

# the Texas Rainbow NEWSFLYER



volume I number 1 ——— October 1986  
————— Bulletin Editor L. Dragon ———

## IRIS SOCIETY of AUSTIN OFFICERS:

President	Joe Fisher
1st Vice-Pres.	Harvey Wilson
Secretary	Lorraine Dragon
Treasurer	Pauline Guerrero

## NEW BRAUNFELS IRIS SOCIETY OFFICERS:

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



## Hello Folks

Notice our new name? Want to know why we changed the name of our newsflyer? Well our "Iris" friends to the south of Austin (The New Braunfels Iris Society) liked the idea of the newsflyer. They voted to be co-sponsors. We will be "flying" each of them a copy of the newsflyer each month.

THIS MONTH I WILL GIVE YOU SOME INFORMATION ABOUT REMONTANTS (RE-BLOOMERS) AS WELL AS MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

## Remontants—Rebloomers

Remontants (rebloomers) are irises that have more than one bloom season. The rebloom tendency depends on ancestry as well as climate and culture. The rebloomer skips the dormant period. Therefore they need extra feeding, water during dry periods and perhaps some shading from the extreme heat. Also if unusually cold weather is expected then mulching is a good idea as protection against freeze damage.

An abundance of sunlight and good drainage are a must.



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 1 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 2 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 "



## IRIS TERMINOLOGY

- APOGON** irises which have no beard or crest .
- ARIL** a small white collar on some iris seeds . Also the name of these irises .
- BEARD** the line of hairs growing from the haft of the falls of some irises .
- CREST** the ridge on the heft of the falls crested irises .
- EUPOGON** a true bearded iris
- GENSUS** a botanical category which contain one or more related species .
- HAFT** the lower , narrow part of the petals of an iris .
- HYBRID** seedlings raised by crossing two or more species .
- POGON** bearded
- SPECIES** a group of plants which are botanically distinct .
- VARIETY** botanically a subdivision of a species . Horticulturally a cultivar .

## Potassium

Did you know that potassium increases disease resistance , helps plants overcome the effects of adverse weather and improves the rigidity of the stalks . It balances a plants absorption of nitrogen and calcium and generally acts as a plant tonic or conditioner .

Under normal growing conditions with adequate nutrient supplies , many plants use as much potassium as they do nitrogen . Interesting ?

## Pre-emergents

Pre - emergents are available in both liquid and granular forms . The liquid type is sold in large barrels it is more or less for commercial use. The granular type is sold at feed stores and garden nurseries .Some of the brand names are Treflan , Balan , and Batasan .

The soil should be loose , freshly tilled or cultivated. The pre-emergent should be scattered on the ground and watered in . Some can be dug in while others can not - so read bag instructions . A film will form as the chemical is dissolved by the water . This film acts as a barrier and prevents seeds from germinating .

If you decide to use a pre-emergent , be certain to read and follow the instructions for your specific brand . HANDLING THE PRE-EMERGENT WITH BARE HANDS COULD RESULT IN AN ALLERGIC REACTION . SO WEAR GLOVES WHEN HANDLING SOIL AFTER APPLICATION .

ALSO AS WITH ANY CHEMICAL , BE CAUTIOUS IN HANDLING AND STORING THE PRODUCT .

I have used ROUND-UP to kill the weeds before I dug my new beds and then used TREFLAN after the beds had been planted . This I watered in . I had very few weeds in my beds even tho they were in an open field full of " wild flowers " and weeds .

These chemicals are a labor saver - fewer weeds to pull - as well as more attractive and cleaner iris beds .

### NOTE:

Read label before buying - be certain brand is safe to use on Irises .



## WORD TO THE WISE...

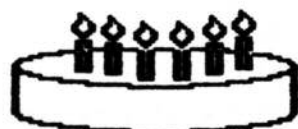
OUR  
WISE

OLD

OWL

SAYS:

Reserving a separate bed is a good idea for rebloomers as they require extra water where as the "once-ers" don't. Also be sure to top dress with 5-10-5, bone meal or superphosphate after the spring bloom.



