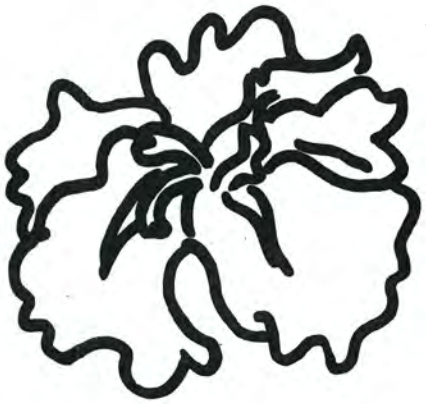

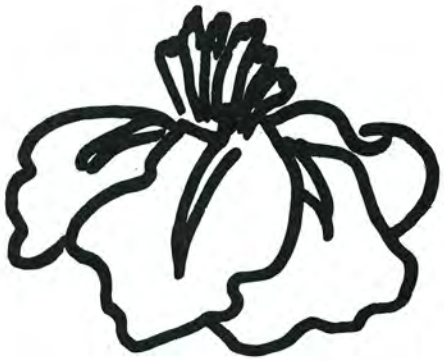

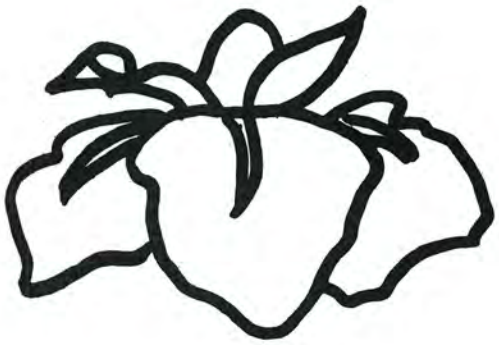

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 2

OCTOBER 1972

THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

THE REVIEW

OF

THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

Volume 9, Number 2 October, 1972

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Mr. Frank B. Foley, Davenport, Ia., Slide Chairman

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

This issue is late due to my insistance that the slate for officers for next year must include the nomination for a new President. Now that the slate is completed, I compliment William Ouweneel and the Nominating Committee for a job well done.

In retrospect, much has been accomplished since our Society was organized. The establishment of Judging standards, The Review of news about Japanese Irises, the many sponsored shows of Japanese irises, garden tours, the annual meeting and auction.

Now one of my hopes for the Society is about to come true with the appointment of Frank Foley as Slide Chairman. Soon we will be able to loan a comprehensive set of slides of Japanese irises to clubs and individuals throughout the country. I urge all hybridizers to see that Frank is given slides of your introductions for the Society's use. Photographers, please take duplicates of any named varieties of Japanese irises that you have an opportunity to snap and help us to offer an interesting variety of slides.

As yet unrealized, is the development of a slide program on the Judging of Japanese irises, such as Ben Hager did, so beautifully, for the Spuria Society. We need good illustrations of both good and undesirable features of our flower.

Our Check-List needs to be brought up to date.

We need to involve more of our members in our activities. There is no better way to get acquainted with other flower-lovers than in working together on a show, a public garden or in fund-raising activities.

Our Society has a special problem in that our bloom season follows the tall-bearded season. The American Iris Society has provided a late-ballot privilege to us to accommodate votes from regions in which the bloom is later than the first of June; however we are not receiving a representative number of votes. Perhaps we could do more about setting up Japanese iris tours in each region--so that judges do get to see new varieties and will be reminded to vote.

Pot culture has succeeded with Japanese irises, but is rarely practiced here in the East. Surely it offers a way to beat the erratic seasons we have been having. More "portable" gardens might help to bring our beautiful flowers to places where they could be enjoyed by more people.

It is difficult to relinquish a job that has so much future. To all of those who have worked with me during the past six years, I want to say a special "thank you."

