on the beach. ROYAL HERITAGE (Luihn), just the purple that we all have been waiting for. SUMMER DAWN (Z. G. Benson), a peach pink self with graceful form. CHARMAINE (Hamblen), a much improved MAY MELODY. THRESHOLD (Hamblen), a lobelia blue self and a tangerine beard makes me like this one a lot better than I like MARQUESIAN SKIES. DUSKY DANCER (Luihn), that black



Alan Johnson and Ira Wood Get Down to Take Pictures



Miss Lisa Drumm and Mrs. Jim Drumm in the Wayne Drumm Garden (Stillwater, OK.)

that we all like and it has the growing habits that we all like. MARSHMALLOW (Olson), a cream white self with a gold haft. The best of its type. CELESTIAL SWAN (Terrell), a pure white self with some ruffles added to make it more enjoyable. LAURIE (Gaulter), a much improved AMETHYST FLAME with better growing habits and a lot more pink added. LIGHTNING RIDGE (O. Brown). Peach pink standards, and rose-violet falls. NINEVEH (Keppel), that oily red looking blend that everyone fell for. Keith's best. BABBLING BROOK (Keppel), that sea blue iris with darker lines in the falls. Very outstanding. BLUE PETTICOATS (Schreinners), a light blue plicata that is very showy. CAMELOT ROSE (Tompkins), orchid standards and velvet falls; that "oranger" beard makes the whole flower. DEBBY RAIRDON (Kuntz), yellow standards, falls white bordered yellow. I'd like to see her get the Dykes. GRAND ALLIANCE (Plough), the most beautiful spectrum violet self. GRAND SPECTATOR (Haney), by far the most outstanding cinnamon plicata ever produced. MAY MELODY (Hamblen), pink-yellow standards and white falls bordered pink-yellow, and a tangerine beard. Superb! ROSEANNE (Plough), very similar to MARY RANDALL and the pink has been strengthened. HEARTBREAKER (Hall), still my favorite true pink. Very hardy here in Oklahoma. STEPPING OUT (Schreiner), the best Dykes Medal that has ever been produced. That deep purple stitching is very good. WESTERN SUN (Harris), just the perfect picture of an Oklahoma sunset with the rich gold sun peaking at you through the leaves of a quiet forest. BON VIVANT (Plough); buff colored standards and plum colored falls make this iris a real winner. MUSIC MAKER (Walters); the ruffled sky blue flowers were excellent and the stalks were well branched. WINTER OLYMPICS (O. Brown) is still the best white iris around and will be for a number of years. JACQUELINE K (Innes), not widely distributed but excellent, a deeper colored CELESTIAL GLORY with a shrimp-tangerine beard. NEW FRONTIER (Sexton), beautifully branched stalks show the laciest pink flowers off real well. ORANGE PARADE (Hamblen), a marigold self that hasn't been

