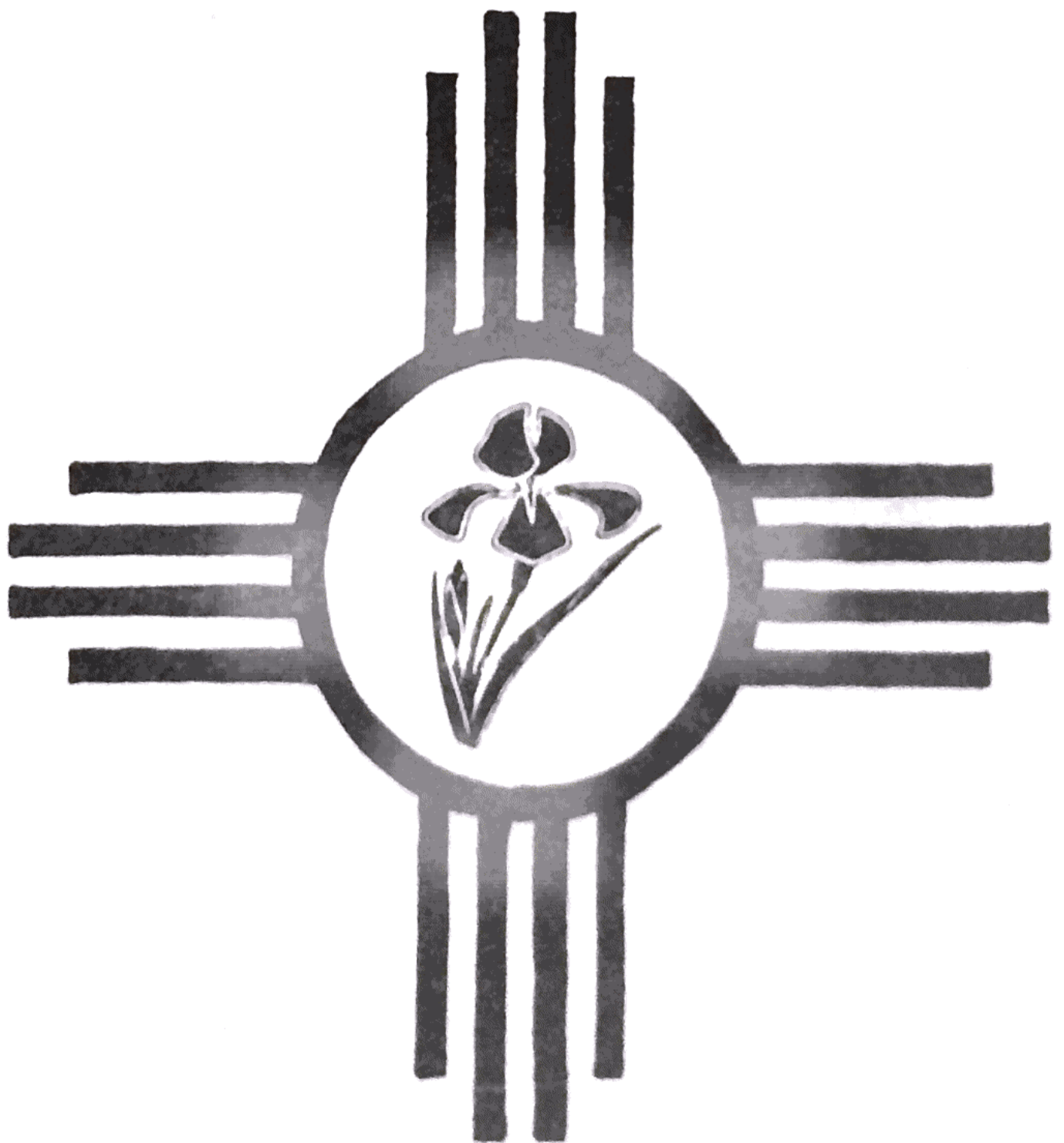


AIS REGION 23

NEWSLETTER



FALL 1984

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RVP MESSAGE

Mother nature certainly didn't treat our state very well this past spring. Most areas were wracked by strong winds, snow, late freezing, or hail just days before our various shows. But the irises came through, and we were able to stage successful shows in spite of the weather. Let's hope for better in 1985!

Those of you who did not attend our Region 23 Convention in August missed a real treat--good fellowship, good food, good programs, and an excellent judges training school conducted by AIS President, Ron Mullin. Unquestionably, his presentation was the best I've ever attended during my 27 years of AIS membership. He covered a multitude of points pertinent to both confirmed judges and prospective judges. Even if you have no aspirations of becoming a judge, I highly encourage your attendance of any judges training schools. They are very educational and will serve to enhance your appreciation of the different types of irises. You can also learn what considerations are given to specimens on the show table, which may be helpful in beating "old so-and-so" out of that blue ribbon and other awards. Next spring's judges training school will be presented in cooperation with the Mesilla Valley Iris Society. It will be a three hour credit school, and will cover garden judging of Siberian, Spuria, and Louisiana types of irises. Details will be announced in our spring newsletter.

