Canadian Iris Society

cis newsletter

Spring 2012 Volume 56 Issue 2

Canadian Iris Society
Board of Directors

Officers for 2012

Editor & President	**Ed Jowett**, 1960 Sideroad 15, RR#2 Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0 ph: 905-936-9941 email: jowettfarm@copper.net	2011-2013
1st Vice President	**John Moons**, 34 Langford Rd., RR#1 Brantford ON N3T 5L4 ph: 519-752-9756	2011-2013
2nd Vice President	**Harold Crawford**, 81 Marksam Road, Guelph, ON N1H 6T1 ph: 519-822-5886 e-mail: hrcrawford@rogers.com	(Honorary)
Secretary	**Nancy Kennedy**, 221 Grand River St., Paris, ON N3L 2N4 ph: 519-442-2047 email: xkennedy@sympatico.ca	2010-2012
Treasurer	**Bob Granatier**, 3674 Indian Trail, RR#8 Brantford ON N3T 5M1 ph: 519-647-9746 email: bob@trailsendiris.com	2010-2012
Membership & Webmaster	**Chris Hollinshead**, 3070 Windwood Dr, Mississauga, ON L5N 2K3 ph: 905 567-8545 e-mail: cdn-iris@rogers.com	2010-2012

Directors at Large

Director	**Gloria McMillen**, RR#1 Norwich, ON N0J 1P0 ph: 519 468-3279 e-mail: gmcmillen@execulink.com	2011-2013
Director	**Eleanor Hutchison**, Box 13 Group 55, RR#1, St. Anne, MB R5H 1R1 email: eleanore@mts.net	2009-2011
Director	**Ann Granatier**, 3674 Indian Trail, RR#8 Brantford ON N3T 5M1 ph: 519-647-9746 email: ann@trailsendiris.com	2010-2012
Director	**Alan McMurtrie**, 22 Calderon Cres. WIllowdale ON M2R 2E5 ph: 416-221-4344 email: alan.mcmurtrie@gmail.com	2010-2012
Director	**Pat Loy** 18 Smithfield Drive, Etobicoke On M8Y 3M2 ph: 416-251-9136 email: pat_loy@yahoo.ca	2010-2012

Honorary Director

Hon. Director **David Schmidt**, 18 Fleming Ave., Dundas, ON L9H 5Z4

Newsletter Designer **Vaughn Dragland**
ph. 416-622-8789 email: vaughn@e-clipse.ca

Published four times per year

Table of Contents

Cover Photo: "Cali-Zona Gold" iris hybridized by **Margie Valenzuela.** This iris will be introduced in 2012 through Stanton Iris Gardens.

President's Report

By Ed Jowett

As I sit writing this message we are awaiting the arrival of our Siberian Iris. The weather has sure messed up the growing season, making some things about one month early. This light April snow storm will maybe set things back to where they should be.

Congratulations go out to the British Iris Society who are celebrating their 90th year on June 2nd and 3rd; the same weekend as our show & picnic.

I am happy to announce our new affiliated society to the CIS.

Congratulations "Southern Ontario Iris Society". I am sure we will see more from them in the near future.

We are offering our annual sales again this year at reduced prices; a chance for recent cultivars at good prices. (See 2012 Bearded Iris order Form.) Thanks to the kind generosity of **Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens** we are able to offer you great deals. Many thanks to **Barbara and Terry**.

We have been asked as a society to help rebuild the famous "Laking Gardens" at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington, Ontario. The gardens over the last few years fell well below their standards with lack of funding and staff due to the economy drop. Some of the Directors had a meeting with them and then had a meeting to set some suggested things and guidelines. It is possible that we could be looking for older cultivars. Would anyone who has cultivars older than prior to 1980 and would be willing to sell maybe three (3) rhizomes please send us a list and pricing. (Send to me.)

I would like to remind everyone of our annual picnic and show. This will probably be the last one for the "CIS" as we expect the "Southern Ontario Iris Society" to take this over as part of their program. We would also like to welcome our U.S. friends close to the border to come. Just let us know you are coming. This is so we can properly plan for burgers, dogs, and sausages. The rest is pot luck.

Ed Jowett

Special Notice

The Siberian Convention (which was to be held June 7th – 9th/2012 in Michigan) has been **CANCELLED** due to early warm weather, which is believed there will be no bloom at this date. It is postponed till 2013. They will refund any registration fees that have already been paid and ask that if you have already booked air tickets you contact **Judy Hollingworth** at cyberiris@att.net.

The IRIS FIX for 2012 is available again between early April-May and the summer. Each day (usually) you will receive an Iris photograph via e-mail from **Don McQeen** of London, Ontario from current photographs taken in and around his garden. If you would like to be added to the list, Contact Don at ddmcqueeh@rogers.com.

Remember our annual picnic which is held with our show June 3rd/12. If you will be there as an exhibitor or just browsing, please let us know in advance so we can be sure of food. It is pot luck but we will again supply hot dogs and burgers. You can contact **Ed Jowett** or **John Moons**; information is on inside of front cover. Hope to see some of our American friends there!

Editor's Note

We are a bearded Iris group but due to lack of input I have included a lot about beardless Iris I found interesting to read myself.

CAN-WEST IRIS SOCIETY
5th Annual Iris Show

Sunday June 10, 2012 (1:00 pm – 4:00 pm)

Bourkevale Community Centre
100 Ferry Road
Winnipeg, MB

See details starting on page 10...

NEW AND NEWSWORTHY…

By Nancy Kennedy

The irises are here! Already!

Apparently the bloom this spring is so early, at a month in front of schedule, an iris friend in London (Ontario) says he hasn't seen anything like this in some 15 years! Although it would have been nice to 'convention' in California this year, at the time of writing this piece the AIS annual festival is a countdown of days away and I would hate to miss what's happening here right now, even though California is so very dear to my heart. Last year I came home to a near-overwhelming sea of bloom and couldn't help feeling a little remiss over what indeed had already come and gone. Presently my little MDBs already are all but gone. Iris season is so fleeting… .

No doubt our premiere Canadian hybridizer, **Chuck Chapman**, will be shortly en route to the Convention. It's an amazing place for irisarians to reacquaint annually. Chuck has many new introductions this year for us; all but two are SDB, most with his trademark plicata pattern. None have been given names yet, so those interested in this year's offerings will need to keep handy the seedling numbers for later comparison and let's hope all those numbers get transcribed correctly or it will be a rough go. The first is a child of ***Ruby Eruption*** and indeed one can see that parentage. Seedling #05-293-1 is an early to mid blooming fairly tall (at 14") SDB. Standards are a dusty plum plicata wash and veins on yellow ground. Falls are a rosy brown wash with plicata veining at the edges. The white beard is tipped orange. Seedling #06-B37-1 has a slight sweet fragrance and a garish mix of colours. Chuck's experience has been that it appeals to some, not to others.

Ruby Eruption

I like it. Standards are a red/violet blend with purple. Falls are a purple wash / red blend. Brown hafts have white veins and that same narrow brown rim on the falls. Beards are quite a bright violet, tipped darker violet, then gold on ends.

Remember ***Co-Ed Flirt***? I wish it would reappear but seems to be lost somewhere. This next seedling is reminiscent to me of a golden-brown ***Co-Ed Flirt*** (the latter was a very pretty pink – lined and washed and plic'd). This seedling #01-034-D has a mid bloom time. Standards are medium yellow, ditto for the falls but with an overall wash of light brown, highlighting the brown veins running through to the edge of the falls. Think this one's my favourite. There's also a heavily washed and stippled purplish-pink plicata on cream ground (#03-299-1) with brownish pink hafts and such an intense solid coral-coloured beard. Apparently this little one is a fast colonizer so give it room! One half of the family isn't known here, but Chapman seems to have quite good luck with this sort of thing, with one half of the parentage unknown. Not sure if it's random or thanks to the bees, but I have seen many a beautiful flower coming via this avenue.

This year there is also a border bearded and a species cross. The Species X is a heavy and consistent rebloomer, a purple self which resembles the aphylla parent in bloom configuration. It reblooms very early and continues an extended time – in fact very close to being an everbloomer (***Autumn Jester*** behaves this way too)! The 20 inches of flower stalk is covered in some 10-12 flowers, opening consecutively, leading to a long bloom period per stalk and just possibly will bracket either an early or late spring show – as seemingly our spring seasons are becoming totally unpredictable.

Autumn Jester

Last but not least, Seedling 03-664-D, was seen at the spring shows in 2010 and 2011, winning best seedling at both CIS shows. This border bearded is loaded again with some 10 flowers in sequential bloom on its 2 foot stalk. Parentage includes ***Crowned Heads*** x ***Fogbound*** and indeed is one beautiful flower. Standards are blue-violet, lighter at edges. Falls are very light violet with just a bit of yellow shoulder peeking out as an added surprise. Beards are white tipped yellow.

Lookout Sunshine

Chapman has been a busy guy this past year. SDB ***Lookout Sunshine*** and an MTB seedling won **Loomis awards**.

