

# THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY

FOR

JAPANESE IRISES

VOLUME 23

NUMBER 2

FALL, 1986

THE REVIEW  
OF  
THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

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NUMBER 2

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For wheresoe'r thou art in this world's globe,  
I'll have an iris that shall find thee out.

Shakespeare, KING HENRY VI

Submitted by:  
William Ouweneel



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## BUSINESS ITEMS

The Review is published semi-annually by The Society For Japanese Irises. Editorial office is at 7979 West D Ave., Kalamazoo, MI. 49009. Deadlines for receiving copy are March 1 and September 1; earlier receipt of material is desirable. Black & white photographs and drawings are welcome; please put return address on the back if you want them returned. Reprinting is by permission of the writer and the editor, with due acknowledgement.

**Dues are:** Single annual, \$3.50; family annual, \$4.00; Single triennial, \$9.00; family triennial, \$10.50; single life membership \$75.00; Family life, \$100.00. Dues may be sent either to the AIS membership Chairman, or directly to The Society For Japanese Irises's Membership Chairman. (See address inside front cover).

**Renewals:** If your mailing label is marked with the expiration date 8607 this will be the last copy of "The Review" on your present membership. Please renew. If you have just recently sent in your dues, ignore the notice as there is an inevitable gap in passing along the information.

**Address changes:** Please notify the Membership Chairman.

**Back issues:** Copies of all back issues are available for a charge of \$1.50 per copy, including postage. In some cases there are no original copies available, but photo-copies will be provided at the same charge. For large quantities, cost to members will be reproduction cost plus postage, or a minimum of 50¢ per copy. Volume 1 (1964) consists of three issues, all subsequent volumes contain two issues each. Back issues should be ordered from the editor. Include a check made out to The Society For Japanese Irises in an amount to cover the number of issues ordered.

**Slide Sets:** A set of slides on Japanese irises may be rented from the Slides Chairman (see inside front cover for address). Charges for handling and mailing is \$5.00 per set for SJI members, and \$7.00 per set for non-members. Please enclose a check payable to The Society For Japanese Irises with your request.

## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear J.I. Friends:

I find it hard to believe that this is my fourth and last letter to you all as your president. It has been a most rewarding experience for me and Elisabeth, and the time has flown by. We have appreciated the opportunities we have had to meet many of you and look forward keenly to many more such opportunities in the coming years.

From all reports, this past spring and summer have varied greatly in different parts of the country, being sadly lacking in moisture in some regions and with, perhaps, too much in others. For us in South Harpswell, Maine, it has been about perfect with sufficient rain to make use of the hose necessary only about four times in the entire season. This also has been our best year to date with regard to seedlings, both Siberian and Japanese, blooming for the first time. That, however, has also created a problem. We have a three year rotation and each year we must clear out the three-year bed to make room for the next year's crop of seedlings. This means painstakingly evaluating some 300 J.I.s and a like number of Siberians to select a dozen or two of each to keep. The rest are given away. Never before has it been so difficult to limit the choices. This was especially difficult among the tetraploid J.I.s. There were about a hundred of these, many of which have now reached the sixth generation of tetraploidy. It also was a most successful year making crosses. I am afraid I'll have more seeds to plant in the spring than there will be room for. However, I cannot complain about that. The greatest gardening joy for the hybridizer is to see the new seedlings bloom, and the more the merrier.

The meetings of the SJI Board and the Section Meeting at the San Jose Convention of the AIS were, I think, highly successful. One of the decisions at the Board meeting was to have a committee to be concerned with the fostering of a program of Japanese Iris Display Gardens throughout the country. Claire (Mrs. William E.) Barr of San Diego, California, has accepted chairmanship of the new committee. I know she will appreciate hearing from any of you who would like to have your gardens considered for listing as SJI Display Gardens. An article about this new program appears elsewhere in this issue.

It was also decided at the Board meeting to have a committee concerned with the collection of historical materials pertaining to Japanese irises and SJI, and the collection and distribution of printed materials. The chairman of this committee is to be listed as Historian/Librarian. John Coble (already slides chairman) has accepted the chairmanship of this committee.

"Ginny" Burton has mentioned that some plants sent this year for the Summerville SJI convention to be held in 1987 have been so small, or in such poor condition, that it is doubtful that they will bloom. Clearly, it is essential to send vigorous plants of at least three divisions. Indeed, since newly planted J.I.s normally are not at their best until the

second year, I am sure that all who possibly can will send their plants for these conventions at least two years in advance.

I cannot too strongly express my thanks to all my fellow officers, board members, committee chairmen, and the many others who have helped our society during these past two years and have made my tenure as president such a happy one. The future of SJI is assured and bright. This brings my congratulations and warmest good wishes to Don Delmez and his colleagues who will lead us after January 1st.

Best wishes to you all,

Currier McEwen

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## CARE STRAIN JAPANESE IRISES

Currier McEwen

In a recent letter from Anne Blanco White, recent past president of the British Iris Society, and currently, Japanese iris representative of the Siberian, Spuria and Japanese Iris group of BIS, she has recalled the work of the late Max Steiger in the development of Japanese irises that would grow well in soil with pH on the alkaline side. Steiger did this by planting hundreds of seeds in his garden in Germany, where the pH was naturally alkaline, and then crossing in successive generations those seedlings that grew in spite of the adverse conditions. In this way he developed his CARE strain, meaning, calcium resistant. Back in the 1960s, I had a number of these plants which grew well in New York, and subsequently, in Maine. Unfortunately, as the garden grew in size and new, larger beds were made, I rather neglected the older one in which they were, gradually losing them.

Mrs. Blanco White has suggested that Max Steiger's work should be tried again. This appeals to me as an excellent idea. I cannot try this myself, because our soil in Maine is naturally acid, and I write to enquire whether any of our SJI members who, living in areas where the conditions are alkaline, are interested in trying such an experiment. I will gladly provide seeds.



## THE DISPLAY GARDEN PROGRAM

Currier McEwen

As mentioned in the President's Letter, a new program of Display Gardens has been started with Clair Barr in charge. This note of explanation is written to make clear the intent of this new venture. There are two types of gardens of this sort commonly sponsored by plant societies, namely test gardens and display gardens.

Ron Mullin has confirmed the fact that officially, in AIS, a test garden is one designed primarily for purposes of judging. The irises in it are not identified by any name or number which would allow the visitor to know the name or hybridizer of an iris seen. The host of the test garden has responsibility to code the guest plants according to a numbering system. Information regarding the name or seedling number, the hybridizer and the date received, is kept in a record book or card not seen by the judge or other visitor, who can know the plant only by its code number. This, clearly, is the only way garden judging of a plant can be done without possible bias being introduced by knowledge of the hybridizer's name or that of the iris if it has been registered.

In contrast, the primary purpose of a display garden is to provide an opportunity for visitors to see plants, especially newer introductions. It does, of course, also provide a place where plants can be judged. Unfortunately, if the name of the hybridizer is known it is almost inevitable that, consciously or unconsciously, the vote may be to some extent for or against the hybridizer, and not solely on the merits of the flower and plant.

Test gardens are far more difficult to develop and support than display gardens. The new program of SJI is purely of the display type. There are no very rigid rules demanded, since the chief purpose is to ensure that people wishing to see Japanese irises can have access to gardens where they are grown well. Ideally, of course, the garden host must be knowledgeable, and have sufficient interest and space to acquire some of the newer introductions from time to time. It is essential that the plants be accurately labeled with the name or seedling number of the iris on display. The date of acquisition also should be recorded so the visitor can know how well established the individual plants are. Some hosts may wish to also record on the label the hybridizer's name and the date of registration, but others may prefer not to. The host should be able to inform a visitor who wishes to buy a particular plant where it can be obtained.

Claire Barr will be eager to hear from members who wish more information about the program. Her address is: Mrs. William E. Barr, 12565 Cloudesly Drive, Rancho Bernardo, San Diego, California 92128.



## 1986 AIS AWARDS FOR JAPANESE IRIS

Word has been received from ken Waite, AIS Awards Chairman, of the following results in the 1986 voting for awards to Japanese irises:

### PAYNE AWARD

IPSUS (Sterling Innerst) 13 votes

runnersup

FLASHING KOI (Walter Marx) 10 votes  
FRECKLED GEISHA (Lorena Reid) 10 votes

### HONORABLE MENTION

ORIENTAL EYES (Adolph Vogt) 21 votes  
PURPLE MARLIN (Jill Copeland) 14 votes  
LAVENDER SASHAY (W. Marx/A. Rogers) 10 votes

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### JAPANESE IRIS POPULARITY POLL

Virginia Burton

There were only 9 of us who voted for the JI popularity poll. The deadline was Aug. 15th, and I've waited 4 days hoping to get some more. The following were voted as first choice: (all different) Lilac Peaks, Milady's Fan, Icy Peaks, Flying Stag, Prairie Tapestry, Enduring Pink Frost, Blueberry Rimmed, Bejeweled Sea and Shinkai No Iro. For second place (and here again there were almost 9 different ones): Simple Elegance, Strut and Flourish, Bejeweled Sea, Sakura Jishi, Prairie Delight, Periwinkle Pinwheel, Kyokko and Lavender Sashay had 2 votes in 2nd place. For 3rd place-all different: Anytus, Oriental Eyes, Prairie Elite, muffled Drums, Royal Fireworks, Hekito, Frosted Pyramid, Red Camellia and Lilac Peaks.

Veronica Bates sent her list in first, July 2, 1986. Others who voted were Mr and Mrs. C. B. Rowland, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Watson, Don Delmez, Pat Brooks, Art Cronin and myself.

last year's voting percentage on the popularity poll was not outstanding considering all of the JI members who wanted it, but this year is worse. Guess you all forgot!

Editor's note---sorry "Ginny", but I was 3 or 4 days too late myself. Do you suppose it would help us any if we were able to include some form of a ballot in the spring issue? Let me know.

**MINUTES**  
**SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRIS**  
**Board Meeting**  
**April 26, 1986**  
**Red Lion Inn, San Jose, California**

The President called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM. Those in attendance were Currier McEwen (President), Virginia Burton (past President), Adolf Vogt (past President), Don Delmez (Director), Ed Varnum (Director), Robert Bauer (Nominating Committee), John Coble (Slides Chairman), members Jim and Jill Copeland, Art Cronin and James Foreman.

Receiving no objection, the 1985 minutes published in The Review were approved. Carol Warner presented the Treasurer's Report (in abstentia) which was unanimously accepted. As of April 22, the report showed cash on hand of \$6,917.45 of which \$1415.82 was in checking and \$5501.63 in savings accounts. Jim Foreman presented an audit of the books as of April 22, 1986 which showed them to be in good order and correct. It was indicated that the books reflect cash only and the Society has invisible assets in the form of medals and salable literature. The President was encouraged by the cash in savings and requested members donate plants to the Northeast Apogon Auction, the proceeds of which help to support the Society. Plants should be sent to Jan Sachs and Marty Schafer.

