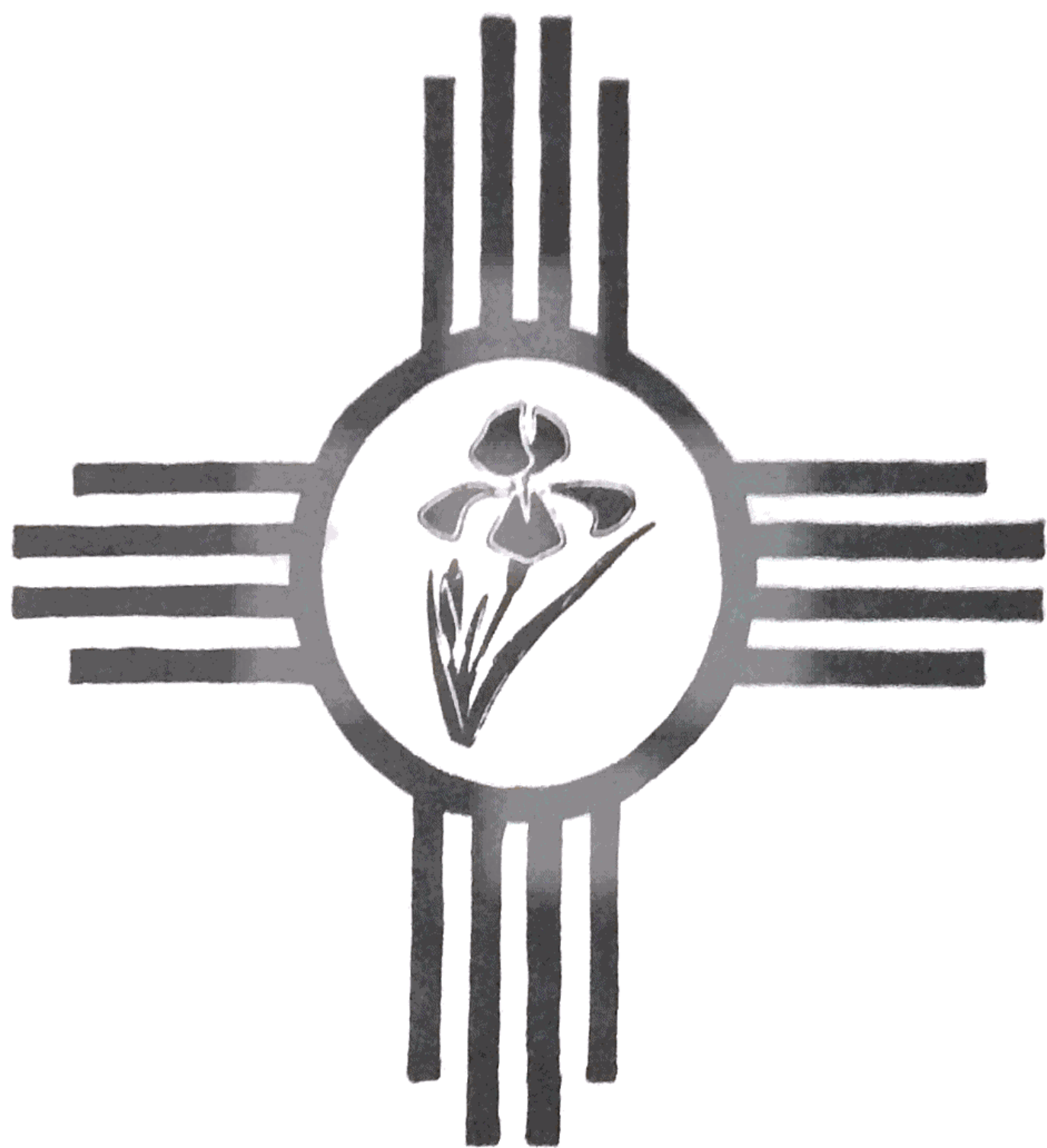


AIS REGION 23 NEWSLETTER



SPRING 1986

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RVP MESSAGE

SELECTING OUR NEW REGIONAL OFFICERS

The immediate upcoming election will determine our Nominating Committee for the next three years, which shall present a slate of proposed new regional officers to the RVP by June 1, 1986. Elected officers are: Regional Vice President; Assistant Regional Vice President; Secretary; and Treasurer. Candidates for any office must have expressed prior willingness to serve in that office, if elected.

