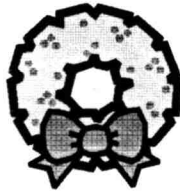
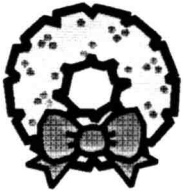


The Texas Rainbow Newsletter

Iris Society of Austin

December 1991

Jim Landers, Editor



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October Meeting

The October meeting included a very interesting and informative discussion on the Median Irises. The word "median" refers to all of the bearded irises except the miniature dwarfs and the tall bearded; medians being the SDB's (standard dwarf bearded), IB's (intermediate bearded), BB's (border bearded), and the MTB's (miniature tall bearded). These irises are crosses between Dwarf Irises and Tall Bearded Irises.

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED, (SDB) -

These range in height from 8 inches to 15 inches. They began their blooming about a month ahead of the tall bearded irises, and after the miniature dwarf bearded have finished blooming. They form compact clumps which give the effect of a "cushion" of individual blooms. The color range is almost unlimited since they show all of the different "spot patterns" of the miniatures, as well as bicata markings and pinks seen in the tall bearded.

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED, (IB) --

These range in height from 16 to 27 inches, their blooming season overlapping the SDB's and the TB's. They have stiff, upright branching stems standing well above upright leaves. Blooms range between 4 and 5 inches in diameter. They include many interesting color patterns.

BORDER BEARDED, (BB) --

These could be called Tall Bearded Irises with shortened stems and leaves, smaller in overall proportion with daintier blooms. Their bloom size (4 to 5 inches) and their height range (between 16 and 27 inches), is the same as for the Intermediates, but the BB's bloom along with the Tall Bearded.

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED, (MTB) -

Also named "Table Iris" because of their usefulness as cut flowers and being so well suited for arrangements. This class is distinguished by daintiness and delicacy. The blooms are smaller than on a BB and the stems are flexible, slender, and branching. Leaves can be either upright or overhanging. The height ranges between 16 and 25 inches. MTB's bloom with BB's and the TB's.

Sincere thanks go to Jan for the very interesting program and slide presentation.