**Committee Reports**

**Membership:** Carol Warner reported that the Society has 350 members. New members receive a welcoming letter, culture and sources sheet, and a copy of the last Review. The Board approved the report and expressed regret to Carol over her husband's illness. It was unanimously agreed that subscriptions to The Review could be purchased by interested persons and institutions at a price equal to the membership dues. Ginny Burton raised the question concerning recruitment of youth members. It was agreed to encourage new youth memberships, but not to set up a youth membership committee at this time.

**Nominations:** Director Don Delmez and Vice President William Ackerman have agreed to exchange offices (as published in the Spring 1986 Review). Having received no other nominations, the exchange was approved. In a letter, Dr. Ackerman expressed regret that his consulting duties abroad conflicted with his attendance of Board Meetings. The Nominating Committee expressed its desire to re-instate him as Vice President when these conflicts are resolved in the future.

**By-Laws:** Chairman Don Delmez led a discussion of the current By-Laws which do not reflect present practices of the Society and are in serious need of revision. After a lengthy exchange of ideas, the discussion was tabled for a later time.

**Slides:** Chairman John Coble asked for direction in his new duties. Jim Foreman proposed and Don Delmez seconded that members be charged \$5 and non-members \$7 for each slide set, that the fees collected should be in a separate account, and excess (over costs of shipping) should be used to maintain the slides. John noted that a large collection of Payne slides had been received, many of which are in old mountings which cannot be used in modern projectors. Many of the slides have comments made by Mr. Payne on them as to the accuracy of the color and typical flower form. It was moved by Jim Foreman and seconded by Jill Copeland that \$150 be allocated to the Slides Chairman for copying the Payne and other historical slides. Both motions were unanimously approved.

**Old Business**



**Proposed Book:** Currier McEwen, principal writer and editor of the proposed book on Japanese Iris, outlined the timetable and authors of sections. Those agreeing to write are William Ackerman (American hybridizing), Hirao Suichi (Japanese hybridizing), Robert Oeweneel (History), and Adolph Vogt (Pot Culture). Robert Bauer is chairman of a committee to propose language and terms to describe color patterns and flower form. The tentative schedule of deadlines is:

Sept. 1, 1986: Color slides for illustrations should be in the hands of John Coble, who will forward them to the editor.

Nov. 1, 1986: First draft of all sections of the book.

Jan. 1, 1987: Edited material sent out for comment.

Feb. 1, 1987: Material with comments back to editor.

Currier will confer with George Waters about printer and prices. It is proposed that 2000 copies be printed.

**The Review:** After a discussion of the printing of The Review, it was unanimously agreed to continue the new format, printing, and mailing practices, but suggested that the size of type in the Spring 1986 issue was too small.

#### **New Business**

**Historian-Archivist:** The President pointed out the need for an historian to maintain literature and objects of interest to the Society. It was agreed that the position be appointed by the President and that the position should be somewhat permanent in order to maintain stability and continuity of the collection. John Coble was appointed Historian-Archivist in conjunction with his duties as Slides Chairman.

**Display Gardens:** President McEwen proposed to appoint a committee chairman to promote and list Display Gardens of Japanese Iris. Currier indicated he would try to appoint a chairman who resides on the West Coast.

**JI "Mini-conventions":** The "Special Week-end for Japanese Iris" held in Kalamazoo in 1985 was met with so much enthusiasm that it was proposed at the time to hold these conventions every second year, the next to be held in Summerville, SC in 1987. After some discussion it was agreed that these events could be held annually, provided support for them continues.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM and resumed at 10:00 AM on Sunday, April 27.

After receiving a request to change the stationery letterhead, it was decided to keep the present one until next year because a sufficient quantity is available from Adolph Vogt.

Don Delmez moved and Adolph Vogt seconded that advertising space should be allowed in The Review and that the cost to advertisers should be determined by the Editor. The motion was unanimously approved.

It was decided that back issues of The Review be made available for \$1.50 each. Large quantities should be sold by the Editor at cost of duplication and shipping with a minimum charge of \$.50 per issue. This followed reports that the information available in back issues is so extensive and valuable that it should be made available at reasonable cost.

After more discussion of the by-laws, it was decided that members should send proposals for revisions to Don Delmez and that he present a summary revision at the next Board Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert A. Bauer, Secretary pro tempore



## JAPANESE IRIS SECTION MEETING

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 26, 1986

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. Currier McEwen, at 3 P.M. More than 150 SJI members and guests were present. Dr. McEwen reported briefly on items of business taken up at the meeting of the SJI Board of Directors on April 25th, including the revision of the by-laws now being undertaken by Don Delmez, and the study of the most suitable terms for describing types of flowers and color patterns, being done by Bob Bauer. He reported the appointment of John Coble as Historian, and of a new committee to have responsibility for the development of a display garden program for Japanese irises. Dr. McEwen mentioned progress being made in the preparation of the book on Japanese irises to be published by the Society.

The program for the general portion of the Section Meeting featured presentations with slides by West Coast hybridizers of Japanese irises. Lorena Reid presented slides of her own introductions, including some interesting slides showing seedlings and their parents, and some introductions of the Kamo Nursery in Japan. She also showed slides given to her by Dot Rogers of some of their introductions, as they were unable to attend. Terry Aitkin showed slides illustrating Aitkin selections from their planting of Marx seedlings. The third presentation, by Ben Hager, included introductions of several breeders, and featured those of Jonnye Rich, who had been unable to attend the meeting.

Ginny Burton, Publicity Chairman, had collected the signatures of the people who attended the Section Meeting as they entered. Numbers drawn randomly at the end of the session were matched against numbers opposite the names on Ginny's list for the winners of the Japanese irises offered as door prizes by her, Ensata Gardens, Seaways Gardens, and Adolph Vogt. Mention must be made also of the Japanese iris educational display of posters which had been prepared and brought to the Convention by Ginny Burton.



## SJI OFFICER PROFILES

### Virginia Burton

This is the second in a series of officer profiles prepared by our publicity chairman, "Ginny" Burton.

#### Our SJI Vice-President---DONALD DELMEZ

Our SJI Vice-President, Donald Delmez, was raised in Pittsburg, Kansas. He and his wife Sue moved to St. Charles, Missouri in 1971. Don's interest in iris began in 1962 when his parents gave him some tall bearded iris to plant. He became interested in Japanese iris after visiting the Japanese Gardens at Shaw's Botanical Gardens some eight years ago. Don belongs to the St. Louis Iris Society, was treasurer of the O'Fallon Iris Society for 4 years, is a life member of The Men's Garden Club of America, is past president of, and board member of the St. Charles Men's Garden Club, is a judge for the Men's Garden Club of America and an apprentice judge for AIS. Don has also registered five JI for Dr. Hirao.

In spite of Don's busy schedule, he still had time to help establish the first beardless iris show in the St. Louis Area. The 3rd annual beardless show was held this year at the Missouri Botanical Garden, and his Prairie Tapestry won Queen of The Show.

By profession Don is a tool and die maker, having been in the business for some 30 years. Don's wife, Sue, is a homemaker and an active gardener.

#### Our SJI Secretary---FLORENCE STOUT

Mrs. Stout has been a member of AIS since the early 50's and is an AIS Judge. She is a graduate of Miami University and used to teach in Ohio. She and her husband, who she fondly describes as a "genius", have three grown children and as she also says, she is a grandmother "4 times over".

Florence writes and talks about iris and shows her own slides to various clubs. Her writings include a Handbook for Iris Growers, which is slanted towards iris growers in the Illinois area. The Handbook was sold to over 1000 the first year. This book is being upgraded and a new printing is being made this summer. She was also editor of the Illinois Irisarian. The JI Cumulative Check List was put together by Florence and it is also being updated.

In her "spare" time this busy person does water color paintings of JI and is an active member of the DuPage Art league with over 600 members. Her iris involvement is not only with JI growing, in spite of alkaline soil, but Florence is also in the species study group SIGNA, the Dwarf Iris Society, and is involved with the JI's close companion plant, *hemerocallis*.

What a busy "gal"---Thanks for being part of our JI Society.

## SJI CONVENTIONS

The Editor

The 1985 Japanese Iris Weekend in Kalamazoo was apparently the "Start of Something Big". Since it attracted a large group of SJI members from over a considerable geographic area, and was enjoyed by all, the feeling was expressed that these should become scheduled on a regular basis. At present, plans are for such a gathering every other year. Plans are now under way for meetings in 1987 and 1989. There has been some discussion of calling these meetings "mini-conventions" rather than "JI Weekends", but recently the discussion has turned favorably to the idea of simply billing them as SJI Conventions. If you have thoughts or opinions as to what these events should be called, or how they should be handled, Dr. McEwen would appreciate hearing from you.

Meantime, here is the schedule of SJI Conventions as it now stands:

1987---Summerville, South Carolina, May 29 & 30

1989---Washington D.C. - Baltimore area---either June 17 & 18, or June 24 & 25.

1991---OPEN---The SJI President would welcome an invitation.

In addition to the above scheduled meetings, the Kalamazoo area is considering the possibility of hosting a meeting in 1988. If plans for this go ahead, notice will be given in the spring '87 issue of "The Review".

Plans are well underway in the Summerville area for the 1987 meeting. Guest irises have been planted the past two summers. A schedule of events has been received from "Ginny" Burton, and the information is published here so that members can place it on their calenders and begin making plans. More information will appear in the spring 87 issue of The Review, but that publishing date is quite close to meeting time, thus the advance notice here.

May 29, 1987---Garden visit at C. B. Rowland's in the afternoon.

5pm-7pm 2 hour JI judge's training in the JI Test/Display Garden at 306 E. Doty Ave., Summerville, SC, at the home of Joe and Elsie Grimsley.

7:15 pm Buffet Supper.

May 30, 1987---Breakfast, show entries, bus tour to Col. and Mrs. Knight's in Sumter, lunch, Swan Lake Iris Gardens in Sumter, the Memorial Planting of Japanese irises for Arthur Hazzard and the park bench, speaker, iris auction, show, prizes, supper program, etc.---



The show building is at 101 W. 5th St. S, in Summerville, and is called The Cuthbert Community Building. It is within walking distance of the Hamilton Motel, not fancy but convenient, with restaurants within walking distance. Hamilton Motel, 415 Main St., Summerville, 873-0220. Econolodge, 875-3022 and Holiday Inn, 875-3300, are both located at I-26 and 17A, with the Huddle House right next door (small inexpensive restaurant) and are about 3 miles from the show building and Test/Display Garden.

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## 1985 ADDITIONS TO THE CUMULATIVE CHECKLIST

Florence Stout

**ABUNDANT DISPLAY** (W. Marx by B. Hager, R. 1985) Sdlg. #3. 6P. 40" (102 cm), M. White self; faint orchid-pink styles. Unknown parentage.