In the German iris competition TB ***Buckskin Babe*** won a silver medal and ***Eramosa Ridge*** placed 4th. SDB ***Black Lightning*** was 1st runner up HM in its first year of eligibility and ***Blueberry Tart*** the 2nd runner up for the **Cook-Douglas Award**. At last year's Median Convention, ***Limesicle*** tied for best SDB.

It was a very early showing at that convention as ***Black Lightning*** had produced a huge clump yet at the time of judging most bloom stalks were spent, or otherwise (personally speaking) perhaps it might have won. I expect to see great things from ***Black Lightning*** in the future.

This year's Convention is being held close to home for Sutton's Iris Gardens, only a short couple hour drive up #99 highway, just north of Bakersfield, a road well-travelled and indeed my American family home. Sutton's has a great number of beautiful plants being introduced this year and in fact near as many median intros as tall-bearded – for those of us who love the littler ones.

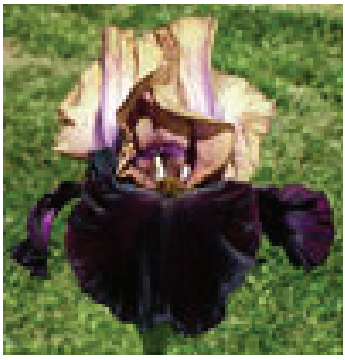
One, ***Enigmatic*** a tall-bearded from Sutton's, is my current favourite, as I didn't think you could improve on ***Secret Service***, but… Although not near

Black Lightning

as tall as the former (a towering 43") the tan standards are veined dark purple and show dark bleeding purple midribs. The near black falls sport once again old gold beards – yes, it just may be an improvement. You'll need to consult the website, www.suttoniris.com, for the whoopla on all their new stuff, for there is just too much info to pack into half of such a short article. Really, there's just enough room for me to tell you all what I like best! There are two really striking medians this year, okay three. ***Enlightened*** is such a fitting name for this luminata, for it does just that. It seems to be glowing from within, be it the yellow/white style arms from within the flower, the yellow hafts, the wire rim of gold everywhere you look, everywhere adorning a deep dark thundercloud blue/purple flower. A border-bearded mid to late bloomer, ***Blueberry Trail*** sports beautiful white ground standards that are heavily dotted bluebird, quite a different color. Bright white ground falls are marked a darker blueberry all around the golden buff beards, then again a blueberry edge rimming the wide overlapping falls. Very pretty! ***Deep Burgundy*** again is another departure from the norm in colour it seems. Ruby red standards (really?) deeply saturated sit atop white AND yellow ground falls with a wide ruby band, some violet veins hidden down in the throat. Judging only by the photograph, it appears to have a fantastic form – show style.

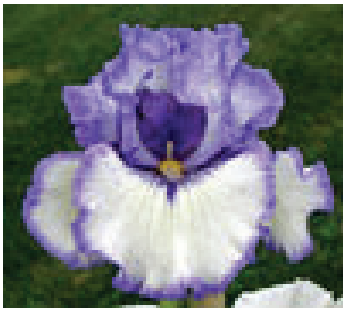
There are some really interesting SDBs from this hybridizer too, interesting patterns and colours and plic markings as well. This grower ships to Canada for a nominal added fee and offers a great many collections and bargains for anyone buying in bulk. They are heavy into reblooming iris, but whether any reliable results could be attained here in Canada is debatable, from a Zone 9 grower. Hopefully some attendees were able to make the short trek north from the Convention to view the Sutton Gardens this year.

Finally, don't forget to check out the upcoming members' bearded iris sale (also in this issue) and the annual RBG iris sale in August, as this year for the first time we will be offering a few companion plants as well as iris. Thanks also to everyone who made the recent Siberian sale a 100% sellout. This organization is for you, the iris lover, so be sure to take advantage of everything offered.

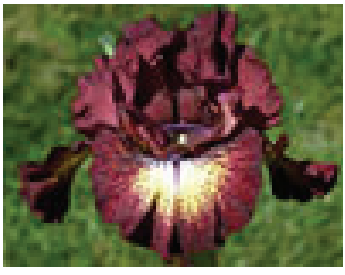


Enigmatic

Enlightened



Blueberry Trail



Deep Burgundy

Musings From Manitoba

By: B. J. Jackson

(jacksonb@mts.net)

What a terribly unusual winter and spring for South Western Manitoba! Overall it was very mild (comparatively speaking) with little snow cover and very little extreme cold (I think we hit -30 just twice). And spring so far has been just as unpredictable. A record breaking March with temperatures routinely in the high teens and 20s was experienced and welcomed but we knew it couldn't last. Of course, what little snow there was disappeared early in the month very quickly and the gardens were exposed to the elements. Then came April and a total turnaround.

Wind was the order of the day for the last week or so as well as every form of precipitation known to man! And, I mean wind. The kind that goes through you and chills you to the bone. The kind of wind that tries to pick you up and throw you around. The cold north winds have been blowing and the temperatures plunging to 'normal' and below these past few weeks and the plants (including the iris) are about as confused as we are. There had been significant growth on all the iris at the new place. Yesterday morning the leaves were still with the cold but as soon as the sun hit them, they were fine. The sun also took care of a white blanket that covered the lawn and gardens, too. From rain to sleet to ice to snow, we've had it all in the last couple of weeks. The forecast is for a return to milder temperatures in the next week for which I am extremely grateful because of all the Siberian Iris in my basement that need to be potted up from the BCIS Convention 2011 spring sale that arrived yesterday!

The iris beds at the main gardens are still covered by leaves and winter debris and those that were flooded last spring are still too wet to walk on yet with spring melt and the crazy precipitation over the last couple of weeks. I am extremely grateful I did not succumb to the temptation to remove the mulch when the temperatures were mild. The only good thing about the wind is that it will dry these beds off pretty quickly now, I hope.

It is definitely going to be a challenging year to be a gardener, for sure.

In CWIS news, our first event of the year was Gardening Saturday at the end of March in Winnipeg. We had an information booth complete with all the iris information you could ever want or need as well as some iris to sell. Left over from the summer 2011 sale, these rhizomes were stored dry in paper bags in my unheated basement for the winter and potted up mid-February. Fully ninety-five per cent of them started growing and were sold out in record time at the event. Our volunteers were kept hopping answering questions and providing iris information to the public which consisted of an estimated 5,000 people over the day.

In other club news, our 5th annual show will be held in 2012! To mark the occasion we will have some very special surprises in place. We aren't sure exactly what form they will take but they will be special. It is really hard to believe we've been doing it for 5 years! In that space of time we went from zero to three judges, most recently with our own **Ed Czarnecki** achieving his Garden/Exhibition Judge status as of January 2012. The Show Schedule appears elsewhere in this newsletter for your information. If you happen to be in our area on June 10th, please drop by and see us at the show and see what we CAN grow in our cold zone!

And, because our membership asked for it, this year's annual rhizome sale will be almost exclusively a beardless sale! The members-only sale takes place each year either the last week in July or first week in August, depending on when the iris arrive. We have secured a Canadian source this year so borders and customs are not a factor.

Have a happy bloom season everyone! If you find yourself in our area anytime during the season, please contact me and I can tell you where to find the iris on the prairies!

Canadian Iris Society:

You are invited to join the Canadian Iris Society. Membership in the CIS is open to all persons interested in irises regardless of skills or experience. New members are welcome. Official membership applications and other information will be available at the show or on the official CIS website: www.cdn-iris.ca.

CIS Officers:

President: **Ed Jowett** 905-936-9941 <jowettfarm@copper.net>
Membership: **Chris Hollinshead** 905-567-8545
3070 Windwood Drive, Mississauga, ON L5N 2K3
<cdn-iris@rogers.com>

Can-West Iris Society

5th Annual Iris Show

Bourkevale Community Centre
100 Ferry Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Sunday, June 10th, 2012- 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Free Admission!!!

Show Chair: **B.J. Jackson, jacksonb@mts.net**

Photo: MTB Ace
Courtesy: Sandy Eggertson

Show Rules and Regulations

1. This accredited show is being held and judged under the rules and regulations of the American Iris Society (AIS). Official rules and regulations of the AIS cannot be violated. Judges' decisions will be final.

2. All entries MUST be staged between 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m Late entries will be accepted for display purposes only.

3. Exhibition privileges are open to all, including judges.

4. This is a cultivar show. All entries must have been grown and entered in person by the exhibitor whose name appears on the entry tag with the correct cultivar name and placed in the appropriate class. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per cultivar; otherwise the number of entries by an exhibitor is not restricted.

   Containers are provided by the Society

   The Placement Committee will aid exhibitors to correctly identify the appropriate section and class.

   Seedlings must be entered under seedling name or number and in the name of the originator.

5. Judging will begin at 11:00 a.m. The show is open to the public from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Exhibitors may not remove entries prior to 4:00 p.m. Unclaimed entries will be disposed of as deemed appropriate by the Show Committee.

6. The Show Committee will exercise all possible care, but cannot be responsible for loss or damage to exhibits.

7. Exhibits entered in the "Unidentified" and "Collections" sections are not eligible for AIS Awards or Best in Show but are eligible for CWIS ribbons.