The Nominating Committee is charged to adhere to AIS policy (stated below) in it's selection of not only the proposed new RVP, but also in the selection of the proposed Assistant RVP, who would assume the position of RVP should a vacancy occur in that office. Any such assumption of office would be subject to the approval of the AIS Board of Directors. In Region 23, both the Treasurer and RVP are presently authorized to sign checks for the region--not as dual co-signatures, but rather as "either/or". By continuing this practice, our regional funds would not be locked up should something happen to the Treasurer. Although not mandatory, it is obviously desirable to select a proposed Treasurer who lives in relatively close proximity to the proposed RVP, if possible.

AIS policy is that a new RVP should be a qualified duly accredited AIS Garden Judge or higher, since he/she will be in charge of judges training for the region. AIS apprentice judges may be considered only if there is no qualified duly accredited AIS Garden Judge or higher willing to serve as the new RVP or Assistant RVP. This policy also insures that candidates for RVP have a certain tenure of AIS membership, and thus are generally more familiar with the workings and policies of the AIS than persons of short term AIS membership.

All RVP's are expected to attend AIS national conventions. An RVP automatically becomes a member of the AIS Board of Counselors which meets at each national convention to discuss regional problems and questions, some of which are then presented to the AIS Board of Directors for it's information and consideration. All RVP's also meet jointly with the AIS Judges Training Chairman, and should also attend the AIS Board of Directors meetings. All of the above occur before the welcome dinner and beginning of iris tours, so very little of the real fun is missed.

.....Howard

AIS CONVENTION----SAN JOSE

The San Jose convention this spring promises to be a real treat! Where else can one visit the gardens of so many renown hybridizers all in the same "package"? A number of Dykes Medal winners have originated in these same gardens, and doubtless, more will evolve from them. No one tops Region 14's hospitality!--this you can only appreciate through experiencing it. Details may be found in your January AIS Bulletin.

SHOWTIME--1986

ALBUQUERQUE IRIS GUILD	Albuquerque Garden Center	May 17 & 18
LEA COUNTY IRIS SOCIETY	Broadmoor Mall (medians)	April 5
	Broadmoor Mall (TB)	April 22
MESILLA VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY	Mesilla Valley Mall	April 19 & 20
NEW MEXICO IRIS SOCIETY	Albuquerque Garden Center	May 10 & 11
ROSWELL IRIS SOCIETY	Roswell Inn Gallery	May 4

SEPTEMBER AT HOBBS

Dates for our 1986 Region 23 Convention will be Sept. 13 and 14, 1986, and will be held at the Hobbs Motor Inn (formerly Ramada Inn). Chairman David Hooten reports there will be at least one judges training session. Let's all try to attend, and get to know one another better. We can expect a very informative and fun time! Details with registration forms will be mailed around Aug. 1 by the host Lea County Iris Society. Mark your calendar!

REGION 23--FINANCIAL REPORT

Region 23 Fund Balances as of March 1, 1986 are unchanged from those reported in the Fall 1985 Newsletter.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

All seven Region 23 Affiliates timely submitted candidates for election to the Nominating Committee, as follows:

Albuquerque Aril Society.....Irene Shockey
 Albuquerque Iris Guild.....Susan Latimer
 Lea County Iris Society.....Bill Brown
 Mesilla Valley Iris Society.....Floyd Stopani
 New Mexico Iris Society.....Barbara Figge
 Roswell Iris Society.....Dr. Cecil Eiffert
 Santa Fe Iris Society.....Margaret Johnson

Below is your official ballot. Per Region 23 By Laws, ballots must be returned to the RVF prior to April 5, 1986 to be valid. The five candidates receiving the largest number of votes will serve as the Nominating Committee. The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes will act as Chairman.