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Arthur C. Bulger, Highview Drive, Woodbridge, Conn. 06525
Mrs. Margaret M. Burns, Box 187, Masontown, West Virginia 26452
Mrs. Frank Courtney, 3717 South Cockrell Hill Road, Dallas, Texas 75211
Mrs. Alan W. Denny, 477 Upper Mass Road, Santa Monica, California 90402
Mrs. Mary Alice Hembree, 951 Brown Road, Somerville, N.J. 08876
Mrs. Ned Kokich, Flowervilla, 35 Swan Crescent, Packuranga, Auckland, New Zealand
Mr. Kenneth V. V. Parks, 82 Grandview Ave., Catskill, N.Y. 12414
Mr. and Mrs. William Poston, 3212 Peachtree Ct., Bakersfield, Calif. 93301
Rita Alice Robinson, 3816 North Linda, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73112
Mrs. Elizabeth Burch Sisco, 2 North Greenbush Rd., Erin, N.Y. 14838
Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Varnum, 6705 Landerwood Lane, San Jose, Calif. 95120
White Flower Farm, Litchfield, Conn. 06759

OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Eleanor Westmeyer

How thrilling it was to open our 1972 Convention meeting to a full house, from a platform banked with beautiful Japanese iris blossoms! We are most grateful to Ben Hager and Sid DuBose of Melrose gardens for bringing this "live" show to the Portland Convention. If you have ever tried to select specimen stalks, in the bud stage, and had to wrap each bud and stalk for traveling, you can appreciate how much time and thoughtfulness went into bringing this California-treat of four huge crocks-full of bloom stalks to our meeting. Thank you again, Ben and Sid!

George Galer was tied up at the Registration Desk and could not show his slides to us as planned; but he sent his very capable assistant, Tom Heston, to our meeting to show and comment on slides of Portland's famous Japanese Garden. We were so enchanted with the pictures of this rare garden, that with the help of the Convention Committee, we were able to charter a bus for a special trip to the Japanese Garden that very afternoon. Being able to see such a splendid example of Japanese landscaping with many choice imported trees and shrubs, the Yatsuhashi, iris-viewing footbridge in the Strolling Pond Garden and the moss garden maintained by automatic mist was truly one of the highlights of the convention.

Mrs. Westmeyer showed slides of newer varieties of Japanese irises.

Lorena Reed presented an excellent educational exhibit on hybridizing which she had prepared in chart form with many color enlargements of her seedlings. For accurate size comparisons, she had photographed blossoms on hardware cloth. Certainly a novel way of keeping a permanent record of offspring.

Dr. Currier McEwen reported on his work in inducing tetraploidy in Japanese irises. Various tests with germination of seeds have convinced him that it is important to pick the pods while they are still green in order to get quick germination.

A question and answer period concluded the meeting.

THE 1972 APOGON AUCTION

Eleanor Westmeyer

Region 1 again sponsored an auction of beardless irises in cooperation with The Society for Japanese Irises and The Society for Siberian Irises at the home of our Director, Bee Warburton in Westborough, Massachusetts on August 24th.

Prior to the auction, Dr. William McGarvey showed slides illustrating his work in developing pink Siberian irises. Dr. Currier McEwen showed a few of his newest tetraploid Siberians and Mrs. Westmeyer showed slides of some of the Japanese irises to be auctioned. A delicious buffet luncheon, featuring fresh corn and tomatoes from Frank Warburton's garden was served for those who did not bring a box lunch.

Eager bidders quickly snapped up all of the Japanese irises offered. Aura, Miss Coquette, Ocean Mist, Violet Splendor, Winged Serpent, Dancing Waves, Strut & Flourish, Sky and Water, Worley Pink, Rokko Arashi, Memorial Tribute, Venetian Night, Debonair Prince, Prairie Glamour, Prairie Heaven, Fashion Model, Wounded Dragon and Red Titan were among the varieties offered. Also contributed, and readily sold, were two iris pattern china plates and a glass vase and bowl in the iris pattern. A total of $120.00 was collected for the benefit of the Society for Japanese Irises.