Show Schedule

DIVISION 1 - HORTICULTURE

Section A - Miniature Dwarf Bearded

Section B - Standard Dwarf Bearded

Section C - Intermediate Bearded

Section D - Miniature Tall Bearded

Section E - Border Bearded

Section F - Tall Bearded

Section G - Other
Class 1 - Species or Species X (bearded or non-bearded)
Class 2 - Siberian
Class 3 - Spuria

Section H - Collections
Class 4 - Collection of three same bearded cultivar
Class 5 - Collection of three different bearded cultivars
Class 6 - Collection of three same non-bearded cultivar
Class 7 - Collection of three different non-bearded cultivars

Collections are Eligible for CWIS Ribbons Only

Section I - Seedlings
- Any Named or Numbered Seedling, any classification

Section J - Historic Iris, (introduced before 1982)
- **Variety and year of introduction must be indicated**.

Section K - Unidentified (no variety name known)
- Judged on condition and grooming - eligible for CWIS ribbons only

The Show Committee reserves the right to add any classes deemed appropriate to include all entries.

Can-West Iris Society

The Can-West Iris Society is a not for profit organization with affiliate status in the American Iris Society.

Membership is open to all persons interested in iris regardless of skill or experience.

For membership information, please contact Deb Petrie at (204) 726 0245 or petrie@mts.net.

American Iris Society

The American Iris Society is a not for profit institution incorporated in 1927. The Corporation exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the iris and is the official registrar for all but bulbous iris (ie. Dutch and Juno iris).

You are invited to join the American Iris Society. Official applications and additional information will be available at the show or on the official AIS website: www.irises.org.

RVP Region 21 (Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, NWT, Nunavut, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba): Ron Cosner (keighley15@msn.com).

Awards

AIS Award - Best Specimen (Queen of Show)
Horticultural Sweepstakes:
- AIS Silver Medal and Certificate - highest number of first place ribbons)
- AIS Bronze Medal and Certificate - second highest number of first place ribbons
Best Historic Stem in Show - Sponsored by OnRussell Gardens
Best Canadian Hybridized Stem in Show - Sponsored by Chapman Iris
CWIS People's Choice Award - Voted by those attending the Show

Exhibition Certificates are awarded to the outstanding seedling, plus any seedling that obtains at least five (5) votes from certified AIS judges.

All AIS judges are asked to contact the Show Chair in order to pick up seedling ballots.

Reticulata with Alan McMurtrie

How is this for a show? Lentrtuin (Spring Garden) theme was London The following are some of Alan's Introductions. **Alan McMurtrie** has been hybridizing Reticulata Iris for nearly 30 Years. He has developed a unique line of hybrids that have broken the blue / violet / purple mould. One of his goals is to develop an Orange Reticulata Iris.

To date McMurtrie has introduced 40 varieties through **Janis Ruksans** in Latvia.

At the show, Alan took over 6,000 pictures. Visit him at www.Reticulatas.com

Mark De Goede in front of the Kwekerij De Schiillhorn display at the 2012 Lene-tuin They specialize in miscellaneous bulbs

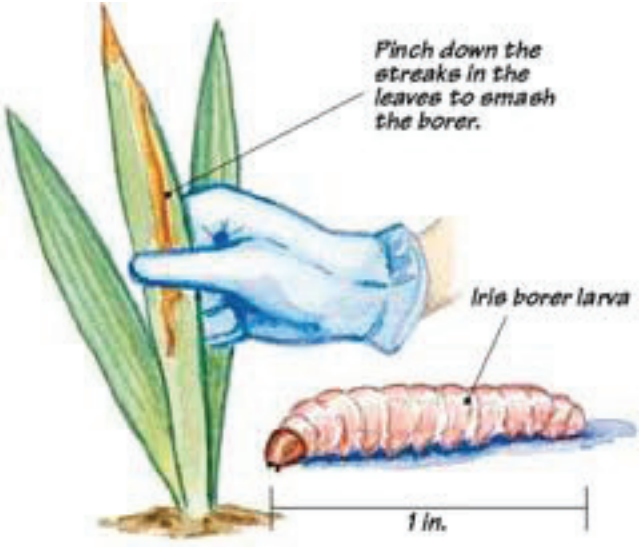
The purple row is “Spot On” The flowers are just starting to bloom as more open the overall colour becomes more solid. Sales should start next year.

Close up of “Spot On”

This is a seedling 94-NP-4 which does not have a name at the moment. This picture was taken in the field but won “Premeur Lentetuin 2012”

Iris Borer Control

By Jan Sacks



Iris borer does not seem to occur west of the Great Plains. However, it is our most serious iris pest. It hatches as a tiny caterpillar in the spring, eats its way into the iris leaves at the tip, down the leaf and into the rhizomes, then hollows out the rhizome and pupates in the ground in August. Just before it pupates it is two inches long and pink! The pupa is dark brown and 3/4 to 1 inch long. An adult moth emerges from the chrysalis in October and lays eggs on iris foliage and debris in your garden.

For chemical control of borer we use a product called Merit (Imidicloprid). We use the formulation called Merit 75WP (or W). It is a wettable powder that is sprayed onto the iris when it is about 5 inches tall. It is a systemic and will kill the borers inside the leaf. We use 1/2 teaspoon for four gallons of water. We also add a small amount of liquid fertilizer to help the plant absorb the insecticide. We do this when siberians are about 4-8 in. tall. This product is also labeled for use as a soil drench, however we do not recommend its use this way. It takes too long for the product to reach the iris borers and requires using too much chemical. Merit is toxic to bees and should not be sprayed on open flowers. It is considered to have extremely low toxicity to humans.

There has been misinformation in the past, that siberians are not subject to iris borer. This is not true. While the bearded irises may be a preferred host, they will attack all kinds of irises in the parts of the country where iris borer exists. The damage to an established siberian clump is not usually devastating. The borers mostly eat the older rhizomes. However borer damage to a newly planted siberian can be fatal. Leaving borers to increase year after year will lead to a serious problem.

Iris Borer larvae

There are two approaches to borer control - cultural or chemical. The first line of cultural defense comes in the fall with meticulous garden cleanup. Remove all the iris foliage and burn it or send it out with the trash. The second line of defense is to police your iris garden before and during the bloom season to catch the pests before they get into the rhizome. Learn the signs of borer infestation. Look on the leaves for pinholes, notches, slimy leaves, and frass. In siberians, the first sign may be a yellowing leaf in the center of an iris fan. When you see an infected leaf - cut it off just above the rhizome and dispose of it. The leaf will grow back. If the borer has made it into the rhizome it becomes more difficult. With bearded irises you can dig up the rhizome, cut out the borer and replant. With beardless, we would only suggest digging the clump if it is a small clump. If you miss the borers before they get into a large clump, hope for better luck next year....or turn to one of the methods below.

Some iris growers have had success using beneficial nematodes to control iris borer. We have not had success with this method because our springs are cool and the nematodes need warmth to be active and search and destroy the iris borers. This method might be more successful in your area.

Our friend **David Schmieder's** method of borer control is based on spraying the newly hatched borers before they get into the leaf. He believes that borer eggs hatch in the spring the first time there are two consecutive days where the temperature exceeds 70 degrees. There are a variety of possible sprays to use at this point depending on the type of sprays you feel comfortable with. We would recommend starting with an ultra-fine horticultural oil as the least toxic to humans. David uses a synthetic pyrethroid. There are toxic chemicals (systemics) which can be used effectively such as Isotox. If you choose this approach follow all directions for personal protection. We do not use these chemicals.

North American Irises Part I

By John Moons

Irises have been described, painted and chiseled out of stone for thousands of years, but all this work happened in the Old World. In Europe, North Africa and Asia we can find hundreds of different species. Some have been grown by people for a long time, but many more have hardly been in cultivation.

Here in North America the botanists have found 28 species. The 5 Louisiana or Hexagonae Irises have been cultivated extensively since the Second World War and many hybrids are available. The other 23 species have not been hybridized as much, but there are a good number of named varieties.

When writing about North American Irises it should be noted that the Iris pseudocorus is an immigrant from Europe. It is very happy here and you might find it a lot more in the wild than North American Irises. In Ontario it is even called an invasive species.

All of the North American Irises belong to the subgenus Limniris. In this subgenus are two sections that contain all the North American Irises. These two sections are Lophiris and Limniris. If you are still with me, these sections are further divided into different series.

Section Limniris

Series Californiae
- I. bracteata
- I. chrysophylla
- I. douglasiana
- I. fernaldii
- I. hartwegii
- I. innominata
- I. microsiphon
- I. munzii
- I. purdyi
- I. tenax
- I. tenuissima
- I. thompsonii

Series Hexagonae or Louisiana Irises
- I. brevicaulis
- I. fulva
- I. giganticaerulea
- I. hexagona
- I. nelsonii

Series Laevigatae
- I. virginica
- I. versicolor

Series Longipetalae
- I. missourensis

Series Prismaticae
- I. prismatica

Series Tripetalae
- I. hookeri
- I. setosa
- I. tridentate

Series Vernae
- I. verna

Section Lophiris
- I.cristata
- I. lacustris
- I. tenuis

Series Californiae or the Pacific Coast Irises

These Irises are native to the Pacific Coast from Washington to California. The plants grow in well-drained soil that is not alkaline and the plants are usually not very tall. The roots do not like to be disturbed. They have 40 chromosomes and can even be crossed with Siberian Irises. These crosses are called Calsibes. The Pacific Coast Irises have thin rhizomes and roots and long narrow evergreen leaves. They bloom in mid to late spring and sometimes even early summer.