The AIS Convention in Seattle was well attended by Region 23 members. A total of fourteen normally dry New Mexicans were temporarily transplanted to the wet Pacific Northwest. We all marveled at the lush greenery, but I think almost everyone was glad to get back to the high and dry. Some members were able to visit Schreiners' garden plus hybridizers' gardens in the Portland and Vancouver areas, which was a special treat.

If it ever quits raining, don't forget to complete your fall cleanup and spray programs, for old plant residues harbor and support propagation of both insects and fungi. Winter infestations of either will certainly affect next year's bloom.

I am sorry for the lateness of this newsletter, but on Oct. 4, I found it necessary to allow a neurosurgeon practice his skills to correct two herniated discs in my back. The operation went very well, and as I write this message, I remain a man of leisure--for a couple more weeks, anyway.

I would like to remind everyone that all newsletter costs and RVP operating costs are funded 100% by voluntary contributions from the various Affiliates. We must keep this fund healthy to insure continued functioning as a Region. So please place this item on the agenda at your next meeting. We all will indeed appreciate any contribution, whether it be large or small! Make checks payable to: "Region No. 23--AIS".

Here's wishing you and yours a most Happy Holiday Season!

1984 SHOW WINNERS

Albuquerque Aril Society----263 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal	Howard Shockey--26 Blues
Bronze Medal	Irene Shockey--23 Blues
Best Specimen	Macedonia
Exhibited by	Susan Latimer
Best Seedling	Howard Shockey # 78-3-4D (QH)

Albuquerque Iris Guild----289 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal	Irene Shockey--32 Blues
Bronze Medal	Howard Shockey--14 Blues
Best Specimen	Laced Cotton
Exhibited by	Susan Latimer
Best Seedling	Howard Shockey # 80-223-B (TB)

Youth Section

Silver Medal	Kelly Doonan--13 Blues
Bronze Medal	Kurt Latimer--11 Blues

Lee County Iris Society----231 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal	David Ray Hooten--14 Blues
Bronze Medal	Mrs. Montez Bertram--12 Blues
Best Specimen	Melody In G
Exhibited by	Bill Brown
Best Arrangement	Mrs. Jackie Williams
Artistic Sweepstakes	Mrs. Montez Bertram

Mesilla Valley Iris Society----153 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal	Margaret Dean--13 Blues
Bronze Medal	Donna Holland--10 Blues
Best Specimen	Discretion
Exhibited by	Margaret Dean
Best Seedling	Lin Flanigan # 72024-2 (AB)
	by Gus Seligmann

Bronze Medal	Luella Danielson
(Educational Exhibit)	Joyce Cozart
Best Arrangement	Joyce Cozart
Artistic Sweepstakes	

New Mexico Iris Society----362 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal	Bonnie Lowenstein--15 Blues
Bronze Medal	Valerie White--10 Blues
Best Specimen	Rancho Rose
Exhibited by	Rosie Black
Best Seedling	Max Booth # M1 (TB)
Best Arrangement	Jeanne Dabney
Artistic Sweepstakes	June Ballog

Roswell Iris Society----93 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal	Leslie Kilgore--9 Blues
Bronze Medal	June Mims--4 Blues
Best Specimen	New Moon
Exhibited by	Leslie Kilgore
Best Arrangement	Dorothy Cook
Artistic Sweepstakes	Fran Merrill

Santa Fe Iris Society--70 Hort. Entries

Silver Medal	Betty Gonzales--11 Blues
Bronze Medal	Larry Anaya--4 Blues
Best Specimen	Crystal Bay
Exhibited by	Betty Gonzales
Best Seedling	Larry Anaya # 82-5w (TB)
Best Arrangement	Sylvia Chavez
Artistic Sweepstakes	Sylvia Chavez

PERTINENT SHOW INFO

All Show Chairmen, Chairmen of Judges, Judges, Apprentice Judges, and exhibitors should carefully read the article titled "The Judge, The Apprentice, and The Show" on pp. 60 and 61 of the October AIS Bulletin. This article clearly spells out proper procedures and policies for a number of things which have been problematical at some shows in the past. At the Seattle Convention this past spring, it was also emphasized that all single specimen section winners (except bulbous) are eligible to receive the "Best Specimen of Show" ("Queen of Show") award--this includes the Youth Section winner.

Bill Coursey, President of the Albuquerque Iris Guild, reports that our 1984 regional convention was a financial success, and per Region 23 By-Laws, one-half of the net profit (\$147.22) will be contributed very soon to the Regional Convention Fund. He requested that I convey his personal thanks to all who participated in the convention.

NICE GOING, JUDGES!

