

the Texas Rainbow NEWSFLYER



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Bulletin Editor L. Dragon

IRIS SOCIETY of AUSTIN OFFICERS:

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1st. Vice-Pres.	Lorraine Dragon
Secretary	David Kraemer
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NEW BRAUNFELS IRIS SOCIETY OFFICERS:

President	Rose Marie Dean
1st Vice-Pres.	Dr. W. Clyde Ikins
2nd Vice-Pres.	Beatrice McMahan
Secretary	Bobbie Allen
Treasurer	Grace Schaefer



Hello Folks

Well did y'all think we were living in the Tropics during all the rain we were having

in May and June, it sure felt like it. Have you decided which new or older iris you are going to add to your garden? I think there is something good to be said about some of the older ones. If they have been around 10, 15 or 20 years, then they certainly have proven their "worth". New is nice but not always better. If it rots or blooms itself out or is slow to increase then I feel I have wasted my money and time growing it. And I have had that happen to some of the new ones that I have bought.

Have a sane and safe Independence Day and may July be good to you.



WORD TO THE WISE...

OUR WISE OLD OWL SEZ...

Tall Bearded Iris are among the most disease and pest free plants. But there are some diseases and pests to be reckoned with. Iris diseases and pests damage the leaves or flowers reduce the number of leaves as well as flowers and sometimes kill the plant. An aid to prevention of diseases and discouragement of pests is to maintain a clean garden area. Give your plants plenty of space, sunlight and good drainage as well as proper balance of soil nutrients.

RECORD KEEPING

Do you have some record keeping method? If not then you might want to start one. I think this is important. I have tried several methods. The one that I like and am still using is 5 x 8 index cards. I also have diagrams of each iris bed and I make notes on these diagrams. I have a listing of all iris that I have bought. On this list I note date of iris bloom or make a dash (if no bloom), this way I can tell at a glance how a certain iris has performed over a period of time.

Also be sure to make name tags for each iris (clump or single rhizome) that you plant.

Use a sun (fade) proof marker on metal, wooden or plastic markers.

When I get new rhizomes, I use a water-proof marker to put either the name or initials of the iris on a center leaf. This way I feel that there is less chance of getting a wrong name on a given rhizome.

Whatever method you decide to use, have fun doing it, as that is the reason for a hobby.

New Iris Beds

Are you planning on any new iris beds? Remember (T.B.) iris are sun worshippers they need at least 1/2 day of full sun. Also you might think about raised beds for better drainage. If not raised beds, then make sure you select a site that has exceptional drainage, as (T.B.) iris can't tolerate wet feet.

The word is TILL. Especially in heavy,

clay soil. Till at least 9" down. Your clumps will be deeper rooted, larger, healthier, and have more blooms.

REMEMBER: Plants breathe through their leaves and roots. Also they "drink" water (and thus get the nutrients from the soil) through their roots. Therefore they will perform better in properly rototilled (or deeply dug), loose, well cultivated soil.

Add organic matter, sulfur, sand (if your soil is "heavy") and a balanced (10 - 10 - 10) fertilizer at this time and work into the soil.

In many areas of Central Texas the soil (and water) is very alkaline. The soil has a pH of 7.5 to 8.5 (and in some areas the water can go even higher because of the added chemicals). At these levels iron and other minerals "lockup" and are unavailable for plants. The resulting iron deficiency, iron chlorosis, is a common problem.

Symptoms of iron chlorosis are easy to identify: yellowing leaves with their veins outlined in green. Liquid iron, applied as a leaf spray, is the quickest (but not long-term) remedy for this condition. Copperas, compost, sulfur, iron sulphate, or cottonseed meal should be added to the soil to help reduce its pH.

T.B. iris grow best in soils with a pH of 6.5 to 6.8.

You might like to have a soil test performed on your iris bed soil. The written soil analysis you receive will tell you your soil's pH and deficiencies, it will specify recommended amounts and types of fertilizers to use to correct your soil.

Contact your County Agricultural Agent for full details; such as address, cost, etc.



In ancient mythology IRIS, symbolizing the rainbow, is often referred to as the "GODDESS of the RAINBOW". But she had no such important position on Olympus. She was the personal attendant and messenger of JUNO, spouse of the great ZEUS.