I. bracteata. The stems are covered with overlapping bracts which give it its name. The leaves are 30 cm high and 1 cm wide. The flowers are pale yellow with brown veins and 8 cm across. Each stem has two flowers and are also 30 cm high. It flowers in late spring.

I. chrysophylla. This plant from Oregon has also pale yellow flowers that are 6 cm in diameter and the plant is 20 cm high.

I. douglasiana. In the wild this plant grows near the sea. The flowers are up to 10 cm across and sit on tall branching stems up to 60 cm tall. The colours are lavender, lilac or mauve with deeper veining. It is a little less demanding of the soil. It will also grow in light shade , but then it will not bloom as much.

I. fernaldii. This plant is only found near San Francisco. The flowers are up to 7 cm in diameter and pale yellow. It will hybridize easily. The leaves are grey-green and can reach 45 cm.

I. hartwegii comes from California. It has narrow leaves. The plant is small as are the flowers (6 cm. across). The petals are narrow and are pale yellow or lilac. The plants are not very generous with flowers.

I. innominata is an easy to grow plant. The flowers stand 20 cm high and have a wide range of colours from yellow through orange and mauve to lilac and purple. The falls are often veined. The flowers measure 7 cm in diameter.

I. macrosiphon is not easy to grow. The flower is 7 cm in diameter and sits on 25 cm high stems. The colour can be golden pale yellow, blue, violet or purple. The flower tube can be up to 5 cm long.

I. munzii looks a lot like macrosiphon, but the flower tube is shorter. The flowers are up to 7 cm across. It comes from the Sierra Nevada foothills in central California. The flowers sit on 70 cm high stems and are pale blue.

I. purdyi is not easy to find as a species, but it has been hybridized a lot. The species has 2 pale cream flowers (8 cm in diameter) per stem. The leaves are 30 cm high and dark green with a bit of purple in it.

I. tenax comes from the border area of Washington and Oregon. The plants look dense. It likes a higher humidity. The flowers are 7 cm across and the colours are shades of lavender, mauve, white or cream. It has always 2 flowers per stem. The stems are 25 cm high.

I. tenuissima grows in northern California. The flowers have narrow petals that are pale cream with brown veins. The flowers are 7 cm in diameter and sit always in pairs on 30 cm high stems.

I thompsonii. Not everyone considers this Iris to be its own species. Some believe it is a blue form of I. innominata. It comes from Southern Oregon and Northern California.

Companion Plantings for Bearded Irises Part I

By Ann Granatier

I know that this article will stir the blood of many of our members who will no doubt have strong opinions about this plant list. I welcome your comments and suggestions. I think we could have some fun and learn a great deal from each other.

Part I

Companion plants for irises? One would think that is pretty straight forward, plants that bloom at the same time as iris: - peonies, lupines, etc., But we have to ask ourselves, is that the only criteria for a good companion plant? What about plants that don't bloom until later in the summer but have fantastic foliage that contrasts effectively with the sword like leaves of iris? Rudbeckia, Coreopsis to name a few.

Of course, we need to be sure they also have the same cultural needs of sun and good drainage. We also need to look at the negative qualities of plants that may bloom at the same time as Irises but are prolific self-seeders, not a desirable quality for a plant growing next to iris rhizomes. Also plants with aggressive root systems need to be avoided.

Let's start with the obvious...

Plants that bloom at the same time as Bearded Iris

Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Colour	Comments
Basket of Gold	Aurinia	Low	Yellow	Edging and Rockery plant
Beard Tongue	Penstemon	Med- high	Pink-orange	Drought -tolerant
Bell flower	Campanula	Low to high	Whites and blues	Avoid self seeding types
Bergenia	Bergenia	Low	pink	Wonderful foliage, best with moisture
Candy Tuft	Iberis	Low	White	Edging plant with evergreen foliage
Catmint	Nepeta	Medium to high	Blues & purples	Cut back 1/3 after blooming

Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Colour	Comments
Columbine	Aquilegia	Medium to high	Many combinations	Self-seeds
Coral Bells	Heuchera	Medium to high	Many	Light shade
Daylily	Hemerocallis	Medium to high	Many	Easy
Delphinium	Delphinium	High	Blues, pink white	Need staking
Euphorbia	Spurge	Medium	Various reds and greens	Avoid Root spreaders and wear gloves when pruning
Evening Primrose	Oenothera	Medium	Yellow	Can self seed
False Rockcress	Aubrieta	Low rockery	White, pink, purple	Spreader
Jacob's Ladder	Polemonium	Medium	Purple, white or blue	Variegated variety burns in full sun
Marguerite	Daisy	High	Yellow, cream white	Drought tolerant
Oriental Poppy	Papaver	Medium - High	Pink-red, white and orange	Dormant in summer
Peony	Paeonia	Medium	White, pink, red, yellow, purple	Perfect companion
Phlox Moss	Phlox	Low Rockery	Shades of purple	Light shade
Phlox Garden	Phlox	Medium to tall	Many colours	Check for powdery mildew resistance
Pinks	Dianthus	Low-medium	Pink red, white, purple	Needs good drainage
Sandwort	Arenaria	Very low	White	Rockery plant
Snow in Summer	Cerastium	Low Border plant	White	Great in dry poor soils
Thrift	Armeria	Low-medium	Pink or white	Border or rockery plant
Thyme	Thymus	Low	Purple pink white	Loves heat
Rockcress	Arabis	Low	White-pink	Border or rockery

OK. Let me know what you think and I'll add your comments in the next newsletter. In Part II, I will list plants that bloom after the Irises but their foliage is a real asset.

CANADIAN IRIS HYBRIDIZERS

2010 CANADIAN REGISTRATIONS

Compiled by Don McQueen

There were sixteen new Canadian Iris registered during the year with the American Iris Society, eleven by Tony Huber, one by Penny Santosham, and four by Joyce Prothero, a new hybridizer.

Huber, Tony Laval QC

2010: 11 ***CHRISTIANE BEADES*** (SPX-biversata)n, ***CLOTH OF FLAME*** (SPX-reensata)n, ***FLAMING EYES*** (SPX)n, ***HENRI TEUSCHER*** (SPX-versata,tet)n, ***HOPEFUL DREAM*** (SPX-versata,tet)n, ***LATE SNOWCAP*** (SPX-reensata)n, ***LIGHT SHIMMER*** (SPX)n, ***RIVIERE ROUGE*** (SPX-biversata)n, ***SUMMER FESTIVAL*** (SP-biversata)n, ***TREMBLANT BLUES*** (SPX-tet.versata)n, ***VEIL CLOTHES*** (SPX)n

Santosham, Penny Penticton, BC

2010: 1 ***VIJIMA*** (TB)n

Prothero, Joyce Salt Spring Island, BC

2010: 4 ***BANNER FOR IONA*** (CA)n, ***SALTSPRING SPRITE*** (CA)n, ***SALTSPRING SUNBURST*** (CA)n, ***SALTSPRING SWIRL*** (CA)n

Awards for 2011

As published by BIS

The Dykes Medal - Drama Queen (Keith Keppel)
The John C Wister Medal – TB - Florentine Silk (Keith Keppel)
The Knowlton Medal – BB - Fleece As White (Paul Black)
The Hans And Jacob Sass Medal – IB - Garnet Slippers (Keith Keppel)
The Williamson-White Medal – MTB – Dividing Line (Charles Bunnell)
The Cook-Douglas Medal – SDB – Fires Of Fiji (Paul Black)
The Caparne-Welch – MDB – Fission Chips (Keith Keppel)
The Clarence G White Medal – AR & AB – Hammurabi (Lowell Baumunk)
The William Mohr Medal – AB – Persian Sapphire (Lowell Baumunk)
The Founders Of Signa Medal – SPEC – Seakrill (Jill Copeland)
The Randolph Perry Medal – SPEC-X – Night Mood (Lynn Markham)
The Sydney B. Mitchell Medal – CA – Bar Code (Joseph Ghio and
Star of Wonder (Joseph Ghio)
The Mary Swords Debaillon Medal – LA – Raspberry Rilla (Rilla Hickerson)
The Morgan-Wood Medal – SIB – Banish Misfortune (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)
The Eric Nies Medal – SPU – Speeding Star (Anna & David Cadd)
Walther Cup (Most HM votes in any category) – Star In The Night (Paul Black) IB

The Canadian Iris Society

Presents its

Annual Iris Show

Sunday, June 3rd, 2012
1 p.m. through 4 p.m.