**AMETHYST UMBRELLA** (J. Shook, R. 1985) Sdlg. 501-A. 6P. 32" (81 cm), L. Amethyst-violet self, yellow signal; pale violet styles. Akiko x unknown. Shook 1985

**BEYOND THE HORIZON** (J. Shook, R. 1985) Sdlg. S-T-A-3. 6P. 35" (89 cm), M. White self, green signal with chartreuse halo. H-14 x unknown. Shook, 1985.

**BLUSHING GEISHA** (W. Marx, 1978) Stock destroyed, name released 1985.

**CAPRICIAN SYMPHONY** (W. Marx by D. Rogers R. 1985) Sdlg. WM81-A. 3P. 48", M. S. light blue, darkening on edge; F. deep violet-purple, gold signal outlined in clear blue. unknown parentage. Caprice Farm Nursery 1985.

**ENDURING PINK FROST** (W. Ackerman, R. 1981) Bush 1985.

**GARNET ROYALTY** (L. Reid, R. 1984) Laurie's Garden 1984

**GRAPE FIZZ** (W. Ackerman R. 1981) 6P. Bush 1985.

**HEGIRA** (S. Innerst, R. 1985) Sdlg. 1892-1. 6P. 36" (91 cm). M. White, heavily striped deep blue, gold signal; slightly spicy fragrance. 934-1: (Frostbound x Stippled Ripples) x Woodland Brook.

**JANET MIHARA** (S. Dexter, R. 1984) Deming Iris, 1985.

**LASTING PLEASURE** (W. Ackerman, 1981) Bush 1985.

**LAVENDER KRINKLE** (W. Ackerman, R. 1981) Bush 1985.

**LITTLE SNOWBALL** (A. Vogt, R. 1985) Sdlg. Z-2981. 6P. 22" (56 cm), L. Ruffled white, yellow-green (RHS 153B) signal; white styles with light yellow tint. Little Snowman x Ivory Glow.

**LONG DELAY** (J. Shook, R. 1985) Sdlg. 504. 6P. 32" (81 cm), L. White, veined amethyst; gold signal, purple halo; violet styles. Emiko x unknown. Shook 1985.

**MIYANI-YA-KA** (S. Dexter, R. 1984) Deming Iris 1985.

**SHRINE DIVINE** (W. Marx by D. Rogers, R. 1984) Caprice Farm Nursery, 1985.

**SNOW AVALANCHE** (J. Shook, R. 1985) Sdlg. W-301. 6P. 36" (91 cm), L. White self; yellow signal. H-14 x unknown. Shook 1985.

**SPARKLING SAPPHIRE** (A. Vogt, R. 1985) Sdlg. Z-1680. 6P. 27" (69 cm), L. Dark violet-blue (RHS 89A), yellow (14A) signal; violet-blue styles, lighter in center. Blue Nocturne x Oriental Eyes.

**SPRINGTIME SNOW** (L. Reid, R. 1983) Laurie's Garden 1984.

**WINE RUFFLES** (W. Ackerman, R. 1981) Bush 1985.

**WISTERIA SHADOW** (J. Shook, R. 1985) Sdlg. 551-A. 6P. 30" (76 cm), M. S. wisteria-blue, veined white; F. white, pale yellow signal. Sayuri x unknown. Shook 1985.

**YUKI-NO-WADA** (R. Fabel-Ward, R. 1985) Sdlg. E(BW)01-79. 3P. 36" (91 cm), M-L. Milk white self, small yellow signal. I. ensata x I. ensata.

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## AN SJI HISTORIAN-ARCHIVIST

John Coble

SJI has approved a new position of Historian-Archivist. I have agreed to accept the position in conjunction with Slides Chairman. We have begun to collect some material of historical significance, primarily in the property of slides of cultivars that are now extinct---lost from all gardens and commerce. I will conduct a "search" mission in the near future for cultivars thought to be extinct. Do you grow some oldies?

It is now relevant to collect catalogs and listings of Japanese iris in commerce, both historical and current. We are now in search of any (or copies of) Childs, Payne, or Marx catalogs. Are there others that you've heard about that I should be seeking? The hybridizer's catalogs often contain more descriptive and pertinent information on cultivars than that formally written for Registration books. The catalogs are of historical significance, and their contents can add informative comments to be included with our slides programs.

Lets collect the material NOW. Please volunteer any knowledge you have of these materials to me this winter: Save me and SJI the extra letter writing and postage of a slow search. This material will be listed in the future and available for rental-use (for postage) by SJI members; much of it can be used as support material with an SJI slide set to present a more complete JI program.

We currently have a set of the color Kamo Nursery posters that supplement their current catalogs. And we have the book, The Japanese Iris, from Japan. I hope to have enough material to list in the spring REVIEW; until then, please write to me with your interests and lists.

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#### OUR SJI SLIDE PROGRAM John Coble

We currently have one slide program made up for rental (\$5). It is a general survey and introduction to Japanese iris and their hybridizers and cultivars; it contains 101 slides. The wild form of I. ensata is shown in Japan with several modern cultivars by Japanese hybridizers. Then the cultivars are presented by American hybridizers from Hallock (1893) through Payne, Marx, Hazzard, Maddocks, Worley, Swearengen, Vogt, Rich, McEwen, Innerst, Ackerman, and Copeland. Slides of landscape use of Japanese iris are inserted and slides of South Carolina and Michigan gardens are included.

Please.....I would like to recieve, and include in the program above, slides of other area gardens. Hybridizers....please send me slides of your newest introductions. I have received none in two years!

I am willing to make a second, special slide program on the iris of Arlie Payne; primarily of his own personal slides, for rental by clubs or for personal viewing by SJI members. Please feel free to request these special slides: they are part of our slide collection and historical material collection, for use by SJI members (not just storage).



## JAPANESE IRIS SHOW REPORTS

Reports have been received about four Japanese or late beardless iris shows held in the U.S. this year. Congratulations to each of the four areas for successfully sponsoring such a show, and to all the winners. Here are the four reports.

### SUMMERVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Virginia Burton

The Summerville Iris Society, in cooperation with AIS, presented their 7th JI show on May 30/31, 1986. Included in the event were a bus tour and 2 hours of judge's training on Japanese irises.

I'm beginning to think hail storms and JI shows go hand in hand. This was the smallest show we have had so far, due to a hail storm the night before. I guess we could have brought in some battered stalks to make the 20 required registered JI, but true to our usual way of doing things we brought in the best we had left---waite until next year! But, we had the best and biggest group ever.

Adolph Vogt did his usual super job in guiding some 40 plus JI interested folks through the 2 hours of judge's training. Dr. W.L. Ackerman, Walter McGee, Hugh Knight, Shirley Paquet, and other knowledgeable irisarians helped to make it a very interesting 2 hours.

Pat Brooks and Sylvia Niedrich, co-chairmen, with the help of all of our members, put on a buffet supper that was enjoyed by all. At the close of our registration date line we had 25 registered, so---ordered a small bus. A few days later we were up to 35, so ordered a medium size bus. Reservations still kept coming in so we ordered a coach. My fellow co-workers did a super job with the buffet, considering that each time we changed bus sizes we had to change the amount of food each was to bring, plus notify the gardens that were serving lunch, etc.

Milady's Fan won Best of Show. There were three that had to be point scored in order to come up with Best of Show. Joe Watson's Lavender Sashay, my LeCordon Bleu and Milady's Fan. Betty Black won her first blue ribbon in the JI seedling division with BB-1. C.B. Rowland won the J.B. Hale Plaque for the best seedling in the show with his R-1234. Pat Brooks won a first with a species iris, *I. brevicaulis*.

The division "Companion Plants for JI" has become a very interesting part of our show, as many irisarians wonder what is in bloom at JI time, and what will take acid to nearly acid type soil. Betty Black won 18 firsts and the Orange Rosette for Best Specimen in this division. This division is judged by Federated Garden Club judges and ribbons do not

count in the iris show report. Francis Thompson won 14 first and Sonia Schneider, our bus captain won 10 first in this division. Betty won 2 firsts in the design division and Best of Show. Others winning first in this division were Greta Ballard, Barbara Mitchum and Jeanette McKoy won her first blue ribbon in the Novice class.

Saturday evening Dr. Ackerman spoke and showed slides of JI. Bill is working to get better substance in JI, lower JIs for perennial borders, new pinks, etc. Many of us asked when some of the JI in the slide program would be available---they were beautiful. It was great to have Adolph and Bill with us. Neither is afraid of work. Bill even helped with entries in the Companion Plants for JI!

The auction, with Harry Turner and Ralph Bullard as auctioneers, was fun, and brought us in \$171.75.

Our 1987 date has been set for May 29/30. Betty Black is show chairman, Barbara Mitchum is co-chairman. Sonia Schneider is bus captain. Virginia Rowland has offered to do our SIS quarterly newsletter. Our SIS fall schedule is: Sept. 17, iris terms, dividing iris and study show schedules; Oct. 15, design workshop, slides of our JI show and flower designs using JI; Nov. 19, JI culture, each do an educational exhibit and convention slides; Dec. 17, Christmas Party and exchange gifts; Jan. 21, 1987 Edisto Beach Party to discuss our JI week end and our part in the 1992 AIS Convention.

SIS also has 4 new AIS youth members who are doing a JI project at a church in N. Charleston, South Carolina.

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## ST. LOUIS, MISSOURIE

Sue Delmez

The St. Louis Iris Society presented its 3rd annual Beardless Show, June 8th, at the Ridgeway Center, Missouri Botatanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri. There were 89 horticulture specimens and 20 artistic entries judged by American iris Society judges. Winners are as follows:

Queen of the Show "Prairie Tapestry", exhibited by Donald Delmez. 1st Runner up, "Simple Elegance", shown by Roy Bohrer. Best Specimen by a novice, "Mystic Bubah", shown by Vince Bitzer. Novice Sweepstakes, won by Vince Bitzer. Best seedling, "35-B", won by Marie Dienstbach. A special Educational Award was presented to Jim Morris. The Silver Medal was awarded to Roy Bohrer for the most blue ribbons. Donald Delmez won the Bronze Medal. In the artistic division, Vince Italian won the Best Design. Artistic Sweepstakes award went to Sue Delmez.

This was a very good year for showing Japanese iris. In spite of the early booking, a week to two weeks early, because of the early season it came about at peak bloom for the Japanese iris, thus making it a totally Japanese iris show.

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#### WASHINGTON, D.C.

Clarence Mahan

June 29, 1986, was AN HISTORIC DATE FOR REGION 4! The Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society and the Francis Scott Key iris Society joined to hold a Beardless Iris Show at the National Arboretum in Washington, D. C. This was the first ever, beardless show in Region 4, and thanks to many wonderful irisarians in both societies, and Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Innerst and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Griffie of Pennsylvania, who came all the way down to bring entries, the show was a great success. Miss Delia Bankhead of Great Falls, Virginia, was the show chairman and Carol Warner of upperco, Maryland, was co-chairman.