Her name has been perpetuated in a great genus of plants because of their unusual color quality, a shimmering changeability under varying lights and positions, which has given us the descriptive word, "iridescent". This quality was contained in her clothing, according to Vergil, who wrote: "Iris, of saffron wings, displaying against the sun a robe of a thousand varying color".



A I S Awards

HIGH COMMENDATION (H.C.) ... given each year to seedlings of any origin, named or unnamed but not yet introduced at time of judging. A vote for H.C. is intended as a recommendation for introduction and is given to any variety receiving 5 votes.

HONORABLE MENTION (H.M.) ... given each year to officially registered varieties, of any origin, which have been introduced or more years. The H.M. is designed to bring national attention to worthy varieties. The H.M. is a requirement for higher awards.

AWARD OF MERIT (A.M.) ... given each year to the 12 eligible TALL BEARDED varieties receiving the most votes. Only those varieties awarded H.M. not less than nor more than 5 years previously are eligible.

AWARDS equal to the AWARD of MERIT for IRISES in other classes

- MORGAN AWARD --- Siberian
- CAPARNE AWARD Miniature Dwarf
Bearded
- MARY SWORDS DEBALLION AWARD
Louisiana
- ERIC NIES AWARD Spuria
- W. A. PAYNE AWARD ...
Japanese
- COOK - DOUGLAS AWARD -
Standard Dwarf
- KNOWLTON AWARD - Border Bearded
- HANS and JACOB SASS AWARD ...
Intermediate Bearded
- WILLIAM MOHR MEMORIAL AWARD - Arilbred
with 1/4 Aril " blood "
- CLARENCE G. WHITE MEMORIAL AWARD - Arilbred
with 1/2 Aril " blood "



NEW BRAUNFELS IRIS SOCIETY will meet
on JULY 18, 1987 at the home of
BERNIECE and CLYDE IKINS
EL RANCHO ENCANTADO
BANDERA, TEXAS
AT 4 PM

MRS. CHARLES A. HOWARD, R U P A I S
REGION 17 will install N B I S officers.
IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN MEMBERS
ARE INVITED.

Directions to El Rancho Encantado

FROM BANDERA COURTHOUSE :

GO NORTH ON MAIN STREET (HWY 16)
TURN RIGHT (EAST) ONTO HWY 173
at BOYLES SUPERMARKET .
AT TOP OF HILL ACROSS FROM
CEMETERY TURN LEFT (WEST) ONTO
FM 3240 AND GO 8 MILES .
AT HICKS RANCH SIGN TURN LEFT
(SOUTH) ONTO CALICHE ROAD .
DO NOT TURN INTO HICKS RANCH !
GO 1.2 MILES ON CALICHE ROAD .
AT RANCH SIGN ON LEFT (EAST)
SIDE OF ROAD , TURN INTO DRIVEWAY
TO RANCH.

DIRECTIONS FROM KERRVILLE :

GO THROUGH KERRVILLE ON HWY 16
PAST THE RIVER HILLS MALL .
AT TOP OF HILL TURN LEFT ONTO
HWY 173 TO BANDERA .
GO THROUGH CAMP VERDE .
3 MILES PAST CAMP VERDE TURN
LEFT (WEST) ONTO FM 2828
GO 5.9 MILES TO INTERSECTION
WITH FM 3240 TO BANDERA .
TURN LEFT (EAST) ONTO FM 3240
GO .2 MILES , AT HICKS RANCH SIGN
TURN RIGHT . DO NOT TURN INTO
HICKS RANCH ! GO 1.2 MILES TO GATE .

NOTE :

I have talked to Berniece and
Clyde Ikings and they have requested
that members of both societies who are
planning to come to their home for N B I S
meeting on JULY 18 to please let either
them or me know . They are planning some-
thing special and it would be very helpful
for them to know the number of persons
expected .

THEIR MAILING ADDRESS IS :

Dr. and Mrs. W. Clyde Ikings
El Rancho Encantado , Box 1539
Bandera , Texas 78003

Telephone # 796 - 3113