Trails End Iris Gardens
3674 Indian Trail Rd R.R. #8
Brantford, ON. N3T 5M1

Free Admission

Lady of the Night

CIS Awards

F. A. Garrity Trophy
-best iris stalk exhibited in the show
W. J. Moffat Trophy
-best stalk of an unnamed tall bearded iris seedling.
Les Richardson Award
-best stalk of an unnamed iris seedling other than tall bearded.
O.A. Kummer Cup
-best stalk of a named iris of Canadian origin.
Novice Cup
-awarded to exhibitor winning most points in novice section
Junior Trophy
-awarded to exhibitor winning most points in junior section.

AIS Awards

AIS Silver Medal and certificate
-Most red ribbons Division 1 Sections A-E
AIS Bronze Medal and certificate
-2nd most red ribbons Division 1 Sections A-E

The individual ribbons awarded to the entries are provided by the Canadian Iris Society:

Red -First
Blue -Second
White -Third
Pink -Honourable Mention

Exhibition Certificates

-best seedling and any other seedling receiving
five or more votes from qualified judges.

Show Committee

Chair John Moons 519-752-9756
Co-Chair Ed Jowett 905-936-9941

Iris Societies

Canadian Iris Society

You are invited to join the Canadian Iris Society.

Membership in the CIS is open to all persons interested in irises regardless of skills or experience. New members are welcome.

Join us at our next regular event, the annual iris rhizome sale on Sunday, August 19, 2012 at the Royal Botanical Gardens Plains road West, Burlington, ON.

Visitors (non-members) are very welcome at this sale/auction event. This is an opportunity to obtain some of the same beautiful iris on display here today for your own garden. We look forward to seeing you again.

Official membership applications and other information will be available at the show or on the official website.
CIS website www.cdn-iris.ca

CIS Officers:

President: Ed Jowett 905-936-9941

Membership: Chris Hollinshead 905-567-8545
3070 Windwood Drive
Mississauga, ON L5N 2K3

American Iris Society

You are invited to join the American Iris Society (AIS)

Official membership applications and additional information will be available at the show or on the official website. New members are welcome.
AIS website: www.irises.org

RVP Region 2 Donna Lowry
email: donnadonlowry@aol.com

AIS affiliates are in place and also sponsor iris shows.

Show Rules

1. The judging standard will be that of the American Iris Society's Judge's Handbook and cannot be violated. The decision of the judges shall be final.

2. Exhibition privileges are open to all, including judges.

3. All horticultural exhibits must have been grown and entered in person by the exhibitor whose name appears on the entry tag.

4. All entries MUST be staged between 8 am and 11 am to allow judging to conclude by 1 pm. Late entries will be accepted for display purposes.

5. All entries must be entered under name and in class number specified in the show schedule.

- Containers are furnished by the Society except class 30 & 31.
- The number of entries by an exhibitor is not restricted, but they may enter only one specimen of each cultivar per division.
- The placement committee will aid the exhibitors to correctly identify the appropriate section.
- Cultivars are to be arranged alphabetically in each class to facilitate staging and judging.

6. The show area is open to the public only upon completion of the judging (approximately 1:00 pm). No one is allowed in the exhibit area excepting the judges, the clerks, and the show chairman.

- Special arrangements can be made for photographers before the show is open to the public. Please contact the show chairman.

7. Exhibitors may not remove entries prior to 4:00 pm.
Unclaimed entries will be disposed of.

8. The Show Committee will exercise all possible care,
but cannot be responsible for loss or damage to exhibits.

The major awards of the CIS are perpetual and remain the property of the society.

All judges are asked to contact the show chairman in order to pick up seedling ballots.

Entry Classes

Division One — Iris Species

Section A: An iris cultivar introduced by a Canadian hybridizer.
Class 1 Tall Bearded
Class 2 Other Bearded
Class 3 Other Iris

Section B: Historic Iris (introduced prior to 1982)
Class 4 Tall Bearded
Class 5 Other Bearded Iris
Class 6 Other Iris

Section C: Bearded Iris
Class 7 Tall Bearded
Class 8 Miniature Dwarf Bearded
Class 9 Median (SDB, IB, MTB, and BB)
Class 10 Aril
Class 11 Arilbred

Section D: **Siberian**
Class 12 Siberian iris

Section E: Other iris not specified above.
Class 13 Spec-X: Iris species, named
Class 14 Spec-X: Iris species crosses
Class 15 Japanese
Class 16 Spuria
Class 17 Other classes

. **Section F: Seedlings**
Class 18 Tall Bearded
Class 19 Other Bearded
Class 20 Other Iris

Section G: **Novice**
Class 21 Tall Bearded
Class 22 Other Bearded
Class 23 Other Iris

Section H: **Junior**
Class 24 Tall Bearded
Class 25 Other Bearded
Class 26 Other Iris

Division Two — Exhibitions

Section I: **Collections**

Class 27 Collection of three named Tall Bearded cultivars
Class 28 Collection of three named Siberian cultivars

Section J: Herbaceous perennials & biennials as companions for iris

Class 29 Three blooms or stalks as appropriate,
all same species or cultivar
Class 29A Single bloom or stalk as appropriate

Note: Bulbous irises entered in Class 17 are eligible to receive award ribbons and special section awards. Award ribbons are included in the tally for Silver and Bronze Medal/Certificates, but these entries are **not eligible for the "Best Specimen of Show" award**.

Class 29 & 29A are eligible for **points only - no awards**.

Points are awarded as follows:

Major Trophy awards	10 points
Court of Honour	10 points
1st prize (red ribbon)	5 points
2nd prize (blue ribbon)	3 points
3rd prize (white ribbon)	2 points

Exhibitors complete a point credit sheet during the show and have it approved by the Show Chairman. This credit sheet is applied to purchases at CIS sponsored sales..

JOIN IN THE FUN!

Bring along your best flower stems.

CIS Membership Message

Not sure of your Canadian Iris Society (CIS) membership term? Check your mailing label of the CIS newsletter for your current CIS membership term dates. If you receive the electronic version of the CIS Newsletter and you wish to know this information please e-mail the CIS membership chairman at cdn-iris@rogers.com and we will be pleased to advise you.
Early renewals are always appreciated.

Open Tour Gardens

We have a number of members who are offering their gardens for tour during the bloom periods. We ask that you phone before visiting in order to be sure of time and bloom available.

Chapman Iris

(See Canadian sources for address)
SDB showing Sunday May 20th 1 – 5.00 pm
May 30th, Wed 10.00 am – 6.00 pm
Jun 2nd, Sat 10.00 am – 6.00 pm
Jun 6th, Wed 10.00 am – 6.00 pm
Call to confirm 519-856-0956

McMillen's Iris Garden

(See Canadian sources for address)
Gardens will be open end of May till 3rd week of June for Tall Bearded's
Hours 9.30 am till dark 7 days a week
Gloria will be in the garden from 9.30 am till 1.30 pm and 4.30 pm till dark
Everyone welcome to come visit
Phone to confirm 1-866-466-6508

Don McQueen

38 Lloyd Manor Cres
London, ON
Don has an on-going open garden again this year
For a visit, contact him at 519-471-8024, or ddmcqueen@rogers.com for bloom times and directions.

Erin Mills Iris Garden

Chris Hollinshead
3070 Wind wood Drive
Mississauga, ON
Collection of SDB Iris & TB Iris, and Siberian Irises
Normally mid May through mid June
Call ahead to setup visit and verify iris bloom status
Phone 905-567-8545 or 416-389-9083 or e-mal erin-mills@rogers.com

Jowett Farm

My garden will be open all during the Iris and Peony Bloom season
Contact me for directions and times
Ed Jowett
Tottenham, ON
Phone 905-936-9941 or 416-434-3225 or e-mail jowettfarm@copper.net

Trails End Iris Gardens

(See Canadian sources for address)
Gardens are open Friday – Thru Monday only (4 days a week only)
Early Bloom Sat May 5th thru May 17th for MDB and SDB
Peek Bloom Fri May 18th thru June 11th IB, BB, TB, and late SDB
Late Bloom June 12 thru June 30th Late TB
Hour 9.30 am – 5.00 pm
Call to make sure garden is open before going 519-647-9746
or e-mal bob@trailsendiris.com

Tara Perennial Farm

(See Canadian sources for address)
Call Marion for information 519-934-3447

If in Manitoba contact Barbara Jean Jackson at jacksonb@mts.net and she can tell you where to find the iris on the prairies!

Canadian Historical Iris

We are trying to locate any Historical Canadian iris; but in particular we are looking for the following – ***Toranda***, ***Canadaway***, ***Sultan's Glamour***, ***W.J. Moffat***, ***Okon***, ***Kum-on***, ***Centennial Gold***, ***Point Petite***, ***Judean Star***, ***Richmond Gold***, ***Richmond Pink***, ***City of Stratford***, ***Shah Jehan***, ***Snow Glory***, and ***Fancy Biscuit*** or any other Historical Canadian Iris. If you have any of these or know of anyone who has any of these would you please let the editor know at the following address:

CIS Editor
1960 Side Rd 15 R.R. 2
Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0
E mail jowettfarm@copper.net

Walker Ross Award:

This is an annual award presented to a person who has given outstanding effort and performance to the Canadian Iris Society. If you know of someone you feel is deserving of this award; please send in your nomination to our secretary.