Nine exhibitors entered 56 stalks (JI, SI and seedlings). The JI, DANCING WAVES, shown by Clarence Mahan, won Queen. William Ackerman's JI seedling A-3 (6-22) won Best Seedling. Carol Warner won the Silver Medal, and Clarence Mahan won the Bronze. There were many outstanding Japanese iris seedlings entered in this show, and judges in attendance voted to give many Exhibition Certificates. Hybridizers whose seedlings won EC's included Dr. William Ackerman, Sterling Innerst, and Wyatt LeFever.

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#### KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Leland Welsh

Because of a very early season, it was feared there would be no blooms left for the Kalamazoo area's 12th Japanese iris show. However, when all was in place on July 5, 1986, the show was, though a little small, of very high quality. Staging occurred around the fountain at the "Crossroads", a large shopping mall in Portage, Michigan. Co-chairmen for the event were Carl and Mabel Bacon.

Fourteen exhibitors entered a total of 50 horticultural entries (48 Japanese and 2 Siberian) representing 43 cultivars, 31 seedlings by Michigan hybridizers, and 17 arrangements in the artistic division interpreting classes based on the overall theme "Good Feelings".



Gay Gallant, exhibited by Ensata Gardens took Queen of the Show. The five irises in the queen's court were: Prairie Ivory, Hagaroma, Prairie Mantle, Lace Ruff, Prairie Bliss and Prairie Frost, all exhibited by Ensata Gardens. Naturally, Ensata Gardens took the Silver Medal. The Bronze Medal was awarded to Carl and Mabel Bacon. Best seedling was #600 by Arthur Hazzard and exhibited by Anna Mae Miller. Bernard Jones won the best of show rosette in the artistic division and the artistic sweepstakes.

The show was greatly enhanced with an Ikibana exhibition staged by The Sogetsu School Michigan Branch. Demonstrations at two intervals during the afternoon by Sylvia Wong, Sogetsu instructor, third level, were well attended and much enjoyed. A Bronze Certificate for an educational exhibit was awarded to Mrs. Wong for this display.

Out of town visitors included Don and Sue Delmez of St. Charles, Misourie, and John and Carolee Clay of Madison, Wisconsin.

The date for the Kalamazoo area's 1987 show has been set at June 27th to avoid the July 4th holiday. Since this will be slightly early, we need to hope for a corresponding season.

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#### 1986 NORTHEAST APOGON AUCTION

Our treasurer, Carol Warner, reports that the Northeast Apogon Auction, held this summer at Concord, Massachussetts, has sent a check to SJI for 1300.00 dollars. This represents proceeds from Japanese irises sold at the auction. The Society for Japanese Irises greatly appreciates this contribution from the Northeast Apogon group. We especially wish to thank all of those who donated plants for the auction, making such a successful event possible.

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## THE JAPANESE IRIS SHOW

Leland M. Welsh

One of the best ways for introducing the general public to the beauty of Japanese irises is by holding a Japanese iris show. The first known Japanese iris show in the United States, and probably the world (for judged specimens), was staged at Kalamazoo, Michigan, on July 6, 1963 by the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society. This was repeated in 1964, 1968, and again in 1977, after which it became an annual event. A total of twelve have now been held. Since then, shows for Japanese irises, or for late irises timed so as to include some Japanese, have been held at several locations, some of them becoming annual events. At least 5 such shows were known to be held in 1986.

In setting the time for your show, if it is to be an all Japanese iris show set the date for expected peak bloom. Areas where other late irises normally bloom so as to somewhat overlap in bloom time, may wish to have a late iris show, setting the date so as to hopefully catch some bloom of several types. When it becomes a choice between a slightly early or slightly late date for your area, the earlier date is probably preferable. If the season is late, there will likely be other irises in bloom on the earlier date, but if the season is early all may be gone by the later date, and you will have missed the iris boat. AIS rules should be followed for an accredited show, the same as for any other iris show.

Usually, the Japanese iris show is relatively small compared to the tall bearded shows, but makes up for its lack of size through novelty and beauty. It is a considerable help to include an artistic arrangement division. Flower arrangers especially enjoy working with the Japanese iris, and with a little effort in publicity, a good number of garden club members may enter the competition. If any growers in the area have sufficient quantities of Japanese irises, it is advisable to make blooms available for use by arrangers, who may not have them in their own garden. The schedule of arrangement classes may be as diverse and interpretive as you wish for the level of arranger's skills in your area, but it is a good idea to encourage the use of, or at least to include some classes to be done in, the Japanese manner of arranging. Using the Japanese manner of arranging not only is a natural for Japanese irises, but it usually requires fewer blooms than the more massive arrangements of western style. Modern or contemporary line arrangements also work very well.

If there is an Ikebana group in your area, or one of the schools of Japanese arranging such as a Sogetsu school, it is especially helpful if they will stage an exhibition in conjunction with your show. This adds both size and interest to the show, and the two displays are by nature compatible. The number of flowers required and the versatility usually desired by the exhibiting group means that many flowers other



than iris will probably be used, but a few Japanese iris blooms should be made available to the group for use. This helps to create a unity in the overall display and further emphasises possible uses of Japanese irises. Interest may be further heightened if one or more of the Ikebana members can give demonstrations in flower arranging at specified times during the day.

In staging and judging the horticultural specimens, we need to keep in mind a few points unique to this type of show. Since most Japanese irises are fairly long stemmed, and the bloom faces upward, if at all possible, the show should be staged on low tables, benches, or ledges. It is disconcerting to the viewer and the judges to be looking up at the underside of a tall stemmed bloom staged on a normal height table. It may be possible to cut some stem off, but this may affect proportion. Since it is normal for some to grow tall, and judging should be based on how well the iris is grown for its variety, cutting much off the stem is usually not desirable. Containers should be of sufficient height and size to work well with the iris. The diameter of the container opening should not be too large, as stems are slender, and a large opening needs too much wedging to hold the stems firmly vertical.

Japanese irises naturally look well near water. If the show is in a shopping mall or other facility where a pool or fountain is part of the decor, see if it can be used to advantage as a backdrop for your display.

Another idea sometimes used for increasing the size and interest of a show is to include a division for companion plants. This emphasizes plants which bloom at the same time as Japanese irises and will work well with them in perennial plantings. Also included may be background or groundcover plants.

It is important to have judges who are familiar with Japanese irises. In judging the Japanese iris it should be remembered that after opening they are constantly changing. On the second day the color will usually be a little lighter than when first opened, the size will usually have increased, and sometimes form will change noticeably. If condition and substance is still good, the second day flower is to be considered just as typical, and as good a specimen, as the first day bloom. It is desirable to stage the show as a "cultivar" show, as most other iris shows are now done. This means that each variety is judged as a separate class and is judged according to a standard of perfection for that particular variety.

If the show is staged in a heavily trafficked public place, you will frequently hear comments such as, "I didn't know such irises existed", and "aren't they beautiful". In Kalamazoo, the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society annually holds a rhizome sale. After a Japanese iris show there are requests for Japanese irises at the sale. A show does help to increase awareness and interest in Japanese irises.



## FOUND IN THE ATTIC

The Storrs & Harrison Company, Painesville, Ohio  
Spring 1897 Catalog

"IRIS KAEMPFERI--(Japan Iris)- Finest of all the Iris family. The flowers are of immense size, from 6 to 8 inches in diameter, and of the most beautiful and delicate shades. They are perfectly hardy, and flower in great profusion during June and July. A well established plant gives a dozen or more flower stalks 2 to 3 feet high, each stalk producing 2 to 4 enormous blooms. The Iris thrives best if planted in a moist soil; if this cannot be had, should be plentifully supplied with water while growing and flowering. All the varieties offered are double-flowered."

BLUE DANUBE. Deep indigo blue, violet shading yellow center; extra fine

OTHELO. Rich deep purple.

GOLD BOUND. Large, pure white with gold rayed center.

MOUNT HOOD. Deep purplish violet, yellow center.

J. C. VAUGHAN. Fine large, pure white flower, with golden rayed center.

TEMPLETON. Light violet, mottled reddish pink and white.

15¢ each; 4 for 50¢

Finest Mixed double varieties, 10¢, 3 for 25¢.

Editor's note: The above was submitted by John Coble.

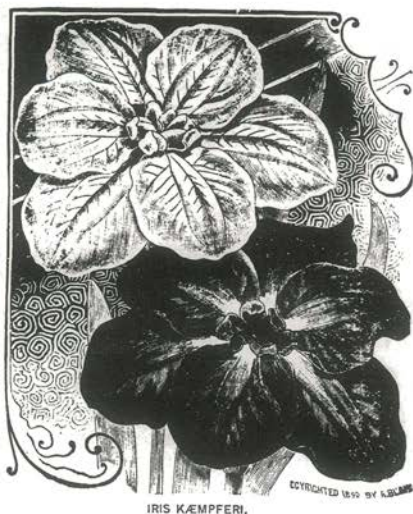


Illustration  
from 1897  
catalog.

## LANDSCAPING WITH JAPANESE IRIS

Virginia Burton

Landscaping is the art of organizing exterior space by working from a plan. Good landscaping increases the value of one's property, fulfills the family's requirements, increases their enjoyment, and provides a pleasant view for the neighbors and the public. The basic principles of landscape design all must be applied. These principles are: unity, balance, proportion, scale, accent, and focalization. The basic planting design includes form, color, texture, motion and rhythm. With landscaping, as with any gardening, comes maintenance, which includes pruning, training, weeding, feeding, pest and disease control.

When landscaping, one should take inventory of your site as to its existing conditions. Include such items as the soil's pH, sun exposure, trees, water, one's way of life (how much time you have to do this project, and to maintain it) and one's budget.

Before putting your plans on paper, ask some questions of your neighbors, and of your town's board. Know the following: 1. restrictions in your locality as to height of trees and shrubs, 2. how close to streets and drives can shrubs be planted, 3. the eventual height of a tree or shrub being considered, because this cute little shrub of 2' may grow to 30' and be flirting with utility wires, which is disastrous, 4. what kind of a root system does this plant have and is it one that disrupts underground pipes, and lastly, 5. if you are putting up a fence is there a restriction as to its height or location. Plants growing well at your neighbors may give you a key as to what will do well in your yard.

Next, know the height, color and bloom season of the perennials, including Japanese irises, you plan to use before putting them in a permanent flower bed in your landscape plan. One does not want a 40" JI in front of a 20" companion plant. If the plants are not in scale, colors combined skillfully and the sequence of bloom properly arranged first, the finished effect is destroyed. Do provide adequate space between clumps of JI and perennials as they, hopefully, are not going to remain that neat little clump of 3 or 4 stalks. If that space is not provided, one will find at the end of the 2nd or 3rd year the stems and stalks are intermingled and the entire effect is lost.

Most of us know the rules that apply wherever Japanese iris are grown in a perennial bed. The rules are: at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day of sunshine, a soil pH of 5.5 to 6.5, sanitation, and extra water prior to and during the bloom season. They also like hedges or some type of sheltering background to protect them from heavy winds. Some filtered shade in the afternoon, here in the Southeast, will also be appreciated by the light delicate colored JI.