BALLOT FOR REGION 23

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Note: Do Not Vote For More Than Five Candidates.

VALID FOR ____ VOTE(S):

Bill Brown.....
 Dr. Cecil Eiffert.....
 Barbara Figge.....
 Margaret Johnson.....
 Susan Latimer.....
 Irene Shockey.....
 Floyd Stopani.....

CONGRATULATIONS

Bill Brown of Hobbs and Lucille Mahoney of Albuquerque have been appointed as new AIS Garden Judges. Both completed their apprentice training requirements in one year. (This is getting to be a habit!---nice going!)

New Region 23 Apprentice Judges are: Sarah Doonan of Albuquerque; Donna Hooten of Hobbs; and Helen Stopani of Chaparral.

This space was reserved for your short article.

WHA' HAPPEN??

NEXT YEAR, I'LL TRY THIS.....OOPS!

How often have you read an article containing information which you thought was very useful, and then filed it, saying to yourself "next year, I must be sure to try this", and then completely forget about it? This has happened to me more times than I care to admit. The following article is reprinted from the AIS October 1980 Bulletin, and may be of interest to members who have joined AIS since that date, and to other members who may have "filed" this information.

WOOD ASH—A TRACE ELEMENT BONANZA!

O. M. Otte, PA

O. M. "Morrie" Otte is both a chemical engineer and the talented Editor of the Region 3 Newsletter, where this article appeared in Spring, 1980. We thank him for sharing this impressive information with AIS members.

The most common question regarding proper and complete fertilization of irises (or other plants) that follows a soil management discussion is—"How do I determine whether my garden is deficient in the micro or trace mineral nutrients?" And if these trace nutrients are lacking, "How can I overcome some of these vital soil requirements?"

Without extensive and very expensive soil analysis that probes far beyond the typical commercial laboratory "soil test", the average iris grower is economically excluded from the solutions to his trace nutrient questions or soil deficiency problems.

Cheer up! There is an excellent source of most micro nutrient or trace mineral nutrients readily available to any iris grower willing to exert a minimum amount of effort (usually at no expense) in locating a generous and continuous source of supply.

What is this mysterious and magical free source of such sought after and essential soil ingredient? Are you ready? WOOD ASH!

My parents were avid gardeners, and from my earliest experiences resulting from my parents encouraging me "to have my very own garden", I was taught the value of wood ash in encouraging both flowers and vegetables to produce a better yield. So for over forty years I have been using wood ash successfully on everything I grew. It worked! I never completely knew why, and even today, I still intend to continue searching for additional information and sources of these little discussed, but vital, nutrients.

After I used wood ash on my tall bearded iris beds, it was apparent that those iris plants that got a "dose" of wood ash outperformed the clumps that missed out, simply because my supply of wood ash was limited. **Without exception every color classification iris show ribbon I ever won was from one of my wood ash treated iris plants!**

Wood ash has served me well. My neighbor has a fireplace and also a wood burning stove in his basement family room. At my urging he has applied his wood ash on parts of his vegetable garden (he isn't a flower grower), and it shows a dramatic vegetable crop increase in the sections of his garden where only wood ash has been applied. Let's discuss these "secret ingredients".

Have you ever noticed as you strolled through the woods that the violet plants are larger, the blooms are taller and more profuse, and the bloom color is more intense when this particular wild violet plant is growing nearby to where some hiker or camper had built a **wood fire a year or two ago**? The other violet plants are growing in so-called "rich woods dirt". You may have noticed these same superior violet plant characteristics occur in a plant growing in the residue of a **completely rotted** fallen tree or tree stump that may have died 25 or more years ago.

What accounts for this vast time differential, when it is obvious that **wood** in some way was somehow the source of the superior growth characteristics noted in each of the violet plants discussed?