AIS Regional News

Region 1

Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Newfoundland/Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island

RVP Norine Veal

e-mail nsveal@aol.com

- No Report

Region 2

New York, Ontario, Quebec

RVP Donna Lowry

e-mail donnadonlowry@aol.com

- No Report

Region 13

Washington, Oregon, Alaska, British Columbia, Yukon

RVP Alan Brooks

e-mail ebb1012@aol.com

- No Report

Region 21

Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, NWT, Nunavut, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba

RVP Ron Cosner

e-mail keighley15@msn.com

- No Report

Full current details of the various RVPs and affiliated local iris clubs/societies of the AIS Regions are available on the AIS website: www.irises.org.

CIS – 2012 Bearded Iris Sale

Sale Starts June 10, 2012

(See Order Form next page.)

Border, Intermediate and Tall Bearded


Banded Gold


Banded Rose


Border Baby


Devil's Waltz

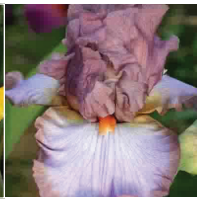

Orange Fluorescence


Aquanaut


Firewalker


Orca


Soleil


Advanced Features


Abundant Blue


Anticipation Rose


Beam Me Up Scottie

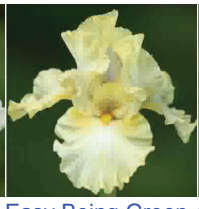

Blush of Pink


Celtic Woman


Chianti Classic


Code Blue

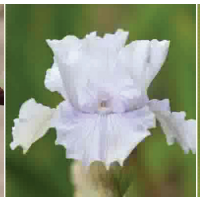

Crystal Angel


Easy Being Green


Great Balls of Fire


Harbor Breeze


Purdue Pete


Stardusted


Summer Sunburst


Tail Hook

CIS – 2012 Bearded Iris Order Form

Border, Intermediate and Tall Bearded

Type	Cultivar	Year Intro	Cat Price	Sale Price	Qty	Amount
BB	Banded Gold	2010	15.00	$ 9.20		
BB	Banded Rose	2011	20.00	10.20		
BB	Border Baby	2010	15.00	9.20		
BB	Devil's Waltz	2010	15.00	7.20		
BB	OrangeFluorescence	2011	20.00	10.20		
IB	Aquanaut	2010	10.00	5.20		
IB	Firewalker	2010	10.00	6.20		
IB	Orca	2009	8.00	5.00		
IB	Soleil	2011	15.00	9.20		
TB	Advanced Features	2012	50.00	35.00		
TB	Abundant Blue	2010	20.00	12.20		
TB	Anticipation Rose	2010	15.00	7.70		
TB	Beam Me Up Scotty SA	2011	35.00	21.20		
TB	Blush Of Pink	2010	20.00	12.20		
TB	Celtic Woman	2009	15.00	7.70		
TB	Chianti Classic	2010	25.00	15.20		
TB	Code Blue	2009	15.00	7.70		
TB	Crystal Angel	2011	30.00	15.20		
TB	Easy Being Green	2009	12.00	6.20		
TB	Great Balls Of Fire	2011	35.00	21.20		
TB	Harbor Breeze	2011	35.00	17.70		
TB	Purdue Pete	2010	20.00	10.20		
TB	Stardusted	2010	18.00	9.20		
TB	Summer Sunburst RE	2010	20.00	10.20		
TB	Tail Hook SA	2011	30.00	15.20		
				Page Sub-total		

Shipping Costs

Number of Rhizomes to Ship	Ontario	Other
1 – 10	$ 9.00	14.00
11 – 20	14.00	19.00
21 – 30	19.00	24.00
31 and more — add additional	.50 per	rhizome

Sale Starts June 10, 2012

Medians

Type	Cultivar	Year Intro	Cat Price	Sale Price	Qty	Amount
MDB	Boink	2011	10.00	$ 5.20		
MDB	Jot	2010	8.00	4.20		
MDB	Pretty Pixie	2010	8.00	4.20		
MTB	Autumn Splash	2009	8.00	5.00		
MTB	Blue Harmony	2001	15.00	9.20		
MTB	Dollie And Me	2011	15.00	7.70		
MTB	Fashionably Gold	2010	10.00	6.20		
MTB	Fernie Bridge	2009	8.00	4.20		
MTB	Frilly Molly	2011	15.00	7.70		
MTB	Going Dotty	2010	10.00	5.20		
MTB	Hot News	2009	8.00	4.20		
MTB	Ozark Charmer	2010	10.00	5.20		
MTB	She's A Doll	2010	10.00	6.20		
MTB	Speckled Spring	2011	15.00	7.70		
SDB	Bad Boys	2011	12.00	6.20		
SDB	Beat Goes On RE	2010	8.00	5.00		
SDB	Break Dancing	2010	8.00	4.20		
SDB	Clairvoyant	2010	8.00	5.00		
SDB	Craisin	2010	10.00	6.20		
SDB	Custom Jewel	2009	6.00	3.80		
SDB	Exotic Blend	2009	6.00	3.80		
SDB	Extraterrestrial	2008	5.00	2.70		
SDB	Force Field	2011	12.00	7.40		
SDB	Here Come The Clowns	2011	12.00	7.40		
SDB	Ninja Turtles	2008	5.00	2.70		
SDB	Quarter Moon	2011	12.00	7.40		
SDB	Slow Burn	2009	8.00	5.00		
SDB	Spring Into Summer RE	2011	12.00	7.40		
SDB	Tanzanite	2009	6.00	3.80		
				Page Sub-total		

Mail to:
Canadian Iris Society,
1960 Side Rd 15 R.R. 2,
Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0

or e-mail: jowettfarm@copper.net

Total	**Net**	
Plus	Shipping	
Total	**Gross**	

Medians


Boink


Jot


Pretty Pixie


Autumn Splash


Blue Harmony


Dollie and Me


Fashionably Gold


Fernie Bridge


Frilly Molly


Going Dotty


Hot News


Ozark Charmer


She's a Doll


Speckled Spring


Bad Boys


Beat Goes On


Break Dancing


Clairvoyant


Craisin


Custom Jewel


Exotic Blend


Extraterrestrial


Force Field


Here Come the Clowns


Ninja Turtles


Quarter Moon


Slow Burn


Spring Into Summer


Tanzanite

Questions, Answers, and Opinions

Q. Some of my Siberian Iris varieties seem to be magnets for aphids, and I notice that the infested flower stalks are always in the same location as ant nests. I understand that ants and aphids seem to have a natural relationship. My question is, have you ever heard of this problem with ants/aphids with Siberian Iris and if so any suggestions on how to tackle the problem?

A. It is not common for Siberians or any other Iris to have aphids, but it does happen. And it is certainly true that wherever you find aphids you will find ants – the ants not only "milk" the aphids for the sweet liquid they excrete, but they will even transport the aphids to a location preferred by the ants.

The solution is to spray with something – the question is what. Easiest is to use a systemic spray – it depends on whether you use chemicals. Merit will take care of aphids for quite a long time. It is non-toxic to humans but may be to bees. We use it carefully on iris for borer; we do not spray it on flowers. Another approach is to spray with insecticidal soap or lightweight horticultural oil. This will kill the aphids on any given day, but you will want to spray several times to get rid of them because of new hatches. Some people just use a strong water stream and blast the aphids off several times – though with the ants – that may be a longtime necessity. There are lots of other sprays that can be used. Some people use Pyrethrin (organic) or synthetic pyrethrin (not Organic).

This question was sent in by a member in Nova Scotia and the answer was given to us by a hybridizer/Grower. Thanks to both!

If you have questions, or comments; please send them in. We will try to answer any questions. Comments and opinions are often enjoyed by others.

Special Invitation

We ask all of our American friends in Region 2 (or any other region for that matter) to mark their calendars for Sunday June 3, 2012 and to come and join us at our show and picnic from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. This is held where there is a lot to see (Trails End Iris Gardens, 3674 Indian Trail Rd, Lynden, ON, R.R. 8 Brantford). We hope to see you on June 3rd!

The Lynedoch Community Group invites you to join in the celebration of

Lynedoch's 200th Anniversary.

Lynedoch *Garden Tour* and *Historical Celebration*

Saturday, June 9, 2012
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Advance Tickets - $8.00

Events include: Annual Garden Tour, Unveiling of Historic Village Designation *(by Norfolk Heritage Committee),* Artists in the Garden, Musical Festival in the Church yard, historical displays, all day barbeque, vendors and a Strawberry Social sponsored by the Lynedoch United Church Women.

Garden listings and historical display locations will be available on the day of the event at the Lynedoch United Church.

Founded in 1812, Lynedoch is a beautiful village built along the banks of Big Creek in Norfolk County. It is home to many century and newer houses with large manicured treed lots and beautiful gardens. Several gardens will be within walking distance of the Lynedoch United Church, where parking is available. Other gardens will be available by travelling a short distance by vehicle.

Location: Village of Lynedoch

- 5 miles south of Delhi in Norfolk County
- 35 miles south of Brantford

Advance sale tickets - $8.00 – contact members of the Lynedoch Community Group
Tickets on the day of event - $10.00

For further information, please contact:

Nora Skelding – gn.skelding@hotmail.com or 519-582-1777
Judy deKorte - jdekorte@simcom.ca or 519-582-8681
Joan Davidson - joan@ajd.ca or 519-582-4202
Jane Carnegie – jab.carnegie@sympatico.ca or 519-582-1868

The Real Dirt!