100% of Region 23 Garden Judges cast their AIS Ballots this year. One of our Master Judges failed to vote, which reduced the overall percentage of Judges voting to 97%. Nevertheless, it was the highest of all AIS Regions! Region 23 votes represented 42% of the total ballots, so our votes do count.

The following was written by Maxine Perkins for presentation at our Regional Convention in August. It should be of interest to those who were unable to attend.

BEARDLESS IRIS IN LAS CRUCES

The title sounds rather impressive; however, I am a long way from being an expert, but am glad to share my experiences with you. I have only been growing the Spurias about 10 years and the Siberians and Louisianas only about 5 or 6 years. I have 47 Spurias now and have grown 56 varieties. Late summer rains and hot weather took a big toll on my newer clumps last year. I have 9 Siberians now and have never lost any of them. I have 4 Louisianas and at the rate they grow, I would have to move out if I had many more. I started out with 2 Pacificas and one never came out, the other one lived for 3 years near the water hydrant and with the help of my neighbor's apricot tree, but the tree died and it was just too hot and dry for the Pacifica.

I was relieved when the AIS Bulletin came, since I knew it would be devoted to the Spuria Iris. I was afraid you would read all you ever wanted to know about them and go to sleep on me, but there's really no information on growing them in Las Cruces, so you're stuck with this program.

In the bulletin Eleanor McCown gave a brief history, which you can read at your leisure, if you haven't already. Ben Hager wrote about Mustard Seed Fungus, which you can control, and mentioned virus which you can't control. Floyd Wickenkamp listed a baker's dozen of the most popular spurias and several others wrote of their experiences which all point to how easy it is to grow Spurias.

I think there are two main reasons why more irisians don't grow them. First there are a lot of people who just haven't been introduced to Spurias, and second they procrastinate each year, and by the end of the summer or about this time everyone is tired of yard work and the thought of getting a spot ready at the back of a flower bed for something they will plant in late Sept. or Oct. is just too much for them and they put it off another year.

In my opinion the only way to cure this is to order some of the beardless iris early in the spring, while you are full of high expectations and in awe of the beauty of the Spuria lasting into June when all the bearded iris are gone, or right after you have seen the beauty of a clump of Siberians, gracefully waving in the breeze. (Of course you may see them whipping about here in N.M.) The Louisiana is lovely, but blooms with the TB's and it's rather pushy--sends long rhizomes out and takes over if you give it a chance. For myself I prefer the Siberians and Spurias, but have no trouble growing the Louisianas even in the regular bed.

If you have spent some of your hard-earned cash on flowers that will be delivered in the early fall, then you are going to prepare

places for them when you dig your bearded iris and it will be simple and a pleasure to plant them the same day the UPS delivers them to your door.

For the Spurias I leave a nice clear spot at the back of the bed and work some humus into the soil and a commercial fertilizer with the middle number at least twice as high as the first. When they arrive I plant them as soon as possible and keep them damp for 6 or 8 weeks, by then you should have nice growth showing, and in Cruces we water at least once or twice a month during the winter. In the spring, when they are growing rapidly they need lots of water, but after they finish blooming they need the hot dry summer months. Most people add humus and they are heavy feeders, but they will grow without this care--they just reward you for any extras you give them. I fertilize them in Feb or March and again in late summer, or when I plant them. I have finally figured out why I have lost some of them. We have had heavy rains, or some rain for several days at a time during late Aug. and Sept., then the heat climbs and this combination destroys the new growing points, this applies to the summer dormant mostly, but it also affects the summer green types. If you have a large established clump you probably won't notice, but small new ones or one or two year clumps can be completely destroyed.

Spurias are really very easy to care for and best of all they don't like to be moved, so you can leave them alone for years. However, after about 7 years you better start thinking about getting a tractor to dig them out. Your clump will be about 4 feet across and those little wire like roots have to be cut, sawed, or chopped into. I find myself procrastinating about digging them and right now I have 6 clumps that are at least 3 feet across. When you do dig them, keep them damp, or replant as soon as possible. They will not live like a TB. Once they dry out it's all over. The growers send them in moist wood chips or moss and you should plant them as soon as you can--one reason to have the place ready and waiting. I have waited a day or so, but I kept them moist and cool. Spurias need full sun and good drainage. Most of them have a late summer dormant period and their foliage dies back. You can cut it back to the ground for garden neatness anytime after Aug. 1st without harming the plant growth.

Aphids are a problem sometimes if you aren't careful. I use systemic insecticides such as disyston in beds that have nothing edible in or near them. This year I have just used a spray, and sometimes I use a liquid fertilizer with the insecticide. I irrigate through July and then wait until the growth starts in the fall before watering, but I can't control those Aug. and Sept. rains that we have had for the last 3 years.

Virus is the most worrisome of the spuria diseases. Evidence of infection is striping in the foliage, dark flecking or watermarks (teardrops) in the flowers and distortion of petals. It varies from heavy to light or unobservable. It isn't fatal, but just disfigures--there's no known cure and the hybridizers are working on breeding resistance into them.