Now you are ready to start mapping out your grounds and house into one unit, with a preconceived idea of the finished project. An informal garden will take naturalistic free flowing curved lines and drifts. The formal garden will be straight lines and paths. The materials and tools to map your



proposed garden on existing property are: graph paper, pencil with a good eraser, ruler, colored pencils, tape measure, compass and notebook. Next show the North point on the graph paper, your boundary lines, house/garage/other existing buildings, driveway, walks, existing fences/hedges and trees. Next, with a dark green pencil mark in heavily shaded areas. Color light green the areas that have light shade. Color yellow the areas with 6 or more hours of sun. Use your red pencil to indicate areas you would like to screen out. Permanent trees can be marked with a circle and a dot in the center.

Japanese iris go well with water features in the garden as they provide aesthetic and psychological aspects. It can be as simple as a birdbath with JI planted around it. The changing of the water each day plus the splashing out of water as the birds bathe makes it an ideal area for JI. A child's wading pool with several JI plants in containers, and a low edging of lirope or spreading evergreens, could also create a water feature in your garden. I've seen discarded bath tubs with JI growing in them and perennials growing around the tub. I have used 55 gallon drums, split lengthwise, with water in them to grow 3 gallon containers of JI. These  $\frac{1}{2}$  drums can be sunk into the ground so that their tops are at soil level. JIs that are grown in portable containers can be moved to a terrace or patio for special functions or to temporarily relate one's house to the remaining grounds and JI beds. Recirculating water fountains are another area in which to grow JI.

Garden accessories such as furniture, ceramics, sculpture and garden lighting could all be in the Japanese manner.

For sheer color and a spectacular display in the garden, there is no perennial that compares with a Japanese iris. Its main flowering season is between May 7 and the last of July. At this time the JI garden will be the most colorful. The tall, green ribbed, sword-like foliage will give contrast height and strength in any garden. They will fill in after all of the spring bulbs have finished blooming and continue to add color up until late fall. Any garden large or small, formal or informal, will benefit from the judicious use of JI, particularly when varieties of more than one type, color, height and time of bloom are used.

Japanese iris look better in groupings rather than like soldiers all in a row. Beds of solid colors make an impressive sight and show up well in pictures. Used in groups of 3-5 plants they are often used to define a path, soften a foundation line or in a border along the contour line of a lawn. Infinite variations of mixed color patterns in a garden might include striped, marbled, vined and solids. These iris can also be used to define the geometric pattern of your vegetable garden. For unity, blend the different solid colored JI together by using the creamy whites and yellows. For accent and emphasis place here and there a clump of maroons and blues. White JI against a background of evergreen shrubs could be the main feature of a small garden. Try an informal group planting of these iris along a serpentine walk to add interest to that walk. These "flying saucers" of the iris world, with their rich velvety colors and grace of form, are irresistible to a number of us. Either alone or combined with perennials, JI add greatly to a garden's interest.



Some plants and perennials to use with JI are: for background---dogwood, tulip tree, flowering cherry, Japanese maple, fringe tree, silverbell, magnolia and evergreens; for a medium tall background--use shrubs like azalea, blueberries, shadbush, viburnums, mountain laurel, leucothoe, daphne, andromeda, yews, forsythia, nandina and gardenia; next in height one could plant hemerocallis, chrysanthemums, and astilbe; next lower could be coralbells, shasta daisies, sweet william and drummond phlox; and for low edging plants one might use low pinks, ajuga, sweet alyssum, dwarf marigolds and candytuft.

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## PINK FLOWER COLOR IN JAPANESE IRIS

William L. Ackerman and Susan E. Bentz<sup>1</sup>

True pink flowered Japanese irises have long been sought by hybridizers. Perhaps the greatest progress in this direction has been made by Dr. Koji Tomino, of Kyoto, Japan. Yet, a reasonable degree of progress has been made in the U.S. during the past decade. Most 'so called' pinks are contaminated with various traces of lavender or purple. Eliminating these last tinges of unwanted pigment has been no easy task, and even the best of our attempts have not been completely successful. In this article we will call these "off-pinks". Also, what appears perfectly pink to some eyes, is not actually pure to more discerning eyes. I have found that among friends that help judge flower color, and even though we use color charts for comparison, there is perhaps more disagreement on this one JI characteristic than any other (unless it is at the other end of the JI color spectrum - determining the presence of pure blues).

Why do we have so much trouble in getting true pink flowered JI's? An over-simplified explanation is that pink (and red) is genetically recessive to purple (and lavender) and even when present tends to be masked by the latter pigment. Although this may be partly correct, it is an incomplete answer. As the old saying goes: there is more here than meets the eye.

If it were a simple case of a dominant-recessive relationship between the genes for these pigments, then a breeder would merely need to make a series of crosses between two parents of "off-pink" flower color (or self one parent) and grow out a large population. He could then (theoretically) expect to get one true pink (homozygous recessive) in either every four, sixteen, or sixty-four seedlings, depending on whether there were one, two, or three sets of genes, respectively, involved.

<sup>1</sup> Research Horticulturist (retired) and Horticulturist, respectively, U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC.

Our own experiments indicate that none of the above applies. It just does not seem to work out that way. So---there must be some other explanation for this genetic phenomenon. Two possible alternate explanations come to mind. First, some explanation of the underlying factors of each.

The expression of genetic characteristics basically falls into two groups: qualitative and quantitative characters. Qualitative characters are discontinuous in expression, that is, each character may be sharply divided into two or more clearly distinct classes. Thus, color of eyes, hair, feathers, or flowers, or the presence or absence of some feature are normally considered qualitative. These characters are controlled by a limited number (usually one to three sets) of genes. Quantitative characters, on the other hand, are continuous in expression, that is, the characters cannot be divided into clearly distinct classes. The most frequently cited example of this form of inheritance is the size of an organism---small, medium, large, etc. These characters are normally controlled by multiple series of interacting sets of genes.

We tend to think of flower color as a qualitative character, and in many plants it is. Among the JI's, a flower appears to be either white, pinkish, reddish, lavender, purple, mauve, violet, or bluish (we have yellow only in the signal). Any artist will tell you that except for the primary colors, red, blue, and yellow, all of the other colors are blends of two or more of the primary pigments. This still does not mean that flower color in JI is not a qualitative character, although all our efforts during the past several years thus far indicate otherwise. Simply, there do not appear to be any clearly distinct classes, i.e., there are 'so-called' pinks, lavenders, and purples, etc., but we find many examples of gradations in blends between these arbitrary classes. Thus, what is a true pink, lavender, or purple? Many individuals are really none of these, but fall somewhere in between. Thus, flower color in JI rather than being a qualitative character as we long assumed, is actually a quantitative character, and to determine the fundamentals of its inheritance is going to be extremely difficult.

If pink flower color (or any other desired color present in JI's) is dependent upon an accumulation of the proper combination of multiple sets of genes, (there could be a dozen or more), then a procedure of controlled crosses and selection through several generations should be a logical approach. If this were the full extent of the problem then patience and time would eventually result in true pink flowered individuals. This does not appear to be the case.

A further problem is that pink is masked when in the presence of any of the darker pigments. Thus, the solution would be to accumulate gene(s) for pink (or red) pigmentation while eliminating all the gene expressions for darker pigments. Easier said than done. There is still another explanation that could further complicate things. (At this point, if you are still with us, we are sure your saying, "Heavens, what more do we need!").



The second complication is that of genetic linkage - which for the breeder can be either an advantage or a disadvantage, as the particular situation exists. In the case of the search for true pinks, I am afraid it is the latter. Genetic linkage occurs where certain genes are localized close together on the same chromosome, thus forming what is called a linkage group and are most often transmitted to the offspring as a unit. Thus, if the gene(s) for pink color lie very close to the gene(s) for purple, they would pass on to the seedlings as a unit. Where a seedling had one character in the gene set it would also have the other. However, during the process of ovum and pollen formation, homologous chromosomes do break and exchange parts (called crossing over). If the breaking point happened between the linked genes (in this case, the pink and purple genes), then that linkage group may be broken. It stands to reason that the closer two genes are to each other on a chromosome, the less likely the chromosome is going to break between them and have crossing over at that particular point. Basically, this is one of nature's major processes for making new genetic combinations from which we get variability within a species and development of new species. As variable as JI's are, it is obvious that there has been plenty of this crossing over going on through the centuries. Another source of variability is through mutations - frequently caused by irradiation, both natural and man made. Here, individual genes may be altered resulting in a change in their expression.

Now, the question is, do we have enough evidence to suggest just what is going on among our JI's regarding the inheritance of pink flower color? At this point it is difficult to zero in on the specific phenomenon, but we can certainly narrow down the possibilities. We will first proceed by a process of elimination.

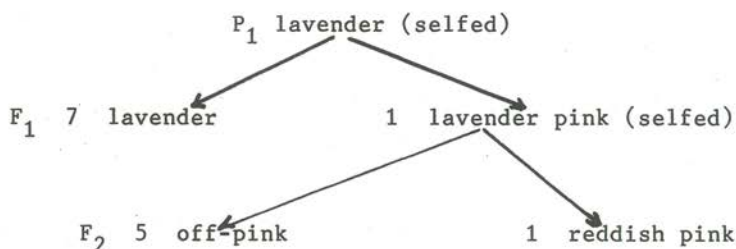
A study of controlled crosses among parents carrying some pink (or red) flower pigmentation show rather interesting relationships. Among 242 progeny of pinkish-violet flowered parents selfed, there were 24 (10%) with off-pink flowers. Among 241 progeny of pinkish-purple flowered parents selfed there were 34 (14%) with off-pink flowers. Among 98 progeny of off-pink flowered parents there were only 4 (4%) with off-pink flowers. The other 94 progeny of the last group ranged toward the darker pigments of the F parents. Ironically, the 4% off-pink flowers in the last group were no closer to our goal than those of the other two groups.

What does the above prove? First, it indicates that the gene(s) for pink flower color is (are) not recessive to the darker pigments although definitely masked to varying degrees when in their presence. If pink were recessive, then each pair of genes would be homozygous for pink and would be stable in progeny from selfed parents. Under these conditions, off-pinks selfed would certainly not be expected to produce 96% of their progeny reverting to darker colored flowers.



The fact that little real progress was made toward more true pinks indicates something blocking our going beyond a certain stage of contaminated pink. The best of our off-pink progeny was named and released as the cultivar 'Pink Bunny'. Although it was the closest we had come (in a good quality flower) at that time, it still has a trace of lavender in it. The stumbling block is most likely genetic linkage between at least certain pink gene(s) and the genes for darker pigments. It would seem that only time, persistence, and luck are likely to resolve the matter. We have very little (if any) control over the cross-over mechanism. X-ray and gamma ray irradiation do cause chromosome breakage and crossing over, but it is strictly a shotgun method, there being no control of where the breakage occurs.