The answer, of course, is by burning or combustion of the wood, organic materials are rapidly (minutes-hours) converted to the residual mineral ash solids and to the large volume of volatile liquids and gases that escape as wood smoke. Complete or efficient combustion converts complex organo-mineral compounds into metallic oxide solids that are usually relatively soluble in water and, therefore, are readily available to the plant. These wood ash solids or metal oxides are highly-extremely alkaline, pH-9.5, and readily react with acidic soil ingredients (if present) to perform the equivalent soil nitrilization accomplished by ground limestone, lime, or other alkali agent application.

Iris growers in the Southwest can still benefit from applying wood ash to gain the micro mineral nutrients, but they must take note of the additional wood ash alkalinity effects on their already over-alkaline soils. Acidic commercial fertilizers tailored to soil testing recommendations offer the southwestern iris grower the simplest and most profitable solution to excessive alkalinity. I have gardened in the Eastern, Great Lakes, Midwestern, High Plains, Rocky Mountain, and Southwestern U.S., and wood ash has provided me superior plant growth wherever I have used it.

Superior growth from wood ash you say? Now where am I, a city dweller, going to find a source of wood ash? What kind of nonsense is this?

The U.S. Dept. of Energy has projected **9 million** wood burning stoves and furnaces to be in use throughout the U.S. by the end of calendar 1980! In addition, there are wood burning fireplaces (current census question), Bar-B-Q pits, charcoal grills, and in the Southwest, the hickory smoked rib restaurants. In some areas of the United States, home incinerators are still legal, and these provide ash from wood, paper eggshells, bones, and other household garbage. With a minimum effort any

conscientious iris grower **can** locate a ready source of wood ash close by to his home or iris garden. Check the want ads for firewood sellers, and follow up on their best local customers.

If you find you have a choice, you should choose dry wood ash from the most efficient wood burning source available. This will avoid applying higher percentages of charcoal or other unburned organic materials that in effect dilute the applied mineral content. Wood ash sources listed in the order of decreasing mineral content are: (1) Wood burning furnaces, (2) Wood burning stoves or space heaters, (3) Commercial Bar-B-Q pits (4) Wood burning fireplaces or public park picnic grills, (5) Home incinerators, (6) Charcoal grills. This list is not meant to be all inclusive, nor are the listings necessarily exact in every case since the real criteria of wood ash quality is the actual wood burning efficiency of the burner. Cold, dry wood ash can be transported and stored in easily carried small, metal garbage cans or heavy walled plastic bags.

O.K., now you feel like "Little Polly Flanders Playing In The Cinders". You have a bucket of wood ash. What have you acquired that is unavailable in commercial fertilizer? Let's see if we can discuss it and work it out to sensible conclusions together.

SOURCE OF ANALYSIS DATA

First of all, we will be discussing an Emission Spectrograph Analysis of typical wood ash that was removed from my own high efficiency wood burning furnace. The actual analysis work was done at a multi-million dollar laboratory by one of my scientific associates (an iris growing friend) using very sophisticated laboratory equipment and techniques. Hopefully, additional iris grower-oriented information will become available from several other planned future soil conditioning investigations. Regardless, let's move on with the discussion of **wood ash**.

In order to emphasize the benefits of applying wood ash obtained from a **local** fire wood source, we better follow the life history of our discussion sample of wood ash used in this analysis.

SOURCE AND LIFE HISTORY OF THE WOOD ASH SAMPLE

Wild cherry wood salvaged from the tree tops of commercial logging operations was the furnace fuel from which our wood ash sample originated. The tree growth rings easily counted in the stump indicated about 60 years of regular, **healthy** growth in our specimen tree that grew in a mixed timber stand of oaks, ash, maple, hickory, and scattered specimens of many other native Pennsylvania trees.