Enough of Spurias--let's talk about Siberians. They kinda grow on you and especially after you see them in all their glory in Boston and they were beautiful in Seattle too.

1985 SYMPOSIUM

I had read about acid loving iris and acid beds in some of the grower catalogues for two or three years, and so I talked Perk into building me an acid bed. We started out small with a 6 plant order (2 Siberians, 2 Pacificas, and 2 Louisianas). We dug down about 18 inches, took out all the dirt, and as the summer went by we filled it up with peat moss, grass clippings, rotten apples, some sulphur and very little dirt and sand. It was in excellent condition in the fall when the order came. All the plants except one Pacifica came up and bloomed the next year. Since then we have doubled the bed and deepened the new addition. It is lined on each side with fiber-glass corrugated roofing material and has a concrete edging on both ends. I add acid fertilizer such as you use on hydrangeas, and peat moss or Forest Magic soil builder in the spring and at bloom time. I water it often, but don't keep it moist, unless I have new plants that aren't established.

There are many more articles about Siberians than there are about Spurias, so you can probably find anything you want to know about them. The main thing to remember is that you can grow them in New Mexico. According to the World of Iris Siberians will grow in a pH range from 5 to 8, but do best in the moderately acid to neutral range of 5.5 to 6.9. The soil in the Las Cruces area is in the 7 range for the most part, but Henry and Lu Danielson have Siberians growing in their desert area without any acid bed preparation. I have seen them in one other yard in a regular bed, so I'm going to try a couple out in my yard, but I'll work in some peat moss and etc before I plant them.

As for the Louisianas, I have already moved them out of the acid bed into both a prepared spot with extra peat and etc. and into a regular bed with no preparation. I still have some in the acid bed, but as I mentioned before they send such long rhizomes across the bed that they take up the whole area. One important tip about planting the Siberians and Louisianas is to be sure they don't have any air space under them. The second time we enlarged the bed, it didn't have enough time to mellow and the plants didn't get off to such a good start.

LATE REPORT

Former RVP Jim Mahoney has very recently undergone yet another operation--the third in three years. Doctors have removed the upper lobe of his right lung. Prognosis is good, and he is at home now. We all wish you a speedy and complete recovery, Jim.

62 Region 23 members cast votes for a total of 363 different varieties (303 listed and 60 write-in). Those voting represented only about 35% of our total membership--not a red hot showing. Listed below are the 55 irises receiving the most votes.

It is interesting to note that five of the top ten varieties have won the Dykes Medal, and three others are possible future winners. Of the top fourteen varieties, eight have won the Dykes, and four others are possible future winners. This seems to infer that our evaluations are definitely in line, and that overall, New Mexico is a pretty good testing area for irises!

Rank	Votes	Variety	Rank	Votes	Variety
1	30	Beverly Sills	13	12	Autumn Leaves
		New Moon			Catalyst
2	27	Stepping Out			Cup Race
3	23	Laced Cotton			Superstition
4	22	Mystique	14	11	Camelot Rose
		Song Of Norway			Dusky Dancer
5	21	Going My Way			Flamenco
6	20	Mary Frances			Pacific Mist
7	18	Cranberry Ice			Shipshape
		Victoria Falls	15	10	Actress
8	17	Debby Rairdon			Broadway
		Persien Berry			Copper Classic
9	16	Bride's Halo			Gold Trimmings
		Vanity			Latin Lover
10	15	Buffy			Pink Sleigh
		Dream Lover			Piping Hot
		Homecoming Queen			Spinning Wheel
		Mandolin			White Lightning
		Rancho Rose	16	9	Caramba
11	14	Gay Parasol			Chartreuse Ruffles
		Grand Waltz			Eastertime
		Kilt Lilt			Entourage
		Queen Of Hearts			Exotic Star
12	13	Babbling Brook			Feminine Charm
		Gypsy Belle			Five Star Admiral
		Joyce Terry			Navy Strut
		Pink Taffeta			Queen In Calico
		Ruffled Ballet			

PROGRAM CHAIRMEN

Don't forget that each Affiliate Society is eligible to receive one free set of AIS slides for showing at meetings. Only cost to the society is return postage and insurance. Subsequent slide sets may be rented for \$5.00 plus return postage and insurance. Latest details are outlined in AIS Bulletin 251 (October 1983).

DON'T BE AN ORDINARY IRIS GROWER

If you want an unsurpassable thrill in your gardening activities, make a couple of tall bearded iris crosses, and watch the seedlings open their maiden blossoms! There will not be flowers exactly like these anywhere in the world, and they will be your "babies". True, most or all may be inferior to present day garden varieties, but there is always a chance that a desirable recombination of the genes could produce a winner. One Dykes Medal winner some years ago was the result of a bee cross! Remember Debby Rairdon?

