

# the Texas Rainbow NEWSFLYER



volume II number 9 == September 1987  
== Bulletin Editor L. Dragon ==

## IRIS SOCIETY of AUSTIN OFFICERS:

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

President	Kenneth Triesch
1st Vice-Pres.	Florence Flesher
2nd Vice-Pres.	Beatrice McMahan
Secretary	Audrey Cooper
Treasurer	Werner Heesche



Hi Folks

Well the "dog days " of  
August are gone , I sure

hope September brings some relief  
from the awful heat ( but I will not  
hold my breath until it gets cooler).  
I guess we all have managed to get  
some yard work taken care in spite  
of the weather . Most of ours has  
been watering (trying to keep things  
alive . Most of our plants look pretty  
sad . I am hoping that they will perk  
up when the days start cooling down.

See y'all at the September  
meeting.



## JUST A REMINDER !

N. B. I. S. will hold the 1st of their 2  
annual IRIS SALES Sept. 5th  
at WIMBERLEY FLEA MARKET. The other  
one will be held in NEW BRAUNFELS on  
Sept. 12th. Be sure to mark your  
calendar if you plan to work either  
or both of these sales .



I. S. A. will hold their annual IRIS  
SALE , at ZILKER GARDEN CENTER  
AUSTIN , on Sept. 19th . All members  
are requested to work. We will be able  
to discuss time , etc. at the September  
meeting.

## I R I S TERMINOLOGY

### ARIL IRISES (AR)

The ONCOCYCLUS and REGELIA irises of the Near East are grouped together under this name. They do have beards, but they are so different that they are not classed as BEARDED. The ARILS are difficult to grow in all but the warmest and driest regions of the U. S.

### ARILBRED (AB)

These are a cross between ARILS and the more common BEARDED iris. They display the best of the two varieties. They are tall and have large blooms. They are usually very easy to grow.

### BEARDED IRISES

The American Iris Society has divided these into 6 groups for show judging. These irises can be easily identified by thick, bushy "beards" on each of the falls (lower pedals) of the blooms.

Most of these were native to central and southern Europe.

### BEARDLESS IRISES

#### LOUISIANAS (LA)

The blooms are usually wide petaled and open. They require soil that is on the acid side and soil that is wet in the spring. They are native to the American Gulf Coast.

#### JAPANESE (JAP)

Blooms are usually huge, ruffled

and flat in form. They require soil that is slightly acid.

### PACIFIC COAST NATIVES or

#### CALIFORNICAE (CA)

These are not widely grown as they are not tolerant of the climatic conditions of all but the far western area of the U. S.

### SIBERIANS (SIB)

Blooms are mostly blue, violet or white with large falls and smaller standards. They thrive in moist soil and are frequently planted on stream or lake banks.

### SPURIAS (SPU)

Are tall and elegant. They are best used as a background plant. They grow well in loamy soil that is well enriched with plenty of humus.



## WORD TO THE WISE...

OUR  
WISE  
OLD  
OWL  
SAYS:

HANDLE ALL CHEMICALS WITH EXTREME  
CARE. DO NOT SPRAY OR DUST ON A  
WINDY DAY.





IRIS SOCIETY  
OF AUSTIN

BIRTHDAY TO

Werner Heesche Sept 4  
Otis Skinner Sept 12

happy birthday to you!



IRIS

#### FLEUR DE LUCE

Flower of light! in thine arched  
petals dwells

The curve that yet no painter drew,  
The secret beauty of the Heart of  
things;

That Hogarth sought and Leonardo  
knew

Beyond their mortal reach: - like  
distant bells

Heard on awaking, dream imaginings  
Clasped at and gone, that ever must  
elude

Man's dear desire and mock his pencil  
crude.

This is the 4th verse of a lovely poem  
written by W. H. W. Bliss (of England)  
and presented to A. I. S. in 1922. His  
brother, A. J. Bliss, was a noted  
English Iris hybridizer.

## SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN  
WILL MEET ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1987 AT  
ZILKER GARDEN CENTER IN AUSTIN. WE WILL  
BEGIN OUR MEETING AT 7:30pm. THE PROGRAM,  
"HOW I PLANT TALL BEARDED IRIS",  
WILL BE GIVEN BY LORRAINE DRAGON  
OF MANCHACA, TEXAS.

### SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						5 NBIS
		8 ISA				12 NBIS
		15 NBIS				19 ISA

THE NEW BRAUNFELS IRIS SOCIETY WILL  
HAVE THEIR SEPTEMBER MEETING AT 7:30pm  
AT THE FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN  
OFFICE IN NEW BRAUNFELS ON SEPT. 15, 1987.  
LORRAINE DRAGON, (NOVICE IRIS GROWER)  
OF MANCHACA, TEXAS, WILL GIVE A PROGRAM  
ON "HOW TO PLANT TALL BEARDED IRIS"

MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
SEE

Y' ALL

THERE !

## 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.

## What Makes a Remontant Iris Rebloom?

written by Robert Paul Hubley  
printed in A.I.S. Bulletin, April 1967

Foreword: The remontant iris plant (that is, the same rhizome and its bloomstalk) which blooms in April does not bloom again in September! To simplify the explanation of a complicated process, the remontant rhizome which blooms in April later produces a second offshoot in the same year (a new rhizome and its bloomstalk) which, in turn blooms in September.

Regular Iris Growth Cycle: Each rhizome produces a bloomstalk only once; and then passes the task of producing flowers on to one or more of the new rhizomes it has put out, with the old rhizome functioning as a food reservoir.

After blooming, and the flowers have faded, iris plants usually rest. When the plants emerge from this resting stage, the rhizomes put out new rhizome buds, and new roots begin to form. Ideally the number of bloomstalk producing rhizomes should double each blooming period, branching out from the old leaf axils on each side of the rhizome.

With spring blooming irises, the new flower buds for the following spring are formed the previous summer or early fall at the base of the fans from which bloomstalks are to develop. Remontant Iris Growth Cycle: Remontant irises, on the other hand, produce two sets of buds for bloom at two different seasons in the same

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year. For example, fall flowering buds are formed after the spring bloom; and spring flowering buds are formed after the previous fall bloom. It must be remembered, however, for an iris to bloom more than once in a year, it must have both the correct hereditary characteristics and the right environment.

**Watering Remontant Irises:** Remontant irises will be encouraged to rebloom if watered from March through Sept. This continuous watering program is necessary so summer rebloomers and autumn rebloomers will have full opportunity to respond with the reblooming that is in their genetic makeup.

While summer watering will not make regular spring bloomers into rebloomers, you may be surprised with an additional summer or fall bloomstalk. On the other hand, you can delay the summer or fall reblooming season, if you so desire, by not watering for a month or so. Also, in many cases, if you treat a remontant like a regular spring bloomer, it will act like a regular spring bloomer and not rebloom.

**Fertilizing Remontant Irises:** In Southern California, after a remontant iris has finished blooming, I cut off the stalks, pull off dead leaves and trim browned leaf tips, I then apply a handful of complete organic fertilizer around the plant. Already new rhizomes and new fans are developing and these need to be built up for the next blooming season. In other parts of the U. S., however, you may not want to fertilize in the

fall so as not to encourage soft new growth just before the winter cold. **Dividing Remontant Irises:** Remontant irises need to be divided about every two years, keeping in mind that crowded plants do not rebloom as well. In most parts of the U.S., plants are dug and divided in July and August in order that the plants will be fully established before cold winter weather sets in.

This general dividing time also applies to remontants and to Southern California, with the following modifications: (a) Summer, rebloomers should not be divided until after completion of summer rebloom; (b) Fall and winter rebloomers should be divided earlier, as soon as possible after spring bloom; and (c) when the young rhizomes are large enough to be cut or broken off and replanted. **Summary:** In short, remontant irises rebloom because they put out consecutive sets of flower buds at different seasons of the year instead of just one set per year. Expanding this definition to the ultimate, an "everbloomer" would be putting out flower buds continuously, which, if the plant had such hereditary characteristics and the right environment, would be blooming continuously year around.

I feel like this is a good article about remontant irises. I think it points out the need for separate beds for rebloomers, as the extra water and fertilizer would probably do more harm than good for regular blooming irises.