The fact that the wood obtained from our cherry tree grew in an oak environment is important in this sample discussion since oak leaves create a very acid soil condition with acids strong enough to break down the existing rocks, shale, and red clay soil in which our western Pennsylvania wood source grew. In other words, our wood ash sample benefitted from the highly acidic growth conditions created by the oak trees that actually permitted the valuable trace minerals to be released from both the soil and the subsoil (in a water soluble form) to become available through the root system of our **healthy** 60-year old prime timber cherry tree.

We stress a **healthy** 60-year old tree since this excellent timber quality tree was obviously getting all of the required soil nutrients to maintain its rapid, massive, regular growth **throughout its long life**.

If our tree age estimate of 60 years is fairly accurate (the center heart-wood rings were not counted), our **water soluble** supply of trace element nutrients becomes more understandable and further emphasizes the real high-dollar value of wood ash as a concentrated easily applied source of almost all of the known, required plant growth nutrients and particularly the micro mineral or trace elements.

We emphasized a local source of wood ash. An Oklahoma or California iris grower will hardly seek a Pennsylvania source of wood ash. However, as another example, **mature, healthy** trees from a specific Oklahoma area would be acclimated to the local soil, moisture, and environmental conditions of its particular Oklahoma growing location. Fire wood from this Oklahoma tree would provide in the resulting wood ash a concentrated source of the trace mineral elements required for healthy, vigorous iris plant growth in that same specific geographical section of Oklahoma. Please remember that we are dealing with the **minor** (excluding the major fertilizer nutrients nitrogen, phosphorous, and potash) or **trace minerals** grower's garden. YOUR local source wood ash that was derived from local healthy mature trees **should** provide you with an ample supply of the majority of all trace mineral nutrients required for **you** to realize healthier, more vigorous iris growth. Wood ash from weak, diseased trees may be partially deficient.

Remember, wood ash from healthy, mature, full-size trees (regardless of tree variety) that grew near to (as close as possible) your iris bed will match your iris bed requirements as closely as **nature** can manage. The real clincher is simply this: "For a reasonable price you can't get anything better." "Free" wood ash (discounting minimal time, travel, and effort) certainly carries the right price.

All plants and trees do **not** have the same exact trace mineral requirements or retention ability. Wood ash is such a rich, concentrated trace element source that your iris can accept whatever they require and reject the unneeded materials or surplus through their root system providing you do not kill your plants with the intended kindness of over application. As with any fertilizer, good judgment must prevail.

My personal wood ash use experience has been very **good** with iris and other plants when a one-quarter inch thick layer of dry, powdery wood ash is applied **on the soil surface at least two inches away from the plant stems or from the exposed portion of the iris rhizomes**. Wood ash applied as described above is usually dissolved by rain and disappears (except for the charcoal or unburned wood) within a month or two of application by which time I have usually repeated with another application as described provided I have the required amount of wood ash. I suggest that if **your** supply of wood ash is limited, you should preferentially treat your pink, red, orange, dark blue, or purple iris varieties first. More on blossom color effects later.

If you grow iris on "faith" and have applied wood ash as just recommended, what have you just done? What happened to the promised sophisticated analysis data? What kind of potential plant benefits together with wood ash ingredients? Why not buy and apply the commercial fertilizers as recommended by the typical soil testing techniques since the report was written to cover my iris bed?

First and foremost, you should "Feed the soil, not the plant". Consider "soil testing recommendations" as assuring a typical basic "balanced diet" provided that the report recommendations are thoroughly understood and followed while using good common sense. Trace element feedings, including the micro nutrient content of wood ash applications, can be considered as "diet supplements" or as "plant vitamin and mineral pep pills".