The procedures are not difficult, and a two foot wide sunny border twenty feet long would be adequate space to grow 60 seedlings (30 ea. from two different crosses). One need not research parentages and study genetics as the serious hybridizers do--just select your best irises in a compatible color class as parents, and make the crosses both ways. Try three to four times as many crosses as you want pods--the surplus can always be discarded. Iris colors don't mix as in paints--they are much more involved than this, so be sure to select parents of near like colors.

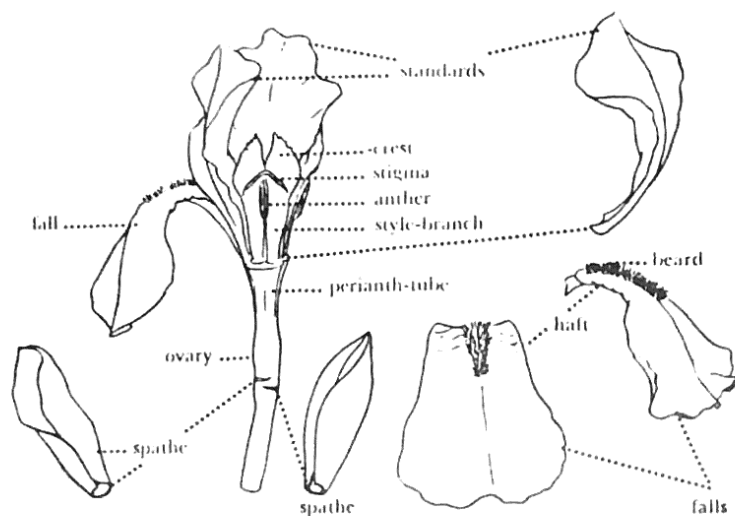


Figure 1

Figure one shows the various parts of an iris flower. The anther from the pollen parent is plucked with tweezers and brushed on the viscous stigma of the pod parent, and the cross is made. (Figure 2) It may not take, but this is all you can do for it--mother nature does the rest. The pod parent flower should be a freshly opened one, but the pollen parent anther should not be plucked until the flower has been open for about one-half day--usually the pollen has dried by then, and the cells won't be



Figure 2

crushed when brushed onto the stigma. Place a tag below the ovary listing the parentage which is indicated as "pod parent x pollen parent". It is wise to write this in your notes also, as our New Mexico breezes can sometimes remove the tag.

In about 9 to 10 weeks the pod will begin to shrivel and turn pale, and then will start browning. When the pod begins to split (Figure 3) pick it and spread the seed to dry for about a week, place in an envelope (with parentages indicated) and forget about them until planting time.

Planting is best done in late October or very early November--if planted earlier, some seed may germinate before hard cold weather