Additional donations would be most welcome for the 1973 auction. Plants need not be dug prior to the auction, but can be shipped to the buyer at your convenience.

Our special thanks to Region 1, the Warburtons, those who contributed plants and artifacts and to our genial auctioneer, Kevin Vaughn for making this annual affair such a wonderful success.

NEMATODES IN JAPANESE IRISES

Ben R. Hager

Japanese irises can be infected with two types of nematodes. The root knot type (various species of Meloidogyne) will be found more commonly in temperate climates, but there are evidently some species that can withstand freezing temperatures although I do not know which or how common they are. Root knot nematodes in a high infestation can very quickly debilitate the plants. The other type, Pratylenchus penetrans, is almost endemic in Japanese and Siberian irises unless some effort has been made to eliminate it. The latter nematodes seems to have little effect upon plants, although a large population might be reason for poor performance. However, it is sometimes quite harmful to other plants and shipping it around the country is not advisable.

The root knot nematodes are fairly easy to identify because they make the large knot-like swellings on the roots during the warm summer months so that by transplanting them in the fall the knots are quite evident. Penetrans cannot be seen with the naked eye and will most times go unobserved. I know of no way to be certain of an infection except to send root samples to a nematologist for identification. The roots must be fresh, then dampened and put in a tightly covered jar for twenty-four hours. This allows the nematodes to emerge from the roots and they will be found floating in the moisture when examined under a microscope. Our county Agriculture Department is very cooperative in running this test for us, but will immediately put a quarantine on any plants that we are getting which show infection. Both types have active life cycles only when the temperatures are high enough as during the summer months.

There are three methods of getting rid of nematodes in the plants.

The first is to immerse the plants in water heated to 130-140 degrees Fahrenheit for a half-hour. The temperature must be maintained throughout the treatment. This will get all the nematodes but also be fatal to about 100% of the plants.

The second method calls for planting the rhizomes in ten-inch pots and sinking them in water so that the water level is about one inch over the soil. Maintain this level faithfully. The nematodes should, supposedly, not be able to live in standing water and will drown when they emerge from the roots. The plants should be kept in the water for at least a year or through one whole root-growth cycle. Old roots should be dead and rotted by this time and new roots not infected. The plants will survive but you cannot be absolutely sure that some of the nematodes will not survive also. In areas with freezing winters the pots could be removed from the water and returned before they completely thaw in the spring as there is no nematode activity at this time.

The third, and surest, method has a high fatality rate with Japanese irises. All other irises respond well to this treatment but Japanese irises do not seem to want to initiate new root growth after the treatment. The treatment can be done only in the fall or spring, just before new root growth starts. We have not tried the spring treatment and it is possible that it may be more successful than the fall treatment.

Shave off all roots right up to the rhizome. This will remove all nematodes as they are rarely found in the rhizome. There may be "free" nematodes, that have not yet entered or returned, clinging to other plant material so all dead material should be removed from the rhizome. It should then be soaked for one-half hour in a 10% solution of either chlorine bleach or formaldehyde plus 90% water. The rhizome should then be rinsed. A rooting hormone applied to the base of the rhizome may be of some help at this point. Plant the rhizome in a pot in damp peat moss, cover with a polyethylene bag and keep the moss moist until new roots appear. Then plant the rhizome in the garden.

(Continued on Page 22)

This is a book review. It is a review of the new book THE JAPANESE IRIS, edited by Motojiro Kuribayashi and Shuichi Hirao, dated 1971, published by the Asahi Shimbun Publishing Company, Tokyo, Japan.

Book reviews are a very rare feature of this publication, because it is a very rare occasion when a book about irises is published. In the case of the book THE JAPANESE IRIS, it is a particular pleasure to be able to emphasize that the prime attribute of the book is not just that it is an iris book. More significant is that among all horticultural books of its type, this is a masterpiece, and a collector's item.