Example: A mature oak, maple, cherry, or black walnut tree evaporates 1,000 gals. of water a day when in full leaf (May 15 to Oct. 15 or 153 days per summer in this western Pa. location). If we ignore all bare tree (no leaves) evaporation, use 7 pounds (low) as the weight of a gallon of water, 150 full-leaf days per summer, and use **only** the last 25 summers of tree growth (totally ignoring the first 35 years of water requirements is **very** conservative), we end up with an **astounding** estimated number of pounds of water required during the estimated life of this specimen tree: 1,000 gals./day x 7 lbs./gal. x 150 days/summer x 25 summers of mature size evaporation = **26 million plus pounds of root absorbed water even by our most conservative calculation assumptions.**

Now then, if a trace mineral nutrient was present in the growth area soil moisture at the lowest measured concentration of **only one part by weight in a million parts**, then the tree in our example had a total lifetime root system absorption of **26 POUNDS** of this chemically pure rare nutrient (1 PPM) to use, convert, store, or discard by discharging the unneeded excess through the roots in order to maintain its healthy 60 years of regular, rapid growth.

Now then, here are the wood ash analysis results:

ACTUAL ANALYSIS OF WOOD ASH:

Sample—as received (typical furnace ash)

pH-9.5—extremely alkaline

Ash—Weight Percent 81.59*

Volatiles & combustibles—Weight Percent 18.41**

Sample—Weight Percent 100.00

**Removed by holding the as-received furnace ash at 1,000°F. in an oxygen rich atmosphere for 24 hrs. This material is extracted due to the temperature and complete combustion and passes off in gaseous form.

This laboratory ash analysis procedure requires preparation of a pure ash sample material (listed as Ash) for use in the Emission Spectrograph.

This Ash* provided the following data:

EMISSION SPECTROGRAPHIC DATA ON CHERRY WOOD ASH

Metal or Element	Chemist's Symbol	Weight Percent	Parts per Million	Nutrient Classification
Aluminum	Al	6.0#	—	Unknown
Barium	Ba	—	1,000	Unknown
Boron	B	—	300	Micro
Calcium	Ca	10.0	—	High
Chromium	Cr	—	600	Unknown
Cobalt	Co	—	Under 100	Micro (certain specific groups of plants)
Copper	Cu	—	40	Micro
Iron	Fe	2.0	—	Micro
Lead	Pb	—	Under 100	Micro
Magnesium	Mg	2.0	—	High
Manganese	Mn	1.0	—	Micro

EMISSION SPECTROGRAPHIC DATA Cont'd.

Metal or Element	Chemist's Symbol	Weight Percent	Parts per Million	Nutrient Classification
Molybdenum	Mo	—	7	Detectable only above 10 PPM
Nickel	Ni	—	400	Unknown
Potassium	K	2.9	—	Massive
Silicon	Si	25.0#	—	Unknown
Sodium	Na	0.9	—	Unknown
Strontium	Sr	0.2	—	Unknown
Titanium	Ti	1.0	—	Unknown
Uranium	U	—	Under 100	Unknown
Vanadium	V	—	Under 100	Unknown
Zirconium	Zr	—	100-1,000	Unknown

Conversion Factor: 1% by weight equals 10,000 PPM

#Very high-attributed to dirt (clay) on bark surfaces of field cut, dragged, unsplit cherry wood fuel.

The "essential" elements currently recognized by the scientific world as vital to plant growth are listed and defined below in categories of descending quantitative requirements. **Neither quantity nor position in these tables indicates any plant requirement preference or priority. EACH ELEMENT LISTED IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT FOR ALL PLANT GROWTH AND EACH AND EVERY LISTED ELEMENT IS CATEGORIZED AS ESSENTIAL.**

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT REQUIREMENT CLASSIFICATIONS

Unlimited—Sources: Air and Water

Elements: Hydrogen (H) Carbon (C) Oxygen (O)

Massive—Sources: Soil, Fertilizers (usually highest tonnage per acre)

Elements: Nitrogen (N) Phosphorus (P) Potassium (K) or Potash

High—Sources: Soil, Dolomitic Limestone (provides Calcium and 13% Magnesium), Organic Sulfur (usually less tonnage per acre than the Massive Category)

Elements: Calcium (Ca) Magnesium (Mg) Sulfur (S)

Trace or Micro—Sources: Soil, WOOD ASH (ounces per sq. ft.)