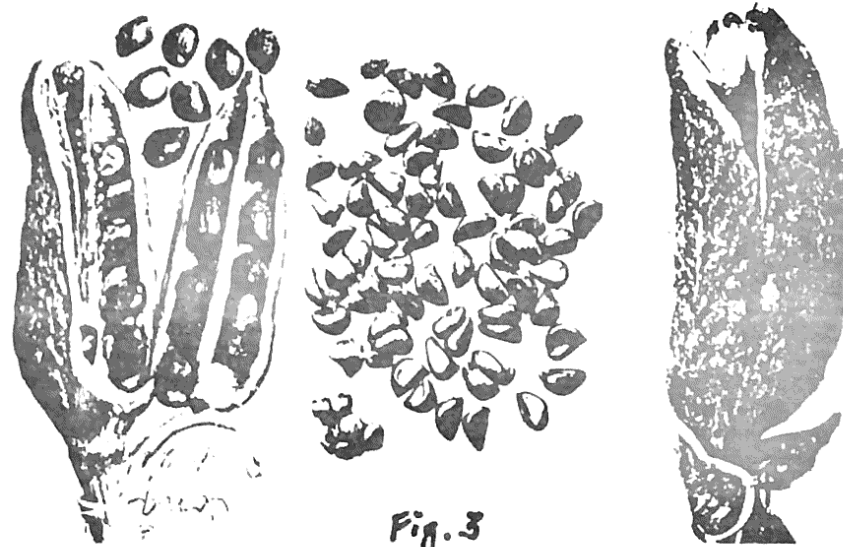


Fig. 3

and the seedlings could be lost over the winter. Planting may be in a small flat about 4 inches deep with good drainage at the bottom. A suitable soil mix is 1/3 sharp sand, 1/3 sphagnum moss, and 1/3 good garden soil. A cup of gypsum per gallon of soil mix is beneficial. Plant the seed 1" deep and 1" apart in rows about 2-3" apart. Be sure to identify each row of seed planted. Water well and place outdoors where exposed to both the weather and sun. After this, the flat must never dry out more than 1/2" deep. A light and very airy mulch through the winter will decrease required waterings. Remove the mulch about March 1, exposing the flat to the warming sun. It is especially important at this time to keep the flat medium sprinkled to maintain a damp condition at seed depth. The seed will usually begin germinating the last of March or early April, depending on temperatures, weather, and the particular seed. Do not fertilize until after the seed appear to have stopped germinating--the endosperm will provide sufficient nutrients for some time. Start with very light applications of liquid fertilizer of moderate nitrogen, high phosphorus, and moderate potash content with trace minerals. When the seedlings are 3 to 4 inches tall, transplant to the more permanent location, handling the same as any bedding plants. Place the seedlings at the same soil depth about 8" apart in rows 12" apart. Water in well with hormone added. Unlike mature iris plants, these seedlings will continue to grow throughout the summer; however, don't keep them too wet or fertilize too heavily.

The following spring most of these seedlings will make their maiden bloom, and you will be in for an experience that defies description!

So come on--don't be just an ordinary iris grower--put a real thrill into it!

Ed

REGION 23 TREASURER'S REPORT--AUG. 1, 1984

Regional Convention Fund (no change since 3/1/84).....\$ 457.75

RVP Fund

Balance Mar. 1, 1984	\$ 977.72	
Disbursements, 3/1/84 to 8/1/84:		
Newsletter and RVP Expenses	(221.30)	
Balance Aug. 1, 1984	756.42	756.42
Total All Funds--Aug. 1, 1984		\$1,214.17

Submitted By: George Nickel, Treasurer

The 1984 fall issue of Region 14 Newsletter devoted ten pages to airing an ongoing controversy regarding hardiness, vigor, and performance of many modern irises, in particular those originating in California. The subject matter as expressed by several different authors was most interesting and provocative. I believe the article reprinted below most accurately explains the dilemma.

--Ed

Editors always like to have the last word. Lewis, who spent a large part of his lifetime working on genetic and pathological problems of plants for Del Monte Corporation, thinks that there is a scientific explanation for almost everything. Finding the correct scientific explanation, however, can sometimes, in itself, be controversial.

A SCIENTIFIC LOOK AT THE PROBLEM

Lewis Lawyer

From the foregoing articles it is apparent that many irisarians are running into a problem of reduced vigor in their plantings, not only in the eastern states, but in California as well. This problem can well be two-fold. First, all the irisarians who can look back to the "good old days" when all their acquisitions grew vigorously, have obviously planted a great number of iris plants on their property since that time and, unless they have moved to new land several times, could be experiencing the well-documented "replant problem". Secondly, the genetics of inbreeding and line breeding which must be followed to achieve many of the new developments in flower color and form, axiomatically leads to weaker growth of the plant.

In 1963 I led a discussion of the "replant problem" during the International Conference on Soil Borne Diseases at Berkeley. From the comments that were heard during that discussion it was obvious that no matter where you live you will eventually get into trouble if you try to grow the same crop in the same soil year after year. Speakers from Asia, Australia, Europe, Hawaii, and North America all had the same story. It is a universal phenomenon in most crops with the possible exception of some of the grains. It could sometimes be alleviated by long-time rotation with other crops or by fumigation of the area with chemicals such as methyl bromide, chloropicrin, and carbon disulfide.

Those of us who are growing iris in the same area year after year without fumigation can expect to encounter problems of reduced vigor which can't be blamed on the hybridizers. Furthermore, in all reality, we can't blame most of the genetic problems on the hybridizers either.

In genetics there is a phenomenon known as "heterosis" or "hybrid vigor" which occurs when two unlike plants (or animals) are crossed together. The last time I read extensively about heterosis the reason why it occurred was unknown; but it was known that the more unlike the parents,

the higher the vigor would be in the offspring. Conversely, the closer the two parents are genetically, the weaker the offspring would be.

The pioneer iris breeders brought plants in from the wild and intercrossed them to get their first introductions. This automatically led to high vigor. The next generation of breeders intercrossed these plants and even introduced tetraploids to obtain new colors, larger flowers, and bigger plants. But even though the progress was phenomenal for its day, they were still doing the easy things at that time, things which did not involve many recessive genes. Now, most of the easy developments have been accomplished, and if hybridizers are to make additional progress they must tackle the difficult goals and, if they are really innovative they will probably be skirting the edges of the impossible.

This kind of genetics requires generation after generation of inbreeding, sib, and line crossing. Hybridizers may have to use their own material over and over in order to achieve the particular goal or refinement toward which they are striving. Even though this leads surely to reduced vigor, there is no other way to do it. Occasionally a breeder can bring in some similar plant from another source, but this does not necessarily imply that he will get more vigorous offspring. He may, in fact, lose more of the characters for which he has been striving than he gains in vigor.

The early "flamingo pinks" are good examples of inbreeding leading to weak plants. All the pinks were from the same or similar source, in fact I would guess that there is still a little bit of Dave Hall's finger tips in most, if not all the pinks in existence today. For this reason there was little advantage until recently of outcrossing to someone else's material in an attempt to increase the vigor of your own.