Of the two editors, Mr. Kuribayashi, whose life work is agricultural education, made preparations for this book by personally supervising the cultivation of several hundred varieties of Japanese irises in a garden of some twenty-five acres in expanse. Dr. Hirao, who has for many years been director of the Japan Iris Society, is known in the West as the leading irisarian of Japan. It is credit to Dr. Hirao that the book is truly cosmopolitan in perspective; it certainly is thanks to him that all the text and all the photo captions in the book are printed in English as well as in Japanese, and that thirty-six of the color plates are of Japanese iris varieties other than of Japanese hybridizers. Most of these are U.S. varieties; the U. S. hybridizers who are represented include Arlie Payne, Walter Marx, Violet Worley, R. A. Rich, F. T. Maddocks, and Louise Marx.

THE JAPANESE IRIS is superlatively well edited. It is beautifully bound, with hardcover in purple fabric, covered with a heavy clear dust jacket, over which it is packaged in a fabric-covered blue imprinted hardbox, over which it is doubly packaged in an imprinted cardboard shipping box. The 266 pages are beautifully printed on high-gloss white-white bond paper, and they are massive, a full 10 x 13 inches each, which is considerably larger than any telephone book. All the photographs are in full color, with a total of 346 superb color plates; very many of these are a full page in size.

With all these premium features, the book understandably is expensive. A few U. S. bookstores may have it in stock; those which do not stock it can obtain a quote on its current price if you will give them a week or so to check with book distributors and/or the publisher. Or you can get a current quotation by corresponding directly with editor Shuichi Hirao, 3–14 Yamanone, Zushi, Kanagawa, Japan. Variability in price is partly explained by day to day variations in international exchange rates; a loose estimate of current price would be $75, U. S. currency.

Readers who have resources to do so by all means should try to obtain the book—not just because of their interest in irises, but also for an investment. A masterpiece of this type can be expected to increase in value far more rapidly than more traditional and prosaic investments such as real estate and/or securities. Precedents in iris books are Dykes' THE GENUS IRIS and Randolph's GARDEN IRISES; both books are equivalent iris classics; both were so expensive at publication time that irisarians were reluctant to buy them. But either book now—even in heavily used condition— will bring its purchase price many times over.

On the next three pages are selected extracts from the book. The photos in every case have been converted from full color to drab black and white, and in every case have been reduced in size. The extracts from the text also have been reduced. Nonetheless, these pages will serve to demonstrate the quality both of the editing and of the photography, and they will serve as a tantalizing encouragement to see the whole book. THE JAPANESE IRIS is a landmark in contemporary iris publications; it should be on your "must list" for acquisition.

Bill Gunther

THE JAPANESE IRIS

Edited by

Kuribayashi Motojiro and Hirao Shuichi

花菖蒲大図譜

The illustration above is plate number 324 of THE JAPANESE IRIS after conversion of that plate from full color to black and white, and after reduction in size by a factor of 12%. This illustration is of IMMACULATE GLITTER, which is a 1963 variety of the late Arlie Payne, of the USA. The editors of the book are not content merely to give this iris a full page color photo and the captioning information provided in the previous sentence. The book provides further information about IMMACULATE GLITTER as follows: it has a "double" type blossom of medium size; it is a late bloomer; it has a relatively tall stem; each bloomstalk usually has one branch; the foliage at bloom season is fairly upright; the foliage at bloom season is green with neither a yellow nor a blue tint; and the parentage of IMMACULATE GLITTER is RED TITAN x IMPERIAL ROBE.