Happy

Happy

BIRTHDAY to:

HARVEY WILSON OCTOBER 10

JOE FISHER OCTOBER 15

BEATRICE McMAHAN OCTOBER 23

Happy Birthday to you!

## More on the AIS Popularity Poll

NEWNESS OR COST IS NOT CONSIDERED AS A CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING THE QUALITY OR POPULARITY OF ANY VARIETY OF IRIS. IRISES THAT RATE HIGH ON THE AIS POPULARITY POLL MUST HAVE THE ABILITY TO GROW AND PRODUCE BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS AS WELL AS MAKE INCREASES IN MANY DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS AND GARDENING METHODS.

## BOTRYTIS ( WINTER ROT )

Botrytis in its earliest stages looks like little black dots on the exposed rhizome surface. As it progresses the dots get larger and finally you will see fuzzy black stripes on the rhizomes.

The black fuzz consists of spores just waiting for water or wind to carry them off to a new location ( another rhizome ) and another new disease colony takes off.

On iris rhizomes the fuzzy, black stripe is usually followed by a dull, black cracked open surface that covers a corky, dry tissue area within a weakened or dying rhizome.

This disease also produces a yellow, creamy diseased rhizome tissue. BUT IT HAS NO ODOR ( to warn you ) so you have to keep an eye open for BLACK, FUZZY SPOTS.

For control use BANROT - a systemic fungicide - 1 1/2 teaspoons per 2 gallons of WARM water. Apply as a drench on the entire plant and surrounding soil.

Use in late fall to prepare the bed for winter. Use again in early spring to protect plants during wet spring weather.

Most of the above information came from the JULY 1984 issue of the BULLETIN of the AIS. My THANKS to AIS for printing it and IRENE OTTE for writing it.

## REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY

PRESIDENT :

VIRGINIA MATTHEWS  
315 S. GRANDVIEW CT.  
STILLWATER, OKLA. 74074

BULLETIN REPRESENTATIVE :

LLOYD ZURBRIGG  
708 NOBLIN STREET  
RADFORD, VA. 24141

DUES PER YEAR	
single	family
\$ 3.00	\$ 4.00



# GREAT JOB!

WE HAD SEVERAL GOOD IRIS SALES IN SEPTEMBER THANKS TO ALL THE "IRIS PEOPLE" WHO PUT IN LONG HOURS ; ORDERING , DIGGING , CLEANING AND MARKING , PICKING - UP AND DELIVERING , AS WELL AS SELLING ALL THE IRIS RHIZOMES. ALSO THANKS TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO GENEROUSLY GAVE THEIR EXTRA IRIS RHIZOMES FOR THE SALES.

BUT THE GREATEST THANKS GOES TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO PURCHASED THE IRIS RHIZOMES . WITHOUT THEM ALL OUR WORK WOULD HAVE BEEN IN VAIN .

IN AUSTIN THERE WILL BE NEW IRIS BEDS AT THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION , ZILKER GARDEN , CITY COUNCIL OFFICE COMPLEX , AND THE WALNUT CREEK WASTE WATER PLANT . ALL THE IRISES WERE PURCHASED FROM THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN SALE AT ZILKER GARDEN .

IT IS MY HOPE , AND I AM SURE OTHERS FEEL THE SAME WAY , THAT BY HAVING THESE SALES WE ARE " SPREADING THE WORD " ABOUT THESE BEAUTIFUL PLANTS .

JUST THINK " COME SPRING " WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT TO BEHOLD WITH ALL THE IRISES IN BLOOM . I CAN HARDLY WAIT .

NOVEMBER

1986

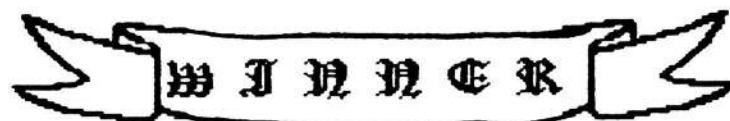
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		11				
		18				

## 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



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNER OF  
THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN DRAWING .

IVA B. STEELE  
1216 AUSTIN AVENUE  
BROWNWOOD , TEXAS