Ben Hager's VANITY has been cited as a modern pink with good vigor, and it certainly lives up to that reputation in my garden. VANITY came from a cross between Glenn Corlew's CHERUB CHOIR and Nate Rudolph's PINK TAFFETA. To get CHERUB CHOIR, Glenn crossed SIGNATURE, one of his own pinks, to Shoop's ONE DESIRE. SIGNATURE is 75 percent Dave Hall's material and 25 percent SNOW FLURRY. ONE DESIRE traces back to some Hall introductions on one side, but the other side goes back to some line breeding by Tell Muhlestein, which in turn goes back to lines most of which are unrelated to anything else in VANITY's ancestry.

The other half of VANITY, PINK TAFFETA, came from a cross of two of Rudolph's seedlings. One of these came from three generations of Orville Fay's selections and ended with 6 percent Snow Flurry. The other Rudolph seedling comes from some different material of Orville Fay which, although it involves a couple of Dave Hall seedlings, can be traced back to material which differs materially from that in the ancestry of CHERUB CHOIR.

VANITY then is an example of a cross between two lines which, although they were being worked toward a similar goal, had been kept separate for many generations and had divergent ancestry. Only the genes for color (pink) and for flower and stem characteristics were being manipulated. All the rest of the genes came along for the ride, and since they were given no selection pressure, became randomly homozygous as each line progressed. But when two such lines are brought together as in VANITY, the new pairing of these unmanipulated genes can be as divergent as it was 15 generations ago. It is then up to the hybridizer

to select a plant which displays the vigor resulting from such pairing.

The problem of frost tolerance is another matter. Frost tolerance in most plants is genetically controlled, just as it is in iris. The question in the case of iris is whether the genes which impart resistance to freezing also condition the plant to require a freezing winter to set the blooms.

For the three years, 1977, 1978, and 1979, the lowest temperature in my garden was 34 degrees F. I had 221 convention guest irises from out of state growing during these three years. One hundred and seven (48.4%) failed to bloom during the entire three-year period. TRULY YOURS increased in my yard beautifully for 7 years without a single bloomstalk. Despite these gloomy facts, there is also evidence that a few plants which will bloom for me will also withstand the cold weather in the east. Maybe, as we progress in our knowledge, we will be able to produce that universally adaptable iris, bubble-ruffles and all!

.....

WELCOME--NEW MEMBERS!

Pauline Black	P O Box 635	Hatch, N M 87937
Mrs Rosie Black	5332 Kings Row, N E	Albuquerque, N M 87109
Mr Pat Dunnahoo	P O Box 294	Dona Ana, N M 88032
Dr/Mrs E R Garratt	6805 Reasaf Circle	Las Cruces, N M 88005
Sandy Good	2810 Northwest Dr	Hobbs, N M 88240
Mr/Mrs Doug Goodnight	1005 Gamblin Ln	Hobbs, N M 88240
Juanita Gurule	1 General Sage Dr	Santa Fe, N M 87505
Mrs Norma Hooten	2819 Northwest	Hobbs, N M 88240
Jan Light	2571 36th St	Los Alamos, N M 87544
Priscilla Lockyear	1305 Evelyn	Las Cruces, N M 88001
Mrs Bernice Miller	695 Calle Del Sol	Bosque Farms, N M 87068
Mrs Joe A Mims	2607 Sherrill Ln	Roswell, N M 88201
Cindy M Myers	1510 Andrews	Las Cruces, N M 88001
Ms Margaret Reidy	4701 Burton, S E	Albuquerque, N M 87108
Patrick M Sedillo	6337 Belcher, N E	Albuquerque, N M 87109
Betty Shawley	915 Gamblin Ln	Hobbs, N M 88240
Mrs Fausta Waite	1048 Gov Dempsey Dr	Santa Fe, N M 87501
Mr/Mrs Wayne Walters	Box 227	Eunice, N M 88231

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES

For action at our 1984 Region 23 Meeting, the following proposed By-Laws changes are printed below as were introduced by Barbara Figge. Region 23 members may offer amendments or substitute proposals in writing to the RVP prior to February 20, 1985 for publication in our 1985 Spring Newsletter. Mail ballots will be provided at that time for return prior to our 1985 convention in Las Cruces.

ARTICLE V. Nominating Committee

Affiliate Societies shall send names of candidates (who have consented to serve if elected) to the RVP. Each Society shall name at least one but no more than two candidates. Names of these candidates shall be published in the Spring Newsletter along with a ballot. The three candidates who receive the greatest number of votes will serve as the nominating committee, and the individual receiving the greatest number will act as Chairman. This committee shall serve for three years.

ARTICLE VII. Election of Officers

A. The slate of officers shall be presented to the membership on a written ballot before August First. Provision will be made for write-in votes for each office.