THE JAPANESE IRIS

Edited by
Kuribayashi Motojiro and Hirao Shuichi

監修：日本花菖蒲協会
編集：栗林元一郎・平尾秀

The Japanese Iris in the West

The first appearance of the Japanese iris outside Japan is believed to have occurred around the middle of the nineteenth century when Siebold took six varieties back to Europe and, in 1855, produced blooms from them in his garden in Holland. The leading iris experts in the West in recent times have been the Americans W. A. Payne (1880–1971) and Walter Marx, and Max Steiger of Germany. For some forty years beginning around 1930, Payne worked to produce new varieties, using as his original stock varieties already imported into America and Edo irises newly exported from Japan, and as a result introduced 160 new varieties in all. He lived in the center of the United States, and one of his aims was to produce strong varieties that could stand up to the rigors of the climate of that area. His method was to plant a bed thickly with seedlings, leave them for three years, then select those plants with the best blooms from among the survivors.

Since those responsible for the improvement of the iris in Japan have left no records, it is impossible to trace accurately the pedigree of their varieties, but Payne kept very detailed pedigrees of all the new varieties he gave the world. Since he produced a large number of varieties from a relatively limited number of parents, concentrating on the repeated inbreeding of their descendants, the many varieties he created will doubtless prove valuable not merely for their beauty but also as research material for scholars studying the hereditary characteristics of the Japanese iris. Another American besides Payne who has created many varieties is Walter Marx, and many others are active in the same field.

Steiger set out to remedy the iris's notorious vulnerability to calcium. He sowed a large number of seeds in soil containing a high proportion of lime, producing over a period of eight years some ten thousand seedlings of which there were ten survivors. After further selection, he dubbed the resulting iris the "Care" (for *ca*lcium-*re*sistant) strain. This strain is characterized by resistance to dryness as well as to calcium. It is greatly to be regretted that Steiger died in 1969, before he could bring his work to final completion.

Cultivation

A frequent misconception concerning the Japanese iris is that it is a bog plant and that flooding is necessary in its cultivation. In Japanese iris gardens, running water is usually to be seen when the flowers are in bloom, which creates the mistaken impression that the Japanese iris grows in water, but in fact the water is there for its aesthetic effect, and flooding is not necessary. The Japanese iris can be grown without difficulty anywhere that is congenial to ordinary perennials. It prefers an acid soil, ideally around p.H. 5.5. There should be rather more moisture than for ordinary perennials. It is extremely resistant to cold, but a ground temperature approaching 30°C during its period of development in the summer will hinder proper growth. Like other irises, it is fond of virgin soil, and growth becomes poor if it is left for too many years in the same spot. Since the season when it flowers is rainy in Japan, the rhizome is divided immediately after flowering and replanted elsewhere. It invariably flowers again the next year, and it is commonly the year following this that sees the blooms at their finest, Another two or three years, and they deteriorate, so division and replanting becomes necessary again. This process may also be carried out in the autumn. It must be carried out annually if the plants are grown in pots. Replanting in the spring should be avoided, though it is common in the West, where transplanting immediately after flowering is sometimes difficult.

The commonest error among beginners in planting the Japanese iris is to give it fertilizer at the initial stage. Once the plant has taken root, however, it likes even more fertilizer than other irises. In raising from seeds, the seeds should be gathered in the autumn and sown immediately, taking care to protect the seedlings from frost during the winter. The seeds may also be sown in the spring, in which case they will, provided they are well tended, flower in the summer of the following year. Recently, a tetraploid variety has been produced, as well as a hybrid with *Iris pseudacorus* as its pod parent. The Japanese iris promises to develop over a still wider field in the near future. Hirao Shūichi