April, 2012

Veg Out this Summer!

As you pour over the seed catalogues during these long winter nights, more people are contemplating a veggie garden, but is it too much trouble? Think again. You can take a lot of personal pride in growing your own fresh lettuce and peas, luscious tomatoes or fresh beans by the kitchen door. You will be able to rest assured that your produce has been grown naturally and does not contain pesticides or other chemicals.

Square foot gardens can be an excellent design for a vegetable garden. This might mean a wooden form 4' by 8' raised a foot off the ground. The soil warms up faster if the garden is raised extending the growing season and many people find weeding easier if they can sit on a side log or board and pick away at their weeds as they enjoy their morning coffee. Watering is more efficient and therefore less expensive.

So, you don't think you have enough room for a vegetable garden? Consider a vertical pallet garden under your deck, on a balcony or beside the barbeque. Pallets can be found behind supermarkets free of charge and most do not use pressure treated wood or preservatives. You may even be lucky enough to find a pallet at a stone mason's. Their pallets are made of oak and are sturdier than most. Landscape fabric is used to contain the soil and a drip water system or water bulbs recommended for irrigation. For an excellent tutorial on how to build a pallet garden Google "How to Turn a Pallet into a Garden" by Fern.

The first rule of planning a veggie garden is to grow plants that you enjoy eating and are easiest to grow. Peas and carrots are first to be planted as soon as the snow is gone. Of course you can easily have two or three crops staggered if you have the room. There isn't anything as sweet as a pea from the pod in the early spring. Extras can be frozen for next winter.

Lettuces have come a long way from the early varieties, they are now available in all textures, shades and mixtures of green and burgundy. One of the most successful to grow in our area is the Oak leaf lettuce as is does better in hot summers. Spinach is one of my personal favourites as it is so high in nutritional value and so expensive in the stores. However, it should be planted early in the season as it does not like our hot summers.

Beans are the real deal when planning a vegetable garden. Not only can you have two or three crops the blooms are fabulous. Purple blooms from the purple pod varieties, Dragon's tongue (or Tongue of Fire) in a startling yellow or the beautiful red blooms of the Scarlett Runner (if you have a trellis or wall to cover).

Tomato seeds are available for an amazing variety of colours especially the cherry tomatoes which can be found in yellow, dark purple, ping zebra-striped green, orange and of course red. You may also want to experiment with the heirloom varieties or trade varieties with friends.

Seed from unconventional vegetables can be obtained from suppliers or seed exchange associations such as Canada's Heritage Seed Program or the Canadian Organic Growers.

There are new advancements in the veggie world and it is well worth your while to check out several catalogues to choose your seeds. Burpee has come out with a "Boost" line of veggies that are packed with antioxidants and vitamins for higher nutrition food. As we all push towards a sustainable earth we are learning more environmentally responsible methods of providing ourselves with convenient, inexpensive and tasty vegetables in 2012.

Cherin Harris-Tuck,

Master Gardener

April TO DO List

- Bring tools out of storage and examine them for rust or other damage. Clean and sharpen them if you didn't do it in the fall!
- Prune all late summer-flowering shrubs and old perennial growth.
- Divide perennials that bloom in mid-summer.
- Avoid walking on your lawn and garden as the ground starts to thaw. The soil is saturated with moisture and will compact very easily.
- Have a gardening question or need to identify a plant or pest, ask a Master Gardener (contact information to the right).
- Rake lawn, repair damage and seed bare spots.
- Prepare garden beds for planting –dig in compost and other organic matter

Tip of the Month:

Here is a tip for those people encouraging birds to their backyard for natural predators but would like to deter squirrels in their feeders. Use a Slinky toy! Attach a slinky toy to a 2" metal post and the squirrels will not climb up the post. Louise just put one on hers last week and works good.

The Real Dirt!

Newsletter of the Simcoe County Master Gardeners

Volume 2, Issue 2

Editor Cherin Harris-Tuck

To Subscribe/Unsubscribe please contact therealdirt@rogers.ca

Master Gardeners of Simcoe County

Where to find us for free gardening advice!

Tues. April 17, 2012 Master Gardener Meeting, The White Pine Boardroom 2284 Nursery Rd. Midhurst 7:00pm – 9:00pm

April 21- 22, 2012 Creemore Horticultural Society – St. Luke's Anglican Hall, 22 Caroline St. West,Creemore 7:30 - 9:00

Wed April 24, 2012 Brentwood ; Dahlias –Darlings of the Garden; Ada Malstrom

May 8, 2012 Right Plant,Right Place; Joan Nieman-Agapas, New Barrie Library, 48 Dean Avenue.

May 10, 2012, Container Gardening; Cherin Harris-Tuck, New Barrie Library, 48 Dean Avenue.

May 14, 2012 Veggies and Annuals; Clarinda Hamilton, Timely Landscaping Tips and Tricks; Rhona Desroches, TBA Kevin Van Andel Penetang, Brian Orser Hall Arena, Thompson Rd.

May 15, 2012 Master Gardener Meeting, The White Pine Boardroom 2284 Nursery Rd. Midhurst Guest Speaker Cindy Mitchell; Hosta Fever(7:00pm – 9:00pm)

May 22, 2012 **Alliston**, St. John's Church, 56 Victoria St. Alliston Greg Kalcic, John Craw, Tracy XXX.

May 22,2012 Cookstown Library, Carol Dunk

Ask a Master Gardener books containing answers to your most common only gardening questions are available at any of these speaking engagements for $10 or Gardening Guides for only $1. Valuable references for you or as gifts for a gardening friend!

For information on arranging a lecture for your group please contact Joan Nieman-Agapas 705-721-9088 or email her at jnabarrie@yahoo.ca. For more information on Master Gardeners, visit our website: www.mgoi.ca

Special Reprint:

INTERSPECIES AND INTERSERIES CROSSES OF BEARDED IRISES

By Lech Komarnicki

revised, completed and updated version

English translation edited by Mrs. Anne Blanco-White

reprinted with permission

courtesy: www.britishirissociety.org.uk/hybrids

to Evelyn, my wife

Mr L. Komarnicki
Raszynska 3 m.6
02-026 Warsawa
Poland

lech.komarnicki@gmail.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The text above would not be complete without few words of acknowledgement. I should not be able to write it if I had not read in the BIS Year Book more than twenty years ago a few articles written by Dr. Tomas Tamberg and later if I did not meet him and his charming wife, Christine, in their garden in Berlin. Tomas has helped me through the years with plants, seeds and advice. Some irises I registered were grown from seeds I received from him but Tomas was so generous that did not allow me to register them in his name. Thanks to him I could start about fifteen years ago in my own way. A few years ago I repeated a cross invented by him, tetraploid siberian x sibtosa, resulting in sibtosa 3 – 1, and the obtained plant seemed to me nice enough to be named in his honour.

'Fur Grossemeister' (sibtosa 3 - 1)

My special thanks go to Mrs. Anne Blanco-White who was so kind as to edit the translation and who sent me also some materials unknown to me and numerous valuable remarks which helped me to make amendments and to correct mistakes. Her help was really priceless.

Words of gratitude are sent to Mrs Jean G. Witt who gave me much important informations from her own research.

A FEW WORDS OF EXPLANATION

This work was originally a chapter of the big booklet written in Polish for Middle European Iris Society, entitled "THE BEARDLESS IRISES" ("IRYSY BEZBRÓDKOWE" - printed in 2011) and treating about plants for colder climate. Presenting to the British reader only one chapter from the booklet I ought to explain the adopted principles on which it is constructed.

From my point of view the interspecies and interseries beardless hybrids are the most interesting and unusual group of irises. The list of such hybrids is really long and with growing number of tetraploid clones, which are often fertile, is growing longer. New types of crossing are appearing and though the number of possibilities is not unlimited it is still not fully exploited.

As far as I know, there is not yet any list collecting the known types of wide crosses. Such list however may be useful for the hybridisers interested in beardless irises. The text below is an attempt to gather all the known and verified groups of these hybrids and to classify them according to botanical classification. Every group (with pedigree given) is discussed shortly under the mother species and reference is made to the male parent. I hope this classification is logical and clear and may help the reader to observe the actual situation and trends in breeding. The fertility is emphasised because it gives the chance of creating the breeding lines. Limits of space only allow some cultivars to be mentioned.

I omitted the interspecies hybrids in homogenous Series and Subseries, which include closely related species easily intercrossing, as Sibiricae, Chrysographes, Californicae and Hexagonae. Practically all cultivars in these groups are hybrids, sometimes crossed more than once. From the point of view of a breeder it is irrelevant. Any iris from the Californicae for example, whether a pure species, or a cultivar combining and recombining species in its pedigree, will behave in the same way when crossed with a similar one from (for instance) the Chrysographes Subseries. It is of course a simplification but for use in our work these Series and Subseries are treated as big species in the widest meaning of the word. So in the pedigrees reader will find names of Series and Subseries. This does not mean that hybrids of the species from such Series cannot or should not be registered in the garden category SPEC X. But for wide crosses any cultivar is a representative of the whole group. It is evident that individual differences may play a role. Some cultivars are easier to pollinate than other. Some are good parents, some are not. A breeder must base conclusions on his/her own experience.