Fortunately, mother nature has recently been kind and rewarded our persistence. An apparent cross-over at the right place resulted in the elimination of a significant amount of the unwanted pigment contamination within one breeding line. A far less likely possibility was that a spontaneous mutation occurred to neutralize the contaminate pigment gene. Interestingly, it occurred within a very small population of a single cross, not in the mainstream of our search for true pinks. Tracing back the parentage of this particular cross follows:



The reddish pink F<sub>2</sub> seedling flowered in 1984 and 1985 (as did the 5 other F<sub>2</sub>'s) and was uniform in its clear reddish pink color. This is now under propagation for increase and hopefully, in 1987, will be selfed and the progeny evaluated. We also expect to use some of the pollen on our best whites.

## A VISIT TO ADOLPH'S GARDEN

Anna Mae Miller

With only two Japanese iris seedlings in bloom on a cool June 13th, Jim and Jill Copeland with Ron and Anna Mae Miller, had a pleasant, conversation filled, drive from Kalamazoo to Louisville, KY. We found Adolph Vogt's garden at peak bloom for Japanese iris. What a sight for JI fanciers. We arrived about 4 pm and spent the early evening viewing the JI's. The iris are located behind Adolph's house and lawn. The first sight were the "kiddie pools" with the potted Japanese iris plants. These act as a hospital where he gives a few plants that are not performing well an extra boost by potting them in soil, enriched with composted cow manure, and places them in 2-3" of water in the pools. (A method which Adolph has developed, written and spoken about many times.) Most were looking good and many had typical blooms. Next came the rows of vegetables with a Hav-A-Heart trap set for the rabbits [which had trimmed half of his Lilac Peaks (R. 81) to the ground earlier]. There were aluminum foil pans tied to stakes to scare creatures. Now came the three long (app. 150' x 4' wide) rows, planted in blocks of 3 iris approximately 18" apart. The individual plants are placed in holes about 6" deep after planting, (the posthole auger was leaning against a tree). Where stock allows, there are 3-6 plants of a variety, and each year the best plant is dug, divided and replanted, thereby providing him with vigorous stock at all times. There is a good collection of Payne and Hazzard varieties, as well as from some of the current hybridizers.

Adolph's own originations in bloom were: LILAC PEAKS (R. 81) was almost finished blooming; SPARKLING SAPPHIRE (R. 85) a glowing blue double that puts up late stalks to extend the season (one of Anna Mae's favorites); LITTLE SNOWBALL (R. 85) a miniature, about 18", a late white double, was a "little gem" and would be a good addition to anyone's garden foreground; LITTLE SNOWMAN (R. 81) a large white double at about 36" was especially beautiful. Both of the last two plants were performing very well and will extend the Japanese iris bloom season. We liked the following of Adolph's seedlings: Z-20-78, an outstanding large red single with overlapping petals with white veins and white StA (style arms) edged in red; F-16-71, a miniature pink-lavender double at about 15" is very attractive; F 8-71, a white double miniature with a few blue veins from the yellow signal, and has lavender StA; C 25-73, a white double with creamy yellow StA, of good substance.

Adolph has a number of Japanese imports, which he has been acquiring over the past few years. The trouble is, plants from Japan are sent in either November or early March, and they are hard to handle at those times of the year. We liked the following: ARASHI-YAMA (Wuthering heights) (Hirao), a white single splashed with red-violet; AKATSUKI-NO-UMI (Daybreak of Ocean) (Hirao), a white single with wide overlapping falls, a very small red-violet flush on the falls,

which was Jill's favorite of the garden; BENI-RENGE (Red Lotus) (Hirao) white 9 petal sanded red-violet; CHIDORI (Crowding Plover) (Hirao) a white 9 petal, sanded blue; CHIGOSUGATA (Festival Boy) (Hirao) blue with white veins and StA that are really up in the air; CHIHAYAYO, a blue violet double sanded white was tall with 1 branch and good foliage; HAR-NO-OME (Spring Mist), a very blue double, with 2 branches and tall green foliage; ISO-NO-ASAKASE (Hirao) purple double with white halo and white StA tipped purple; MIZUHO-NO-KUNI (Pride of Japan) (Hirao) 6 petal violet with very large white StA tipped mulberry purple; NIC-UHO-NO-KURI ? a violet double veined white with white StA tipped violet, had large flowers on a short plant; SHIN-ASAHI-NO-YUKI, a white 9 petal, sanded with red-violet; SOKA-NO-KAORI (Blue Mist) (Mitsuda), a white double, heavily and evenly sanded with violet; UKINEDORE (Sleeping Swan) (Hirao), a white single with 2 branches, was very nice; TAMATSUSHIMA (Hirao), white single with overlapping falls sanded blue, the standards edged with violet, has 2 branches.

Other irises we felt to be notable were: ROSE ADAGIO (Payne 68), a white 9 petal, heavily sanded with red-violet; DARK INTRIGUE (McEwen) a very velvety wine overlaid on white, with a white edge, one of Anna Mae's choices; NOCTURNAL SHADOW (Payne 68) opens navy blue, velvety, fades a little but is a beauty; SILVER CASCADE (Payne 66) a blue double, veined white, with StA tipped blue; MILADY'S FAN (Payne 68) violet veined blue, with white StA; MIST 'O MORN (Payne 66) white double sanded and veined with light blue; IVORY GLOW (Payne 52) white double with creamy yellow StA.

After checking in the motel and reading the Chamber of Commerce propaganda we decided to eat at Mama Grasanti's, where we watched the pasta being made, and Jim experienced Banana Nut Bread (in a glass) and all had marvelous meals.

Saturday morning we went back to Adolph's garden with sunny, warmer weather and lovely bloom, with most of the iris from yesterday still good, and a few new iris opening. THE GREAT MOGUL (Payne 57) was on a short plant and needing to develop its size, a nice Ackerman seedling D4-8-48, also needing to develop, a white 6 petal with purple veins.

An Indiana group was to arrive by bus from Indianapolis after noon. We decided not to wait, but watched for them on the way home. After counting 13 tour busses we felt sorry for Adolph's garden.



## THE INDIANA TOUR TO ADOLPH VOGT'S GARDEN

Art Cronin

Editor's note: This article was just received, and is included here, next to Mrs. Miller's article, for a comparative viewpoint.

Over a year ago, friends in the Indianapolis Daylily-Iris Society told us their group was planning a bus trip to Adolph Vogt's garden in Louisville, Kentucky, during the spring, 1986 Japanese iris season. I was immediately interested, since I had several times asked Adolph for directions to his garden but, being a country boy, was hesitant to leave the freeway and chance getting lost in the big city. I knew Adolph from apprentice judging at Kalamazoo's Japanese show, learning from him and Currier McEwen. I also knew of Adolph's many activities working to make Japanese iris more popular and leading and supporting the Society for Japanese Irises. His generosity in contributing seed to anyone who would grow them and plants as door prizes and at auctions is well known. A year ago when we won Oriental Eyes as a door prize, we received several additional varieties, not just that one.

While on our way to California for the Convention, our daughter-in-law informed us by phone that the Region 6 Newsletter had arrived with details of the tour, and she had made reservations for us. At the San Jose convention, Adolph was fretting---what could he do with bus loads of people in his "small garden". It turned out not to be so small, and the iris, wading pools and shade trees entertained us well.

Friday, June 13th, My wife, Lorena, and I left Roscommon, Michigan, and drove to the Norricks near Muncie, Indiana (we contend we were the visitors from the farthest away). That way we were able to ride with Jack and Glenda to meet the buses in Indianapolis and avoid getting lost there, as some did. There were two buses, holding a total of about 60 people which included 15 judges (Adolph should have gotten some H.C.'s out of that gang). Unfortunately, some Michigan people went to the wrong bus meeting place and had to drive their cars on to Louisville. Also, some Indiana and Illinois irisarians found it closer to drive to Louisville, so altogether about 70 invaded Adolph's garden. Barney Hobbs and Doug Clarke had previously made a pilot trip there so the drivers had good directions (I think I can find my way there now) and got us to the restaurant for lunch, and then to Adolph's.

We turned into a wooded lane, with shrubbery brushing the sides of the buses and were greeted by Adolph as we unloaded. Dragging my camera and a tape recorder my wife had gotten me for father's day, I headed for the garden. On the way I stopped at the children's plastic wading pools Adolph has mentioned in talks. Any Japanese iris he feels isn't doing as well as he expects, he pots and puts in these, with an inch or two of water in the bottom of the pool. I counted 13 of these pools, plus 2 constructed of wood and black plastic. Most had 6 or so plants and the wood ones more. (I have one at home I use for Japanese and Louisiana iris). By now the crowd had

spread out somewhat, so I began taking pictures while noting a brief description of each variety that appealed to me on the recorder. Some of these were: Oriental Eyes (Vogt) single, light violet shading to grey-white at edges and with a yellow signal eye surrounded with a purple halo; Dark Intrigue, gorgeous purple with white background and edging, double; Great Mogul (Payne) velvety, very deep blackish purple, single; Summer Storm (Marx) late, double, deep violet self; Glitter and Gayety (Payne) single blackish purple with white border; Blue Pompom (Marx) very double deep blue self; Windswept Beauty (Payne) violet bitone; Vogt Sdlg. #44-73; a number of miniature seedlings no taller than 18"; many, many, more, too numerous to be able to note here. Most of these were growing in 3 or 4 long rows horizontal to the drive, tho some were individual plantings or in the pools.

I was wilting in the hot afternoon sun, as were some of the iris. As I was leaving the rows for shade and refreshments under the big trees near the house, I was intrigued by many honey bees lapping up water at one of the pools.

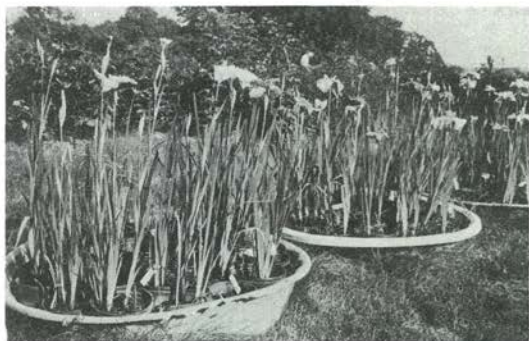
We want to express our appreciation to Adolph for hosting us in his garden. The visit was all we had hoped it would be. Typically, at the rest and refreshment area, he sat with a large pan of peony seed, passing it out to anyone who desired some. I picked up a handful for my wife---I myself don't grow any weeds---just iris. The Indiana people are to be commended for arranging this trip--it was great.

As I write this, July 2nd, my own Japanese iris are in full bloom. I have been very impressed with Payne's Strut and Flourish, a double of bright blackish violet blending to light blue violet with darker veining. An oldie, but goodie, it won the Payne Award in 1966. We have also liked some seedlings from seed which Bill Ackerman furnished at the Boston Convention---mostly white singles---some near pure white, some white or cream white with yellow signals, at least 3 of which had small upright standards narrowly edged purple-violet, and a couple with a very light hint of color in the falls. This is their maiden bloom. We will be waiting to see if they are as interesting next year as well as checking the whites elsewhere for this feature.

