

IRIS SOCIETY of AUSTIN NEWS FLYER



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Bulletin Editor

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L. Dragon

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Hello Folks

This month we will cover some methods of planting your newly acquired iris rhizomes.

Also I would like to use this space to give our thanks to the nice folks south of here that invited us to join them in their Iris Society meeting . Thanks to all the members of the NEW BRAUNFELS IRIS SOCIETY for the good food and fellowship. A big hug and many thanks to the KEN and BETTY for being such gracious host and hostess.



Good News :

The iris rhizomes have been ordered and should be shipped and received the latter part of August.

IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN will have an IRIS DIG SEPTEMBER 13 , 1986 . Our IRIS SALE will be at ZILKER GARDEN CENTER on SEPTEMBER 20 , 1986 .

Word to the Wise ...

Our Wise Old Owl says :

When you receive huge, fat rhizomes , they have probably been grown with irrigation . It would be a good idea to lay them out and let them air dry .

They can stay out of the soil (semi-shade location) for quite some time . Then before you plant , mix a solution of 1 part chlorine bleach in 3 parts water and soak them for about 30 minutes . Rinse the rhizomes thoroughly after their bleach bath ; as the chlorine bleach could cause distorted plants .



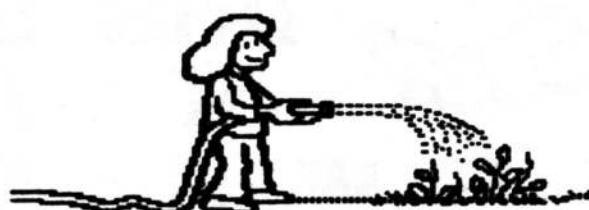
New Braunfels Iris Society :

Will have their annual IRIS SALE at WIMBERLY FLEA MARKET the first Saturday in September , which is SEPTEMBER 6 , 1986 . Also they will have another sale in New Braunfels on SEPTEMBER 13 , 1986 .



N . B . I . S . next meeting will be SEPTEMBER 16 , 1986 .





MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED (M D B)
the tiniest of bearded irises , with stems from 2" to 8" tall. They are also the earliest to bloom . They are most effective in rock gardens or planted in drifts where they make a " carpet of color " .

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED (S D B)
range in height from 8 " to 15 " . Best displayed in clumps .

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED (I B)
have stems that range from 16 " to 28 " tall . Bloom season overlaps SDB and T B s . Very good in clumps and or individual plantings .

BORDER BEARDED (B B)
small versions of the T B s in the same height (16" to 28" tall) range and bloom size as the I B s but bloom with the T B s .

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED (M T B) -
16" to 26" tall . The blooms are smaller than those of the B B s and the stems are thin .

TALL BEARDED (T B) -
28" to 40" tall . Bloom March - April and some into May . With branching and many buds (blooms) on each stalk . With wide variety of colors and patterns as well as ruffling and lacing .

Where to plant :



Remember - SUNNY , WELL - DRAINED location with GOOD AIR CIRCULATION

WATERING :

Newly planted irises can be lost in the first few weeks , either from too little or too much watering .

I learned this the hard way last summer . I planted a large number of Irises shortly after I received them in August . The weather was hot and dry and I actually watered my Irises to death . I was later told by an experienced Iris grower that I " steamed " them . Oh well lessons learned this way are not soon forgotten .

When Irises are first planted they should be watered in to settle the soil around the roots . Then avoid watering until new top growth has appeared . If there is no evidence of life (new growth) , you will just be saturating the death bed of a rotting rhizome .

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FOR SOIL ANALYSIS , send soil sample to :

SOIL TESTING LABORATORY  
TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTEN . SERVICE  
COLLEGE STATION , TEXAS 77843

Special mailers are available at your county agricultural agent's office .

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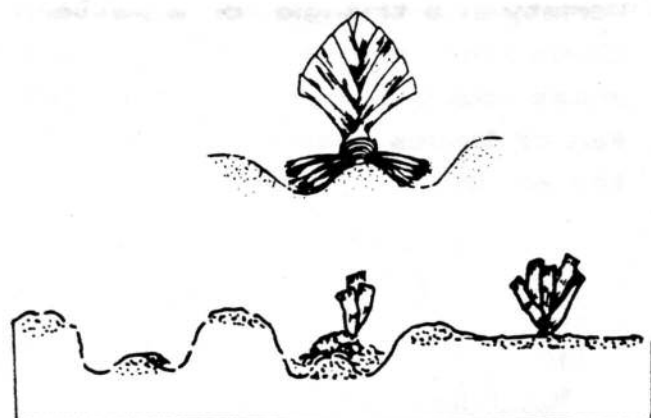
how to plant :

In your well prepared bed , dig a shallow hole large enough to receive the rhizome you are planting . Form a cone or ridge of soil in the center of the hole for the planting base . The height of the cone or ridge as well as the planting depth is determined by your type of garden soil .

