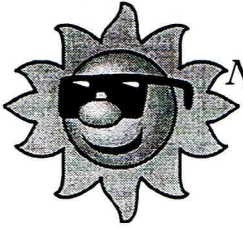


I R I S

A U S T I N



*Newsletter of The Iris Society of Austin, August 2000, Vol. IX No.8,
Jim Landers, Editor*

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NEW IRIS BEDS

When planning your new iris beds remember tall bearded irises are sun worshipers. They need at least half a day of sun. You may want to consider raised beds for better drainage. If no raised beds make sure the site has excellent drainage. Tall bearded irises do not like and will not tolerate wet feet.

Proper soil preparation is a major factor in successful iris growing. Ideally you should prepare your beds well in advance of planting the irises. Plants breathe through their leaves and roots and get water and nutrients through their roots. Therefore they will perform much better in properly rototilled or deeply dug loose well cultivated soil. Till at least 9 inches deep. Your clumps will be deeper rooted, larger, healthier, and have more blooms. Add organic matter, sulfur, sand, (if soil is "heavy") and a balanced (10, 10, 10) fertilizer during this preparation and work well into the soil. Water all of this in well several times before planting. Tall bearded irises grow best in soils with pH of 6.5 to 6.8. In many areas of Central Texas the soil and water are very alkaline with a higher pH rating, and will not allow the plants to use the nutrients that are in the soil. Some things that can be added to the soil to reduce the pH value are copperas, compost, sulfur, ironsulphate, or cottonseed meal. Your County Agricultural Agent can do a proper soil analysis and give you specific recommendations to improve the pH value of your soil.

August Meeting

August 8

7 P M

Zilker Park

Garden Center

Note change in time



Region 17

Annual Meeting

August 18 & 19

Dallas