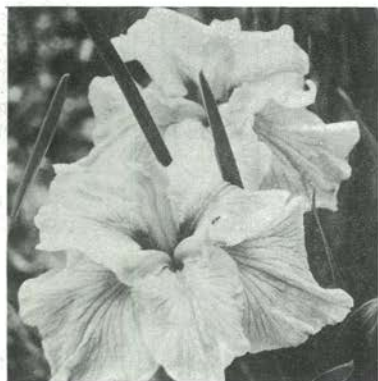
The Jim Shook garden at Lowell, Mi., the Copeland garden at Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery out of Kalamazoo, the Miller garden at Kalamazoo, and Ensata Gardens (Bauer/Coble) at Galesburg, Mi., as well as the Vogt garden in Kentucky, are now the places to see Japanese iris in the Midwest.



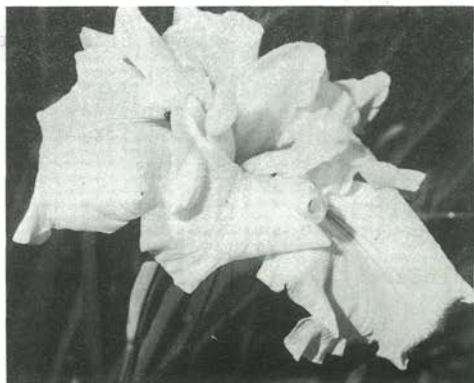
Left:  
Adolph Vogt  
in his garden  
June 14, 1986  
Photo by:  
John Coble



Right:  
Pool Culture  
Vogt Garden  
Photo by  
Anna Mae Miller



Left:  
Vogt F16-71  
6 petal miniature  
Photo by:  
Anna Mae Miller



Right:  
Little Snowman  
Vogt 85  
Photo by:  
Anna Mae Miller



IRIS ENSATA AND WATER  
Follow-up Correspondence  
Regarding Spring 86 "REVIEW" Articles

The Editor

Following the publication of last spring's issue, the mailman brought some interesting correspondence to the editor's box. First, my appreciation for these responses, it proves there is life out there. Besides, some dialogue in the publication can add interest, so please keep writing.

Mr. Lee Eberhardt, of Springfield, Ohio, wrote the following, which I quote in its entirety.

April 11, 1986

Dear Lee,

In regard to the Review article "I Ensata - In or Out of Water", perhaps I can add a little to the confusion.

A number of years ago I spent considerable time on the north island of Japan - Hokkaido. Here I saw many, many fields of I Ensata growing in the wild.

Typically they grow in the swampy areas behind the ocean beach dunes, where they are exposed to ocean salt spray (sodium). In these sites the iris rhizomes are OUT OF THE WATER but the roots are flooded with the water table, say 4 to 6 inches, below ground surface level.

Generally these areas extend only several hundred yards inland, stopping rather abruptly and not extending further into identical seeming terrain.

I have always suspected that this could be due to the sodium in the ocean spray - Do JI thrive on sodium but calcium (limestone) intolerant?

My springfield soil is limestone based, and in spite of pH control I have never been able to grow decent JIs. In view of the above I have always blamed the calcium.

Presently I am deep into putting a manufacturing plant in Toccoa, GA and unfortunately my irisng this season will be limited. Next year however, plan on spending the month of May in Europe starting at Florence competition and winding up at the Chelsea show in U.K.

Good luck in the season.

Sincerely,

Lee Eberhardt

Editor---

Has anyone had experience regarding, or tested in any way, Lee's observation regarding sodium? It would be interesting to know about, and I solicit any response pertaining to the above.

Correspondence was received from **Bill Ouweneel** of Terre Haute, IN (former REVIEW editor) regarding the article on "Basic Culture for Japanese Irises", page 33 of last spring's issue. This was followed with a request that the editor print the following letter, which is also quoted in its entirety.

June 9, 1986

Dear Lee,

In your article on JI culture in the Spring, 1986, issue of THE REVIEW you say "they do not like to have their feet in water during the winter". I note it is also in the cultural instructions Carol Warner is sending to new SJI members.

Readers of the 1981 issues of THE REVIEW will recall that in the Spring issue I disputed a statement frequently seen saying that "JIs need good drainage for low temperatures" by reporting 21 years of experience which I had detailed in a letter published in the January, 1981, issue of the AIS BULLETIN.

Your statement is more vague than the other, but I am presuming that both statements are intended to carry the same message.

Bringing my experience up to date, especially for new SJI members, I may say that in 1986 I have 26 year-old plants which all of their years have grown in black gooey muck, literally at the edge of a pond, and thrived. Most of the winters have seen subzero temperatures, three down to minus 20 degrees F or lower.

In 1975 I decided to run down, if possible, the statement I disputed. Since then, besides the articles I have mentioned, I have written to every person whose name I have seen associated with it, begging each one to supply some explicit facts supporting the statement for publication in THE REVIEW. One failed to answer any of three letters, a second answered but failed to address the question, and a third pretended to do so but fell flat on his face trying.

I can only repeat my unanswered 1981 request: "If any reader has any explicit facts supporting or explaining the quotation, he or she is requested to send them for publication in the next issue of THE REVIEW". Such persons owe it to their fellow members to do so. It's that simple.

With best wishes,

W. E. Ouweneel

Editor---

On June 12, 1986, I wrote to Bill in response to his previous correspondence and the June 9 letter. From this response I extract the following:

....The article on page 33 of the last issue of THE REVIEW is an exact copy of the material prepared for Carol Warner to send to new members. It was meant as a general cultural guide for beginners. The statement you referred to may be somewhat vague. What I had in mind was planting so the plants were actually in water, and stood in water during the winter. Perhaps a statement I read just yesterday, in a catalogue received from White Flower Farms, would state it better: "They must have moisture, but water should not stand on them, for they like their feet damp, their ankles dry".

I was aware that there had been a controversy between you and some others, some time ago, about this subject, and perhaps I carelessly went along without sufficiently checking, with the frequently stated recommendation they not be planted in standing water in cold climates. Although I have never seen your planting, I was under the impression from what I had read and heard about your planting, that the plants were not actually in the water but on the bank close to the water. Such a situation we know does seem to be to their liking.

I understood that Art Hazzard had tried some experiment at one time, I never had a record of the details, and not sure I understood it all at the time he was talking about it. As I remember, he potted some irises and left them setting in water, or at least very wet, over winter; and I believe all died. To me it never sounded very scientific or valid. I do not know what his control situation was, if any, or if he could rule out other reasons for the plants not surviving. I would suppose that potted plants setting in the open are subject to more severe and more rapid changes of temperature, etc., than plants in the ground, and less likely to survive under the same temperature conditions.

Perhaps a more appropriate statement for the purpose of my article would have been to say: but in cold climates it is generally not recommended to plant them where they will be standing in water during the winter.

Of course, as soon as one sets any rule or recommendation, there occurs the exception. Jill Copeland tosses unwanted seedlings into the creek next to their garden. Some survive and one was growing and blooming profusely last summer, not only where it is in water the year around, but in water of pH 7.6! The stream on one side of the garden has a fairly strong flow to it and being spring fed is probably fairly consistent in temperature, but at the south side of the garden where the one plant was doing so well, it is rather sluggish, and I'm not sure, but it may at times freeze to the bottom.

Considering all of this, the only thing I am sure about, is that it would be nice if someone would do some comparative studies with proper controls, and publish the results.

Your letter will be published in the next issue of THE REVIEW. Perhaps it will bring some response. So far, I notice that about the only time there is response is when I goof.

Best wishes,

Leland M. Welsh



To this letter, Bill sent the following reply, again quoted in its entirety.

June 16, 1986

Dear Lee,

Thanks for your letter of June 12.

I know now that we have a perfect meeting of our minds. As you surmised, the vagueness to me in your statement involved "having their feet in water during the winter". I had never heard of anyone deliberately planting a JI literally with its feet in water. I did it accidentally once when my pond dried up in fall and I misjudged the water line. When the pond filled one plant was surrounded by water. It stayed that way for two years including freezing solid in ice. As I have noted before the plant was not killed, but it did not increase either.

Because other readers of the article may have misinterpreted your words also, I would like to see my letter of June 9 published and accompanied with a statement reconciling the statement I criticized and my letter, as you have done in your letter of June 12.

With thanks for your letter again  
and best wishes as usual,

Bill Ouweneel

PS: In my letter of June 9 I should have said that my experience in 1986 runs to 29 years.

Editor---

If any reader has had experience substantiating or disputing what is stated in these letters, or has conducted any controlled experiments regarding the wintering of Japanese irises in water, we would like to hear about it. The subject is not closed and I am sure there is much that is not known. For the time being I, the editor, take the position that untill further information is known, we do not recommend, at least in general, for basic culture that JI be planted where they stand in water permanently, or over winter, in cold climates. The editor does recommend that someone tries it, keeps records, and publishes the results.

## OUR PREPARATION OF JAPANESE IRIS BEDS

Anna Mae Miller

In the fall of 1981, we began a new bed for Japanese iris in an area that had been idle for years---growing some Timothy, Queen Anne's Lace, red rooted Pigweed, Lamb's Quarters, Staghorn Sumac and Quack Grass, and used as a burn area. There were 6 rows in the finished bed. When we were going to have a Japanese guest garden for the 1985 meeting, we enlarged the bed and dug 'mushroom compost' into the planting area. Black plastic was put down and iris planted in holes cut through it. We then mulched in the fall with wood chips.

Our allotment of Guests were 36 JI's, 2 Spurias, and 2 Louisianas. The guest Japanese iris were planted from 9-10-83 to 9-27-83, for the majority, with a few planted in October.

In 1984 we fertilized with 6-24-24, and since Wray Bowden's article in "The Review", Vol. 21 #1, Spring '84, described his use of Ferrous Sulfate, we used it, feeling it would be beneficial to these iris (as we had been troubled over the years with chlorosis of the leaves). Spring borer control was carried out using one spray of Cygon 2-E. Since there were thrips we kept trying different sprays, Malathion, Isotox, and others, with not much evidence of getting rid of them. Some of the plants had arrived with thrip infestations-as evidenced by rust streaks on the foliage and finding the thrips inside the leaves---those tiny white and black bugs that you can hardly see. We had an extremely dry spring (we were on vacation the last half of June and came home to no germination of weed seeds in vegetables), also no rain in late summer, and did some watering, but no certain amount per week. We lost 5 plants, most during the first winter---who knows to what---varmints, heaving, drying out, too wet, etc.

Came spring of '85, we were determined to control the borers with Cygon 2-E, but it did not control the thrips, so we scratched granular Disyston (15%) into the soil. Upon digging, the plants looked healthy, though there was an occasional russetting of the foliage which may be normal at that time of the year. It was an extremely early season, with the last frost around the first of April and bloom approximately 3 weeks early for the TB's-Siberians, and about 10 days for JI's, after a very dry June, which again required watering and tends to postpone blooming. We did have good bloom which continued more than a week past the tour date, with 12 guests still in bloom on July 12, 1985.