In light or well drained soil , build a low ridge . The top of the planted rhizome should be about 2 " below ground level .

In medium soil make the ridge high enough so that the plant rhizome is just below the ground level . Place the rhizome on the ridge , parallel with the ground surface . Carefully spread the roots around the ridge . DO NOT wad the roots together . SPREAD THEM DOWN AS WELL AS OUT .

Fill the hole with soil and press it firmly in place around the rhizome . Water immediately ; thoroughly soak soil around the roots .



Leave ridge of dirt in trench. Place rhizome on ridge, roots on sides. Pull dirt over roots. Firm water

Dividing/Replanting :

When bearded iris rhizomes become crowded , divide the offshoots from the old rhizomes . Bearded irises may need to be divided 2 to 5 years after planting .

The best time to dig and replant bearded irises is about 1 - 2 months after bloom season until new root growth develops (July to October) Bearded irises moved during this time will have less disease problems and greater blooming success the following spring .

Cut leaves to one-third their full height . Dig under a clump of rhizomes and lift out the whole clump at once . Wash away soil with a steady stream of water .

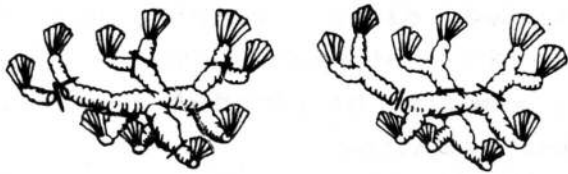
Make small divisions if you do not want to re-divide bearded iris for at least 3 to 5 years .

Make larger divisions if you want many blooms the year after planting . Large divisions may need separating in 2 to 3 years .

Cut rhizomes apart with a sharp knife . Each division must have at least one growing point (fan of leaves), a few inches of healthy rhizomes and some well developed roots .

When separated from the original bearded iris clump allow cut surface to air dry for at least several hours . Also applying dusting sulphur to the cut surface acts as an aid against soil caused diseases that could enter a fresh cut or wound .

After you have completed this , you are ready to re-plant your rhizomes .



Left , small rhizome divisions ;
Right , large rhizome divisions .

The Dykes Medal

The DYKES MEMORIAL MEDAL is the highest honor given to an iris and it is the most coveted . All types of iris are eligible the second year after receiving Award of Merit or an equivalent award . They remain eligible thereafter for 4 years . A judge may vote for one variety . The award goes to the variety that receives the highest number of votes ; it must receive 15 % , or more , of the total votes .

It is awarded both in England and America .

The first American winner was awarded the DYKES MEDAL in 1927 to SAN FRANCISCO (MOHR)

William Rickatson Dykes was a leading English iris hybridizer of his day. Dykes was also the author of many books. He wrote THE GENUS IRIS .The British Iris Society established this award in his honor after his death in 1925 .

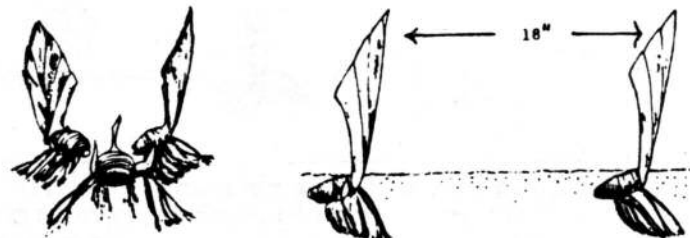
COMING SOON

I would like to start a Question and Answer column . Please be thinking of some questions that you may need or would like answered . If I don't know the answer I will research it (or ask someone who does know) and print the answer in the column . Or if you have some questions as well as the answers I will welcome those too as it will save me some time . No research necessary - -

Also if you have had an interesting experience (anything about irises) I am sure other people would benefit from it , so please put it (your experience) on paper and mail it to me . I will be happy to put in OUR Newsflyer .

GOOD DISPLAY :

To obtain a good display of Iris Color , use at least 3 rhizomes of the same variety in a triangle or a pattern that alternates plants in rows . Plant rhizomes about 18 inches apart . Plant each fan of leaves away from other plants in the group .



INTERESTING

The Greek word for "iris" means rainbow and surely no other name could so aptly describe the TALL BEARDED IRISES with their many lovely colors and hues .

~~~~~ HYBRIDIZING IRISES :

SNOW FLURRY is considered to be the greatest TALL BEARDED parent - it carries the dominant gene for white .

More about hybridizing in a later Newsflyer .

SEPTEMBER

1986

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		9				

NEXT MEETING :

Mark your calendar :: September 9 is the NEXT MEETING of the IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN . We meet at 7:30 p m in ZILKER GARDEN CENTER .

SEE Y'ALL THERE .

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