B. Election shall be by secret ballot, and a plurality shall be necessary to elect.

C. Ballots shall be returned to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee for tally and, if no question or contest exists in any office, ballots shall be destroyed thirty days after the election deadline.

D. Counting and tally of votes shall be done with the Chairman of the Nominating Committee present and three AIS members not on the Committee performing the tally.

ARTICLE VIII. Amendments

A. Amendments may be proposed at any Regional Convention by any member of AIS, and, with the consent of members present, shall be presented to the membership of the Region along with a written ballot by the RVP at the earliest possible time.

B. OR by proposal by any one of the Affiliate Societies of the Region for presentation by the RVP by the same method.

C. Ballots shall be returned to the Secretary of the Region and, after tally, the Amendment will be considered adopted if a plurality of the votes cast so indicate.

REGION 23, AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY BUSINESS MEETING AUGUST 11, 1984 WINROCK INN, ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX.

Bill Coursey, President of the Albuquerque Iris Guild, welcomed everyone to the 8th Annual Regional Convention, at 10 a.m. He reminded everyone of the scheduled programs, and introduced Floyd Stopani, who would present the "Beardless Irises in Las Cruces", program instead of Maxine Perkins, as she was unable to attend.

The announcement was made that Ron Mullin, President of the American Iris Society would arrive at 11:55 a.m. Ron would be our after dinner speaker that evening, and would conduct the Judges Training Session on Sunday, August 12th.

Bill then introduced Howard Shockey, R.V.P. of Region 23.

Howard welcomed our visitors: Hooker Nichols, Woodard, Ok., and Vaughn Smith of Oklahoma City, Ok., from Region 22. Romona Howard, Lubbock, Tx., Louise Herrington, Lorenzo, Tx., and Lu Danielson, El Paso, Tx., from Region 17. Howard then called roll of the Region 23 affiliate societies - all seven affiliates were represented.

Regional Secretary, Irene Shockey, read the minutes of the Regional Meeting held in Santa Fe on October 1, 1983. The minutes were approved as read.

Regional Treasurer, George Nickel, gave the Treasurer's Report, which was approved as read. Grand total of Region 23 Funds as of August 11, 1984 was \$1,214.17.

Howard introduced our former R.V.P.'s; Bonnie Lowenstein, Gladys O'Kelly, Bob Steele, Patty Clauser and Jim Mahoney.

Since there was no other old Business, The Chair asked if there was any New Business.

Barbara Figge opened a discussion of revising Region 23 By-Laws, Articles V, VII and VIII. Stating that Article VIII - Amendments was difficult to understand and needed to be clarified, she then passed out copies of her "Proposed Constitutional Amendments."

After discussion from the floor, concerning changing the By-Law's and how to inform all members of Region 23, The Chair asked for a motion, pertaining to the subject.

Barbara Figge made the motion that her three "Proposed Constitutional Amendments" to the Region 23 By-Law's be printed in the Fall Newsletter, for the consideration of the membership. Other amendments or suggestions to be asked for, with replies to be sent to the R.V.P. in time to be printed in the Spring Newsletter. At that time, there would be further consideration, and in the fall of '85 we will vote on these, either to accept or reject, or on any other amendments that are proposed.

The motion was seconded, voted on, and passed.

Valerie White asked how we could obtain a parliamentarian for the Region. The Chair suggested the will of the members could be carried out by continued use of Robert's Rule of Order.

With no other New Business, The Chair made a couple of announcements pertaining to the AIS Board Meetings in Seattle.

One concerned the problem some regions are having with their Youth Section, at their shows. Several R.V.P.'s stated that the Youth Section was grossly mistreated. Parents were growing iris then giving specimens to their children to enter in the shows, and winning awards. One R.V.P. stated, "I can't understand a parent teaching a child how to cheat so young." No conclusion was reached as to how to discourage this practice, which is becoming more widespread. It was also noted that the Best Specimen of the Youth Section is eligible for Queen of Show, unless of course the specimen is a bulbous iris, collection, or an English Box.

Secondly the AIS Board voted that they would allow only until July 1, for certain AIS Sections to get their new chapters in for the new Judges Handbook. If these chapters were not forthcoming, Ron Mullin would designate someone else to do those chapters, and get the Judges Handbook printed at the earliest possible time. Hopefully by the first of 1985 they will be available.

Howard reminded everyone to vote their Symposium Ballot, and repeated a request for news articles and or pictures for the Fall Newsletter.

Floyd Stopani extended an invitation from the Mesilla Valley Iris Society to host the Regional Convention, Fall of 1985, in Las Cruces. The invitation, was happily accepted.

A motion was made to be dismissed - all was in favor. Howard declared the meeting adjourned, to be reconvened next year in Las Cruces, a date to be later specified.

Respectfully Submitted

Irene Shockey, Secretary
Region 23 - AIS

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