THE JAPAN IRIS SOCIETY

THE JAPANESE IRIS

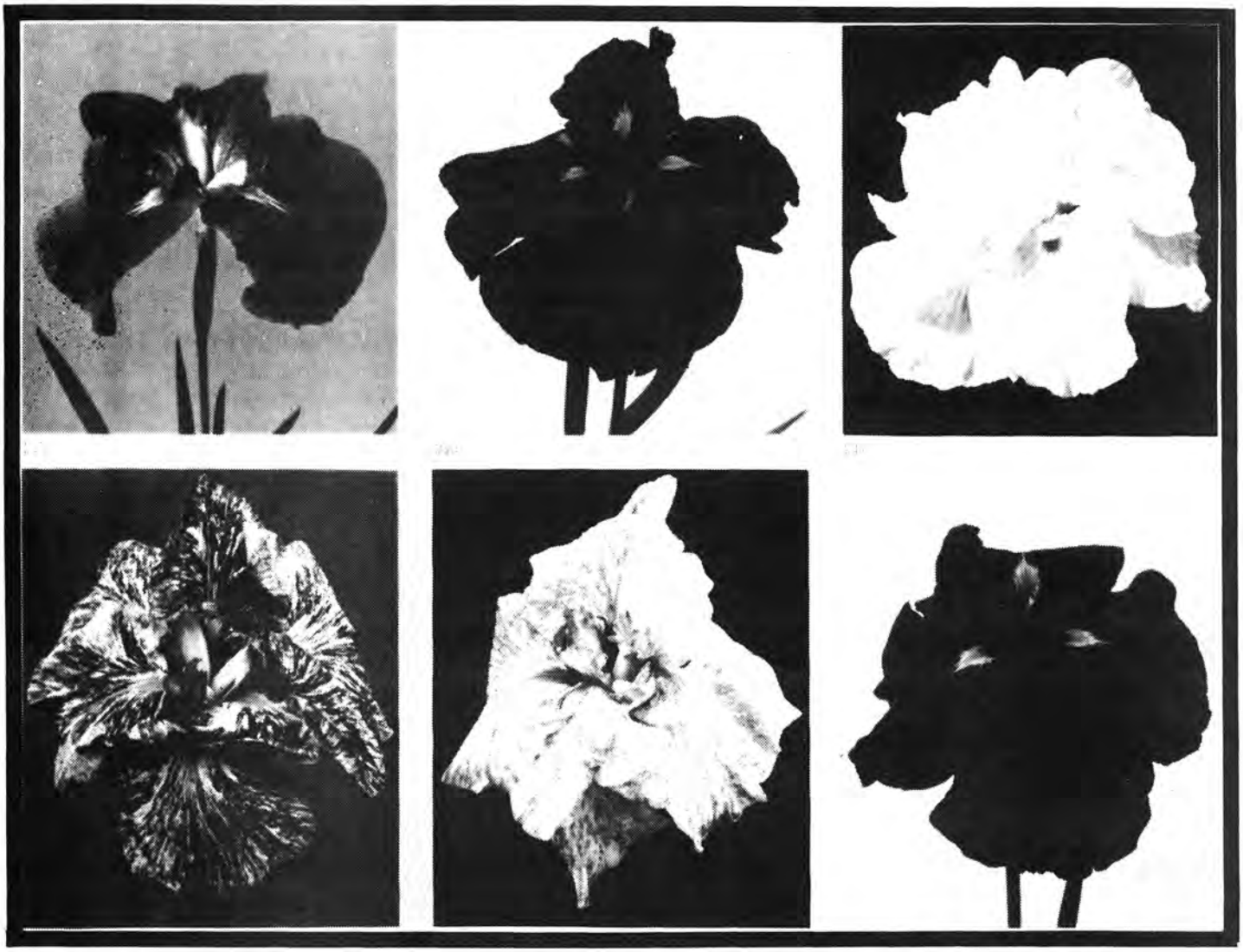
Edited by

Kuribayashi Motojiro and Hirao Shuichi

花菖蒲大図譜

監修＝日本花菖蒲協会

編集＝栗林元二郎・平尾秀一



During the 500 or more years during which the species *Iris kaempferi* has been developed by the Japanese into the estimated 1,000 different varieties available today, most of the development has been accomplished in three local areas of Japan, with each of those areas working on its own "line" of stock toward its own goals, until now the three lines are so notably distinct one from another that they are classed separately into three groups: the Edo varieties, the Ise varieties, and the Higo varieties. THE JAPANESE IRIS provides interesting historic information about the development of each type, and its illustrations are grouped in a manner which emphasizes the unique characteristics and differences between the three types.