Elements: Boron (B) Chlorine (Cl) Cobalt (Co) Copper (Cu) Iron (Fe) Manganese (Mn) Molybdenum (Mo) Zinc (Zn)

Unknown—Science has not determined that any of these mineral elements are essential. However, these scientists forgot to

tell this cherry tree, and the tree alone decided these "unknowns" were worth retaining. For all "unknowns" listed the sole known source was wood ash from typical dirty wood.

Unknowns will vary with geological rock structure; soil age, type, source, and previous conditioning and usage; environmental influences (volcanoes, glaciers, water source and drainage); and last, but not least, mankind's industrial contamination.

Studying the chart, you will note that no matter how hard I tout wood ash, some essential nutrients are totally absent, and the elements are not included in this emission spectrograph data. How do I account for this, and if the analysis is so darn accurate—why didn't this tree die long ago!

My wood burning furnace combustion temperatures and the laboratory ashing technique required for the Ash* preparation would have volatilized the phosphorous, sulfur, chlorine, fluorine, and zinc originally contained in the unburned wood.

Only one micro nutrient that is recognized as essential to healthy plant growth showed up as unaccounted for or missing (less than 10 PPM) in our sample, namely, Molybdenum, symbol Mo. Since the amount required is known to be very low, it is possible that the tree had all the molybdenum it required, and that the amount fell under the instrument's accurate measuring range of greater than 10 PPM. Under 10 PPM data would not be reported because of this known instrument limitation.

All in all, our wood ash application could be considered as a health insurance policy (trace elements) on a plant that is already well protected by sufficient typical life insurance coverage (commercial fertilizer-nitrogen-phosphorus-potash).

Fringe benefits may accrue to the user of wood ash in blossom color tones, light reflectivity, fluorescent color range, color intensity, color range, and resistance of the flower to be subject to sun fading. All this is subject to debate and to intense future research projects needed to establish the exact blossom color contributors and chemical requirements.

Elements	Predominant Chemical Salt Color
Iron	Colors some flowers pink (white hydrangeas turn pink with application of iron sulfate. Pink is red added to white).
Chromium	Salts are yellow-orange.

Elements	Predominant Chemical Salt Color
Copper	Salts are green-blue (blue hydrangeas result from copper sulfate treatment).
Manganese	Simple salts are pink while some manganese complexes are deep purple.
Nickel	Salts are green.

All colors listed above are for sunlight. Other metals and mixed metal salts can produce a full spectrum of colors in sunlight. These salts in solution in plant blossom cells will affect color, but the exact effect of a given amount of a given salt or compound has yet to be scientifically determined. Still, an old, white, washed-out rose turned to an attractive medium pink with no care other than with regular wood ash applications in my yard. Similar results occurred on a second identical bush following chelated iron applications made by my neighbor's wife in Denver. (Soil in Denver is iron deficient).

Several knowledgeable iris growers (one garden judge) vowed that one of my pink iris varieties was mislabeled because the pink blossom color was "too intense" compared to the other blooming specimens of this same iris variety seen in the Pittsburgh area. At the time, I was more interested in winning show ribbons than in disclosing any growing secrets, so I made no comments. (Do you believe that?) Additionally, I had no data on hand at that time to correlate flower success, micro nutrient content, and rhizome increase rates to wood ash application. Two years of added, fairly successful iris growing experience plus the analysis data I have presented in this article further confirm my zeal for wood ash.

SUMMARY

Applications of wood ash can be a real pep-tonic for "soil sick" iris plants. If your irises didn't need it, there is no harm done, but if those iris plants did need micro nutrients—well, then, the results can be spectacular and oh, so rewarding!

Do you really think that you'll feel guilty asking some wood burner for his wood ashes? Then Buy 'Em! Pay off the donor with a 1980 A.I.S. Membership!

Author's Note: After reading this wood ash article, my proof reader asked:

Question: Why can't I count on obtaining the required trace elements being available in the commercial fertilizer I use on my iris instead of using wood ash?

