

the Texas Rainbow NEWSFLYER



volume 1 number 2 — November 1986
Bulletin Editor L. Dragon

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Hello Folks

And a nice November day to you, Fall is in the air and isn't the change lovely.

This month we will bring you a bit of information about Spuria and Louisiana Irises. We don't grow either of these lovelies yet (but we plan to). The information that we will print is information that we have gleaned from reading different books that we have access to. We will only touch on the bare basics, perhaps enough to get a beginner started on the path to new adventures in gardening.

Hope you have gotten all your I B planted, ours are at last. Now we can sit back and dream of SPRING. I wish.

OLD AIS BULLETINS

I have become the temporary caretaker of American Iris Society Bulletins dating back to 1943 through 1976.

My thanks to Dr. Harold Kilpatrick of Austin for these valuable stores of information.

I have been reading these bulletins "like mad" since I received them. It's times like these that I wished I had taken a course in Speed Reading but no I guess not as I would probably miss something important.

When I read something that I feel would be helpful or interesting to other "iris folks" I will put it into the newsflyer.

IRIS TERMINOLOGY

ALL-OVER PLICATA - another theory as to how to get a really red iris .

BACKCROSS - genetical term for what a hybridizer does when he's trying to find some thing he lost .

BACKGROUND IRIS - high bloom , low foliage, and nothing in between ; but too nice for the compost heap. See " Foreground Iris "

CATALOG - iris lover's dream book .

CHROMOSOME - genetical term for tiny black dots and dashes which all iris are chockful of but which do not usually show .

COMMERCIAL GROWER - a business person whose biggest mistake is that he sells a product which multiplies .

DIPLOID - genetical term disdainfully used by tall bearded enthusiasts and hybridizers . See "grand - mother's iris " , " tetraploid " .

FOREGROUND IRIS - runt .

GENES - genetical term for invisible and imaginary entities invented to make sense out of hybridizing .

GRANDMOTHER'S IRIS - term of endearment for the tall bearded diploid See "median iris enthusiast "

IRIS CULTURE - the correct method of growing iris , which every iris grower uses, but which no grower uses .

IRISARIAN - one who allows that he grows a few iris , about 200 varieties , named , of course ,

and also a few seedlings . around 300 , selected , of course and also has a few of this season's seed pods , 100 or so , which he doesn't know what to do with , of course , unless he can buy that lot across the street .

MEDIAN IRIS ENTHUSIAST - irisarian for whom " diploid " is not a bad word .

MUST HAVE - tomorrow's " wish I had not " or " glad I do not "

ROT - an odious disease found occasionally both in iris plantings and in iris catalog descriptions.

SHY BLOOMERS - a vulgar expression never used in iris catalogs .

STANDARD VARIETY - one your neighbor has .

STRONG GROWER - rampant . Needs division every time you turn your back to it .

SURPLUS - what your neighbor wants no more of .

TETRAPLOID - a genetical term for twice all the good things a diploid is and twice some of the bad too .

UNUSUAL - popularly used to characterize a flower which , at first seeing , one is not sure he dislikes .

THIS WAS WRITTEN BY ;
THOMAS J. BUCKLEY
A I S BULLETIN JAN. 1962

I HOPE THAT YOU GET A LAUGH OR TWO FROM THIS .

SPURIAS

SPURIAS originated in meadows and mountains in Europe, the Near East and the Middle East.

The color range is small, they come in shades of blue, purple, yellow and white, as well as blends of these colors.

Their heights range from very low to tall (about 5 ft.)

Spurias are easy to grow. They seem content in full sun or partial shade. (I feel sure they might prefer some shade from our Texas summers.) They require a rich well drained soil that is neutral or slightly acid. Plant rhizomes about 2 inches deep. Keep moist for several weeks after planting. In dry spring weather water deeply. Side-dress in spring with a balanced fertilizer, well-rotted manure or a commercial manure.

Withhold water after bloom season is over. In late September feed with a low nitrogen fertilizer and begin watering again.

Prepare soil well as spurias resent being moved - they grow slowly - but leave some room for increases.

If interested and would like more information, you could join;

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY:

PRESIDENT:

RAY M. JOHN
1004 SPRINGFIELD
FORT WORTH, TX. 76112

BULLETIN REP.

FLOYD W. WICKENKAMP
10521 BELLAROSE DR.
SUN CITY, ARIZ. 85351

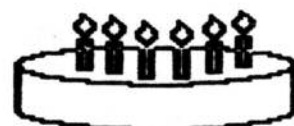
DUES:

3.00/4.50

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday



BLANCHE PEAUEY	NOVEMBER 4
GEORGE NOBLE	NOVEMBER 6
MARY SMITH	NOVEMBER 7
LILLIAN LUDWIG	NOVEMBER 13
JAMES ALLEN	NOVEMBER 17

Happy Birthday to you!