The photographs on this page illustrate six Higo varieties. At top from left to right are HINOKUNI, SUMIE-NO-RYU, and HAGOROMO. Below from left to right are UMIBOTARO, NEMURIJISHI, and CHITOSE-NO-TOMO. Over the years, many many different Japanese iris varieties have been imported into the USA; this is exemplified by the fact that three of the varieties pictured on this page are included in the current mail order listing of the Melrose Gardens, of Stockton, California.

INTENSIVE CARE SECTION

Four years ago your Editor picked up a plant of Blue Nocturne. To call it a plant was as much a matter of hope as fact. It consisted of a single fan, with foliage in September about eight inches long, and half of pathetic, undernourished parent plant. At that time it was the only plant of that variety known to your Editor who wanted one badly because Arlie Payne had won the Gold Medal with it at Hamburg in 1963. The parent plant was easily divided while in the ground. As half of it was dug up the sand fell away from the few undersized roots giving ample evidence of its struggle for life.

It was carefully replanted but a month later the foliage died to be followed a few weeks later by a fresh shoot. About that time winter arrived and one could only hope for the best.

The following spring a weak shoot returned only to die down and be followed by another. This one succeeded in lasting through the season. This year it developed flowers for the first time and now has four full-fledged fans.

This summer your Editor picked up two rhizomes of another much desired Payne variety- Imperial Imp. Again it was the only known source of this variety. The rhizomes were rescued from a garden where competition had been almost fatal. Each rhizome had a couple of fans that looked more like blades of grass than iris foliage and a few incipient roots. They were carefully replanted. As of October 1st one plant has foliage ten inches long and the other foliage about half of that.

The first lesson to be learned from these experiences is that where there is life there is hope. The second is that dead foliage does not prove that a plant is dead. The following procedure is suggested for handling weaklings.

Soak the plant overnight- if possible in rain or ground water containing a small amount of root hormone. Plant the rhizome in a sunny spot in the best soil available being sure that it has some water-retaining ability. Place the rhizome about one and one-half inches below the final ground level. Take all care possible to be sure that roots are well spread and the soil packed firmly around them. Leave a depression around the plant sufficient to hold a quart or more of water and fill it with water including the root hormone solution. After the water has drained away fill the depression with loose soil and cover with mulch.

When foliage growth is evident, start fertilizing with fertilizer solution. Home-made solution may be made by allowing a fistful of dry commercial fertilizer to stand in a gallon jug of water. Any formula recommended for general garden use may be used. The nitrogen content should not be higher than the phosphorus and potassium. Use about a half cupful of home made solution at a time. Commercial solutions will probably require considerable dilution to get equivalent strength. Apply at intervals of two or three weeks. As the plant grows, the amount or frequency of application may be increased.

In some localities it may be advisable to shade plants during periods of intense sunshine especially while growth is beginning. In your Editor's experience, this has not been necessary.

Keep the ground deeply mulched and moist. Remember Japanese irises prefer cool, moist soil even though the foliage prefers full sunshine.

As the plant grows, the amount of fertilization may be increased in proportion to the amount of foliage until a normal-sized plant is obtained.

The above procedure except for the planting is recommended for seedlings also starting soon after germination. As many as eighty per cent of the seedlings may bloom the year after germination if it is used.

LESSON 1972

Until this year your Editor has been saying freely that Japanese irises can be grown under "midwestern field conditions with an annual rainfall of forty inches and probably less." He still says that but, further, learned this year what happens when a drought hits during the early summer months.

Rainfall through April was normal and prospects indicated a good bloom in late June. However early in May a drought arrived which extended through July. During those three months about three inches of rain fell. Normally it would have been nine inches.