A record was kept of the number of fans planted for each variety, number of fans dug and number of bloom stalks. Below is a chart of some (not all) of the representative data.

Guest Iris	# fans Pl. "83	Fans dug 8-31-85 plus bloom stalks.
Sapphire Star (Marx)	4	12
Lavender Sashay (Marx)	2	6+2
Periwinkle Pinwheel (Marx)	3	19+5
Lilac Peaks (Vogt)	1	3+0
Grape Fizz (Ackerman)	1	13+4+3 aborted
Innerst 1533-3	3	9+3
Innerst 1533-6	2	7+2
Wine Ruffles (Ackerman)	1	1+0
Oriental Eyes (Vogt)	3	25+16
Innerst 1555-1	3	15+3
Ipsus (Innerst)	2	7+4
Dark Enchantment (Acker.)	1	18+5
Innerst 1541-2	1	3+1
Innerst 1532-1	4	4+2
Whiting (Copeland)	2	11+1
Copeland 78-018	1	7+1
Shook 504	3	19+5
Sazuri (Shook)	2	5+1
Emiko (Shook)	3	7+5

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#### EARLY DEADLINE NOTICE

##### The Editor

Due to the early date of the AIS National Convention in Phoenix, the deadline for receiving material to be included in the Spring, 1987 issue, is moved ahead to Feb. 15, 1987. It is hoped to have the Spring issue in the mail early enough to be received prior to the convention.

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## SEED SIZE AND PLANT SIZE

Currier McEwen

Over the past ten years or more, since I first became interested in miniature Japanese irises, I have been impressed, as I had been still earlier in the case of miniature Siberian irises, that the seeds of those small cultivars are distinctly smaller than those of cultivars of "regular" size. In crosses of miniatures with other plants of usual size, and also in crosses with other small ones, though less often with the latter, some of the resulting seeds are of ordinary size although most are smaller. It seemed probable that the size of the resulting seedlings might be related to that of the seeds. If this were true, one might save time and space in breeding for miniatures by planting only the small seeds. To test this I have kept records of seed size and size of the resulting seedlings for the past few years. The first of these seedlings reached flowering age in 1986 and to my surprise there appeared to be no relationship between the size of the seeds and that of the resulting plants and flowers.

I have studied plants from only two crosses thus far, both involving several sister seedlings of Eternal Feminine. Eternal Feminine is itself of relatively small size with five inch flowers on 36 inch stalks, but the three sisters used in this study have flowers three to four inches in diameter on 24 inch stalks. The seeds were classified as regards size as: regular, small, very small and tiny. Their measurements, which are for the full diameter of the seeds including the paper-like disk surrounding the viable, true seed, are shown in the table. Thickness of the disk was too thin for very accurate measurement, even in seeds of regular size, but was thinner in the very small and tiny ones. There was some variation in height and flower diameter in the groups of plants from seeds of the various sizes, but this variation occurred about equally in all four groups. The only significant difference that I could observe was in germination. Most of the regular and small seeds germinated but only about half of the very small ones and perhaps a quarter or less of the tiny ones did.

Although unrelated to the subject of miniatures, this is an appropriate place to mention size of tetraploid seeds also. As would be expected these tend to be larger than those of diploids, but this is chiefly in greater thickness. Also they often are of different shapes, some being disk-like and others oval and fat, like an egg or like seeds of bearded irises, but less regular and much larger. In Japanese iris seeds of regular diploid size, the paper-like disk around the viable seeds is somewhat "corky", but this is more apparent in tetraploid seeds.

These observations will be continued in 1987 on new seedlings from seeds of various sizes. Thus far I have observations for only Japanese irises but in 1987 I anticipate blooms also on miniature Siberian iris seedlings from seeds of different sizes. The results will be reported if they differ, or cast new light on what has been described here.

**TABLE**

Type of Seed	Seed Size Classification	Dimensions in Millimeters
Diploid - Disk-like	Regular	10x8x1.5
Diploid - Disk-like	Small	8x6x1
Diploid - Disk-like	Very small	6x5x0.5
Diploid - Disk-like	Tiny	4x3x0.2
Tetraploid - Disk-like		12x9x2 to 4
Tetraploid - Egg shaped		10x9x6 to 8

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**NEW SJI MEMBERS**

The following people have joined The Society For Japanese Irises since the Fall, 1985 issue of "The Review" (Vol. 22, Number 2) was published. We welcome them to membership in our society.

20th Cen. Garden, 402-Art Center, Hot Springs, AR. 71901  
Arlene Allen, 9928 Brixton Ln., Bethesda, MD. 20817  
M/M Carl Askenback, 33 S. Turkey Hill Rd., Westport, CT. 06880  
Terri August, Tibbitts Hill Rd., Goffstown, NH. 03045  
Delia Bankhead, 489 Arnon Meadow Rd, Great Falls, VA. 22066  
Veronica Bates, 2960 Garfield Terr., Washington DC. 20008  
M/M Justin Baum, 3439 W. Brainard Rd., Woodmer Village, OH. 44122  
Janice Bigelow, 304 Niblick Dr., Vienna, VA. 22180  
Mrs. Frederick T. Boehm, 5 Holly Place, Wilton, CT. 06897  
Robert G. Bott, 30 Florence Rd., Hewitt, NJ. 07421  
Howard Brookins, N75 W14257 Northpoint Dr., Menomonee Falls, WI. 53501  
Clayton Burkey, R 1 Box 11, Loretto, PA. 15940  
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# CORRECTION

The Editor

In the Spring, 1986 issue, Volume 23, Number 1, under the article on page 32 entitled "I. ENSATA - IN OR OUT OF WATER" the author's name was given as Philip Avery. This should have read; Philip Allery. Thanks to our English friends for reminding me of this error, and my apologies to Mr. Allery.



WHEN TO DIVIDE JAPANESE IRIS (?) !  
JULY ?---SEPT.?

Anna Mae Miller

In 1985, we dug and divided some JI's in mid July. They multiplied from 5-6 fans at planting time to 25-30 fans by spring of 1986 and bloomed well. The JI's that were planted on 9-4-85 and 9-21-85 have only stayed status quo, and only 3-4 plants out of over 50 bloomed. They did not grow tall foliage as did the July divisions. I have both slides and black and white negatives to prove my point on these JI's.

Other gardens in the immediate area seemed to have the same experience. There had been ample rain during September and October of 1985, Frost came fairly late, and we had thought the newly planted JI's would do well.

Jim Copeland feels very strongly that September planting is too late for our Michigan climate. We discussed this with Adolph Vogt, and he said he has had the same experience with September plantings, that they just sit there and do not put down new roots, and are not really anchored into the soil. (New root growth is made right after bloom time.)

This year, due to other garden jobs taking priority, we finally redid one of the JI beds between September 5th and 10th. We put black plastic down, cut holes in the plastic, then dug holes 6-8 inches deep, planting the iris in a depression, and watered well with Haviland Starter Fertilizer (10-52-17). From 2 to 5 fans were planted per space. A record was kept so I will be able to see how well they multiply. By next fall I should have more data to either substantiate my 1985 experience or to disagree with it. Note: we had several large rains immediately following this division, and this has continued to become the wettest September on record for Michigan.

I do feel that all of us should do a little more experimental work, and report on it. We need your experiences. Please write to any of the following people, or to all of them: your editor, Jim Copeland, Anna Mae Miller.



Photographs taken in  
early June, 1986  
by R. A. Sachs.

Miller Garden

Left: Typical  
September, 1985  
transplant.

Right: Typical  
July, 1985  
transplant.



## Editor's "REVIEW"

As I write this, Oct. 1st, it is raining, as it has been doing for days on end, and weeks. It seems like forever. This was the wettest September on record in Michigan. It should be good for the Japanese iris, but not so for the chrysanthemum sales.

I should like to apologise to Ed Varnum. His name ought to have appeared in the last issue as a member of the Board of Directors. He replaced Mrs. Warburton, who retired from the board as of Jan. 1st, 1986.

This is to be the last issue of "The Review" published under the presidency of Dr. Currier McEwen. I here express my personal appreciation to Currier for being such a wonderful person to work with. He is helpful, concerned, appreciative, and always supplying articles and material to help make "The Review" a worthwhile publication. The constant flow of notes and calls have been a joy to receive, and even though he retires as president, I hope they will continue.

I should also like to express my appreciation to the many members who supplied articles, letters, etc., for this issue. Please keep them flowing.

Thanks to Bill Ouweneel who, saying, "Since the Review has gone poetic", supplied some more quotations for this and future issues. I have been using this type of material as fillers for left over spaces, and as fronticepieces, to add interest. My supply of poetry about iris was running thin, or more accurately, used up. (Along this line, I had an inquiry as to who Bob Mainone is, and how the poems I used relate to iris.) Bob Mainone is a graduate of Michigan State University, College of Agriculture, back in 1951, at the same time I graduated from the same school. Shortly after I came to Kalamazoo in 1963, The Kalamazoo Nature Center was established and, when I first went there on a wild flower trek, Bob was a guide. He had been writing poems in the form of Japanese Haiku as an American naturalist, and published several small books of them, which were sold through the Nature Center. Later, he joined the staff of the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary near Battle Creek, where he has worked for many years. I have always found many of his poems poignant, and shared several of them as fillers in recent issues of "The Review". The poems selected were usually chosen on the basis of being appropriate to the season of the issue being published, i.e., spring & summer, fall & winter. With that, it is time to close this issue with a couple more of Mr. Mainone's poems.

Through a row of pines,  
scratching itself and puring; this  
wind that comes and goes.

Unthinking yellow weed,  
cast your silvered parasols, your  
windborn magic seed.

.....Leland M. Welsh

N O M I N A T I N G   C O M M I T T E E   R E P O R T

111 Winston Dr.  
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Dr. Currier McEwen  
Box 818  
South Harpswell, ME 04079

President: Society for Japanese Irises.      September 20, 1986

Dear Dr. McEwen:

The nominating Committee is pleased to report the following people have been contacted, and accepted nomination as officers of the Society for Japanese Irises.

For officers:      2 year terms for 1987 and 1988.

President:      Mr. Donald Delmez  
3240 Connecticut  
St. Charles, MO 63301

Vice-President:      Mr. Clarence Mahan  
7311 Churchill Rd.  
McLean, VA 22101

Secretary:      Mrs. Florence E. Stout  
150 N. Main  
Lombard, Ill. 60148

Treasurer:      Mrs. Carol Warner  
16815 Falls Rd.  
Upperco, Md. 21155

Appointed to Nominating Committee through 1989:

Mr. Terry Aitken  
608 N. W. 119th St.  
Vancouver, Wash. 98685

We recommend these nominees to the society for election to their respective offices.

The Nominating Committee for 1986

*Freda B. Hazzard*  
Mrs. A. H. Hazzard, Chairman  
Mr. Robert Bauer  
Dr. Harold Stahly

Copies to:      Welsh  
Bauer  
Stahly