IRIS, MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWER

Iris, most beautiful flower,
Symbol of life, love and light;
Found by the brook, on the meadow,
Or lofty, on arable height.

You come in such glorious colors,
In hues, the rainbow surpass;
The chart of color portrays you,
In petal, or veins, of your class.

You bloom with the first in Winter.
With the last, in the Fall, you still
show;
You steal the full beauty of Spring-
time,
With your fragrance and sharp color
glow.

Your form and beauty of flower,
An artist's desire of full worth;
So, iris, we love you and crown you,
MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWER ON EARTH!

Edith Buckner Edwards

A I S Bulletin Jan. 1961

LOUISIANA IRIS

In the spring in the southern Louisiana bayou country there is a vertical rainbow of colors when the twisting bayous are covered with miles of arched blue, red, bronze, yellow, pink, wine-purple, and copper colored louisian irises.

In 1925, Dr. John K. Smith of the New York Botanical Garden "discovered" them in all their wealth of natural hybrids and was so enthusiastic that he is said to have called southern Louisiana "the iris center of the universe".

All gardeners who love graceful and unusual flowers and arrangers who grow their own material should try these irises.

Dig your bed to the depth of 1 foot - fill with 75 % peat moss and compost liberally mixed with dried manure. This should be a slightly SUNKEN bed that can be soaked during pre-bloom season. These "swamp" irises need extra water only in very dry spring or fall weather. (I would imagine that they could use extra water during hot dry summertime weather - and perhaps some light mulch to keep them cool and moist - what about this experienced Louisiana growers?)

They should not be planted too deep, an inch and a half of soil over the rhizomes is about right. In southern gardens a half day of sun is sufficient. (I would think in our area that morning sun or at least filtered afternoon sun would be best.)

Louisiana are fairly disease resistant - though some varieties seem

prone to rust disease.

Plant the rhizomes about 24" apart with 2 or 3 rhizomes to each clump. The feeding roots should be well spread out and at a 45 degree angle downward in the hole.

Keep the planted rhizomes moist (not water-logged tho) until they have started growth and then soak your planted bed once a week until the plants are well established.

Give your Louisianas a light dressing of azalea-camellia type fert. in Feb., 2 weeks after they have finished blooming and in late Aug. (these dates may need to be motified to suit your particular growing area).

Cut out all bloom stalks flush with the rhizome to which they are attached as soon as the bloom period is past. This will ensure strong new growth for next season's bloom.

Remake your beds - seperate and re-plant the rhizomes - about the 3rd blooming season after the initial planting.

If interested in more information about these irises, you might think about joining the;

LOUISIANA IRIS SOCIETY of AMERICA

P R E S I D E N T :

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KANSAS, ILL. 61933

BULLETIN REP.

DR. ROBERT BLEDSOE
2024 S. FIRST AVE.
SIOUX FALLS, S.D.

DUES: Single \$3.00/Family \$4.50 57105



WORD TO THE WISE...

OUR
WISE
OLD
OWL
SAYS:

SPURIAS need : raised bed -good drain
age - dry out after bloom period .

LOUISIANAS need : ground level or
even sunken beds - more moisture -
could plant near (not in) ponds.



THANKS

TO JIM ALLEN'S GENEROUS DONATION OF
SOME OF HIS HYBRIDS AND IRIS SOCIETY
OF AUSTIN FOR SELLING THEM AT THEIR
IRIS SALE IN SEPTEMBER WE HAVE
EXTRA FUNDS TO HELP TOWARD COST OF
THE NEWSFLYER FOR A NUMBER OF
MONTHS .



1986 DYKES MEDAL

THE WORD IS FINALLY OUT -
SONG OF NORWAY is the 1986
DYKES MEDAL WINNER . THIS BEAUTI-
FUL LIGHT SILVERY BLUE RUFFLED
SELF WITH DEEP BLUE BEARDS IS A
1979 INTRODUCTION OF WALT LUIHN .

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

NEXT MEETINGS:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND
PLAN TO ATTEND .

IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN
MEETS NOVEMBER 11, 1986
7:30 PM / ZILKER GARDEN

NEW BRAUNFELS IRIS SOC.
MEETS NOVEMBER 18, 1986
7:30 PM / FIRST FEDERAL

DR. CLYDE IKENS OF BANDERA , LONG TIME
IRIS GROWER AND AN AIS IRIS JUDGE , WILL
GIVE A PROGRAM ABOUT REBLOOMERS .

Y'ALL COME !