Plants around the pond's edge thrived even though the pond level dropped. No problem there. But about 600 plants under field conditions in beds provided the setting for some interesting observations.

The beds are surrounded by lawn. Near one end stands a wild-cherry tree (probably two trees grown together) four feet in diameter. The tree's stunting effect on the garden has been shown on vegetable crops to extend about forty feet from its base. In this area about twenty plants out of 200 appeared to have died by the end of July. A few other weak divisions made last fall and farther away from the tree also apparently died. Over-grown and crowded plants in the tree-affected area showed retardation. 1971 seedlings spaced about fifteen inches each way and well mulched showed no effects of the drought although it must be admitted that they would have grown better with normal rainfall. By August it was presumed that the apparently dead plants were total losses.

In August rainfall was above normal and soon restored the normal soil moisture. In about a week fresh shoots appeared and as this is written (October 1st) every plant has rejuvenated. Although one may wonder how well the plants will survive the winter, there is reason to believe that they will survive even though they will require another season to return to normal size.

The conclusions as this is written are as follows:

(a) An established plant can survive apparent killing by drought of the degree described.

(b) Well spaced and well mulched plants can survive better than overgrown and crowded plants.

(c) In time of drought competition from trees (and perhaps weeds) can have a critical effect.

Nematodes in Japanese Irises by Ben R. Hager - Continued from page 16

Of course there would not be much logic in treating the plants and putting them back in infected soil. If your soil is not clean, it should be treated. Fumigation with methyl bromide is definitely the most effective. However, remember you cannot apply this fumigant closer than the drip line of any other plant. There are other nemacides that can be used closer to other plants but they are not as effective. Follow directions implicitly. With any irises EXCEPT Japanese and some other types of bog irises, the soil should be treated after fumigation with Terraclor or, better, Terraclor Super X if available, before planting. That is a whole other story, but do it!

No guarantees are made that nematodes will be eliminated by any of the above treatments, but a large part of the infestation can be by using them. It is suggested that they will do your plants much good and you will be repaid by better growth and flowers.

The Society For Japanese Irises

Section of THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
RR 31, Box 206,
Terre Haute, Ind., 47803
November 20, 1972

Mrs. Eleanor Westmeyer, President,
The Society For Japanese Irises

Dear Eleanor:

The Nominating Committee of The Society For Japanese Irises nominates the following members to serve the Society in the offices indicated during 1973 and 1974:

President- Mrs. Lorena M. Reid, Springfield, Ore.
Vice President- Mrs. Frank B. Foley, Davenport, Ia.
Secretary- Mr. Harley E. Briscoe, White Hall, Ill.
Treasurer- Mr. Ford L. Grant, Davenport, Ia.

Each of the above persons has given permission to be nominated.

Yours truly,

W.E.Ouweneel, Chairman,
Nominating Committee

EARLY AMERICAN JAPANESE IRIS VARIETIES

How many early American varieties of Japanese irises are still to be seen? By "early" let's say before 1930.

Swan Lake Gardens in The Review, October, 1969, listed the following with non-Japanese names:

Moonlight Waves
Painted Lady
Pink and Opal
Blue Giant
T. M. Ware
Pink Lady
Helen Welles
Margaret F. Hendrickson
Herrington
Francis Cleveland
Mahogany Giant
Rose Anna
Victor

Do you have any others or know where they may exist? If so, please tell your Editor, W. E. Ouweneel, R. R. 31, Box 206, Terre Haute, Indiana 47803.

POLYPLOIDY IN JAPANESE IRISES

In a letter dated December 4, 1971 from Dr. Hirao to Mr. Lee Eberhardt he writes as follows:

> "Mr. Mitsuda, Nagoya, produced many clones of tetraploid Jap iris. None of them are very attractive flowers but they are certainly important parents for further development of Jap iris. I have found a few clones in Chiba which look certainly like polyploids but I have not had their chromosomes counted yet."