My answer: Commercial fertilizers may contain one or many of these trace elements, but rarely will a fertilizer producer list the included trace element content, if any, on his commercial fertilizer packages. Federal restrictions are so severe on advertising claims that the producer ignores even the known trace element claims that he could make since that would require a constant and guaranteed percentage of content in all batches and from all plant sources. To comply with Federal labeling laws the costs of testing and blending would overshadow the anticipated additional revenue that a manufacturer could anticipate by offering a bonafide "complete plant growth fertilizer" even when considering a "premium content" price.

When considering the high value of essential trace elements, wood ash becomes equally valuable pound per pound with high quality commercial fertilizers.

After this discussion, my proof reader stated this information was critical and should be inserted in the article.

(Morrie Otte's postscript in the Region 3 BULLETIN reflected his sense of humor)
...I WOOD ASH EVERY POSSIBLE PROSPECT TO JOIN THE A.I.S. ...

The following page of interest is taken from Region 4's January, 1986 Newscast. Region 4 is comprised of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and The District of Columbia.

A PHOTOGRAPHING HINT

In his most interesting book, GROWING IRISES (Kangaroo Press, 1984), Graeme Grosvenor gives the following hint on photographing blue irises: "Most difficulty in obtaining true colour reproduction is experienced with the blue iris. Use of a variety of different colour films and filters did not help me but success came eventually by taking the photographs early in the morning with the use of electronic flash. Even the rich cornflower-blue of the Louisiana iris 'Clyde Redmond' was faithfully reproduced this way." Judging by the many superb color photographs in Mr. Grosvenor's book, one could easily conclude that he knows what he is writing about!!!!

FIVE IRISARIAN LAWS

Law Number One: A typical iris bloom season was experienced in 1923. There has been no typical year since that time.

Law Number Two: You can predict a rainstorm with 97% accuracy by checking when the next iris show is scheduled and predicting it will rain the preceeding day.

Law Number Three: Irises and weeds are companion plants and should be grown together. (Many people refuse to believe this law, but end up practicing it anyway).

Law Number Four: The more you pay for an iris the more likely it is to die.

Law Number Five: There are three types of iris growers: 1) the "normal" gardener, 2) the iris nut, and 3) you. (You kid yourself, my friend!)

JUDGES TRAINING SCHOOL
Presented by the NEW MEXICO IRIS SOCIETY
(An Affiliate of the American Iris Society)

DATE: May 25, 1986

PLACE: Rancho de la Flor de Lis, Cerrillos, New Mexico

TIME: 2:00-4:30 p.m.

CREDIT: 3 hours credit will be given for attending the 2 1/2 hour school and returning the completed exam to the RVP.

TOPICS: First Hour: Garden Judging with emphasis on point scoring and beginning with seedlings.
Second Hour: Exhibition Judging with emphasis on as many different varieties as available.

INSTRUCTION: Training Chairman: Robert D. Steele, G, Former RVP, RJTC
Frank Kalich, M
Mrs. James Yocum M
Mrs. Walter C. White, G
Mrs. Robert D. Steele, G

Instructors will, in order, treat the following:

General instruction, tips on garden judging, seedlings.

Arils

Medians

Arilbreds

Tall Bearded

After instruction, Judges will divide into panels of three and judge at least one clump of seedlings and as many others as time permits.

After a break, instruction and sample judging of exhibits will begin.

There will be hand-outs covering: The iris plant, with emphasis on the different parts, good traits and bad
Approaching point scoring
in the garden with a garden check list

Exhibition judging with emphasis on how its technique differs from that of garden judging.

There may be a nominal charge to help defray costs of printing and refreshments.

Yes, I will attend the Judges Training School presented by NMIS.

Deadline for returning this registration is May 1st, 1986.

Return to: Mr. Robert D. Steele
3920 Clinton Boulevard, SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105

Judges are urged to read their new Handbook on the topics to be covered before coming to the school.

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