Spuriae are not so homogenous, there are two different groups which probably are not compatible, but practically till now they were not successfully used for interseries crosses, though there are three cultivars registered. These however are doubtful and more would be said below. The fourth, unregistered, will be mentioned under the name gradissima. *I.ensata* makes a whole garden group known as Japanese irises and we appear to deal with one species.

All the the rest reader will find below.

WIDE CROSSES OF BEARDLESS IRISES

GARDEN CATEGORY – SPECIES CROSSES (SPEC X)

British breeders pioneered in the field of interspecies crosses. Sir Michael Foster (professor of medicine, iris enthusiast and collector of species) worked at the end of the XIX century and generously shared his results and plants with other enthusiasts and breeders, inspiring W.R.Dykes whom he encouraged to work with irises. Then in the first quarter of the XX century the great breeder Amos Perry seems to have crossed all the species he had, mainly beardless, with each other for the first time. In 1927 his Iris 'Margot Holmes' (*I.chrysographes x I.douglasiana*) was the first recipient of The Dykes Medal. Then in the 1990s the A.I.S. established a medal – the highest award in this category. It was named the Randolph-Perry Medal as an acknowledgement of the great merits of the British breeder and the American botanist, explorer and iris expert L.F.Randolph.

In the '30s M. Simonet in France made some far crosses. In the second half of the XX century Dr. W. G. McGarvey crossed siberian irises (28 chromosomes) with sino-siberians (40 chromosomes). In the '7os in American gardens some attractive hybrids appeared from uncontrolled pollination which were later recognised and registered as cal-sibes. In the U.S.A. Lorena Reid tried some far crosses and in Germany Dr. Tomas Tamberg started his big scale work and obtained many unusual hybrids. He also converted many clones of species and hybrids to tetraploids and that opened new possibilities.

Development in breeding will cause a marked growth in numbers of hybrids and probably some bigger groups will be separated out and placed in separate categories, but that is for the distant future. For the present it is enough that a category of SPEC X exists and the best hybrids may aspire to awards.

According to the accepted principles explained in the introduction, the botanical classification will be followed going successively through the sections and series of Subgenus Limniris. The reader will find the names of particular types of hybrids under both parental species, but their description is under the female parents; these types of hybrids are usually named by combining the first syllables of the pod parent with the last syllables of the pollen parent.

SECTION LOPHIRIS

These irises are related to the bearded irises so it is no surprise that the hybrids of *I.tectorum* with the bearded diploid *I.pallida* are known. The information that a Japanese breeder obtained a hybrid between *I.tectorum* and a siberian iris was however very surprising and, according to H. Shimizu, not true.

Hybrids between the species from the Section Lophiris are not described here because they do not belong with the beardless irises in the true sense of the word and so are outside the frame of our booklet. Needless to say they cannot be grown in the Polish climate though to my surprise *I.japonica* has grown for more than ten years in the open ground in the microclimate of the Arboretum in Bolestraszyce (Southern Poland).

SECTION LIMNIRIS

Series Chinenses and Series Vernae

Nothing is known of hybrids. Probably there have been no attempts to cross irises from these series.

SERIES RUTHENICAE

I.ruthenica

Dr. Tomas Tamberg hybridised *I.ruthenica* with sino-siberians. The SIGNA Check List has no information about this. As far as I know nobody else has tried to cross these species.

Chrythenica – see under Subseries Chrysographes.

SERIES TRIPETALAE

I.hookeri

Until a few years ago *I.hookeri* was treated as a subspecies of *I.setosa*. The chromosome number is the same and the difference is in presence of one pigment absent in *I.setosa,* the shorter stem and only one or two buds. I was sure it was rarely used as the features mentioned are rather undesirable. Unexpectedly I found in the information sent to me by Mrs. Jean Witt that there are some crosses with siberians and during the work on this translation Mrs. Anne Blanco-White informed me about Tony Huber's quite sensational cross *I.hookeri* x 'Donau'. It seems that if *I.hookeri* reached the species status its hybrids should be listed here.

Hookbirica – (*I.hookeri* x *Sibiricae*} – two cultivars of this type were found in SIGNA Check List. Time will show if the similar crosses should be made.

Hookcorus - (*I.hookeri* x *I.pseudacorus* tetraploid) – nothing is known about this hybrid. It seems to me sensational as I made myself hundreds crosses with *I.pseudacorus* and *I.setosa* with no result. The more so that it is a cross of a diploid with a tetraploid. Let us wait for more details.

Hooktosa and setkeri – crosses between *I.hookeri* and *I.setosa* – it would be difficult to find them in Check Lists. The species are so closely related that hybrids (if there were any) are practically undistinguishable from pure *I.setosa* and so I do not list them in wide crosses.

Sibkeri – see under Subseries Sibiricae.

I.setosa

A valuable species often used by breeders. In far crosses it is mostly used as a pollen parent.

Sevigata – (*I.setosa* x *I.laevigata*) – Dr. Tomas Tamberg, of course, bred the first hybrid. Unfortunately he did not continue his work and did not obtain a tetraploid clone. Apart from a short description in the Check List there is no more information. A. Horinaka also obtained such hybrid, evidently from unreduced gamete of *I.setosa* (2n=53,54). He thinks the hybrid sterile form of *I. setosa* growing wild in Japan and known as *I.hondoensis,* sometimes treated as a subspecies, may in fact be a hybrid of the sevigata type, taking into account the similarity to his seedling.

Sibtocolor – see under Subseries Sibiricae
Sibtosa – see under Subseries Sibiricae
Tenosa – see under Series Californicae
Verbiritosa – see under *I.versicolor*
Vertosa – see under *I.versicolor*

I.tridentata is a southern species, rare in cultivation. The chromosome number is 2n=40 counted by Dr. N. Henderson. I thought there are no hybrids but in the last minute Dr. Tamberg informed me that Marty Schafer had obtained interesting hybrids from this species crossed with siberians and had sent him photos. Let us wait for more information. The name should be probably **sibtata**. Breeder will decide.

SERIES SIBIRICAE

SUBSERIES SIBIRICAE

Siberian irises

Practically all cultivars in this Subseries are in fact hybrids of *I.sibirica* and *I.sanguinea* sometimes later crossed with *I.typhifolia*. In breeding we treat them as one big species in the widest sense of the word.

Iris x aquatilis – (tetra Sibiricae x reversicolor) or (reversicolor x Sibiricae) – a new type of wide cross hybrids, combining three species: *Sibiricae, I.versicolor* and *I.ensata*. Vigorous plants, growing in water, with tall stems and flowers looking like siberians of rather modest type, sterile of course. Decorative leaves, light yellow in spring (first type) or white when the mother plant was reversicolor. The second type is tender and easily damaged by late frost, the first is completely hardy, May be useful as a water plant – a siberian growing in water may be attractive though surprising.

Aquatilis – leaves in early spring

aquatilis -flower

Sibcolor – (tetra Sibiricae x *I.versicolor*) - group of hybrids attracted growing interest from breeders. Hybrids of this type appeared spontaneously in two German gardens in the '80s of the last century and certainly may appear in any garden where tetraploid siberians grow along with *I.versicolor*. The first cultivar of the type called 'Neidenstein' was registered in 1985 by A. Winklemann. In 1992 the same breeder registered three other cultivars from open pollination of the first one and the first cultivar of the type sibcolor ¾ – ¼ from tetra siberian pollinated by 'Neidenstein'. Around 2000 some seedlings of the sibcolor type, again from open pollination, bloomed in the garden of Mary Betts in the US. Two of them were registered. Ms Betts crossed them later with *I.versicolor* obtaining sibcolor ¼ – ¾. One seedling turned out to be fertile.

In the '90s sibcolors caught the attention of Dr. Tamberg who thought that this line of breeding had great possibilities. He registered two cultivars – 'Berlin Network' (2000) and 'Tango Music' (2006). Two sibcolors intercrossed gave seedlings which did not satisfy the breeder.

My first attempts were made in 2000 and from one cross I received a small row of very good seedlings with red wine coloured flowers in different tones. Two of them were registered. Lack of pollen and low fertility unfortunately made the backcross to siberians impossible and I obtained only hybrids ¼ – ¾.

Sibcolors may be fertile, but the fertility is rather limited. Plants are vigorous and grow quickly. A characteristic feature is that leaves in spring are light yellow becoming green before flowering time. The possibility of obtaining different colours seems good though the results are not always satisfactory. Some seedlings are beyond expectations. Flowers are big, in form like siberians with about seven buds on a stem and in my garden they grow in an artificial bog.

Hybrids ¼ – ¾ are also very vigorous but have smaller flowers and, in my case at least, are not so nice with shorter stems. They grow very well in shallow water and may be useful for ponds. My seedlings are sterile.

Sibcolor 'Wojewoda' ('Voivode')

Sibcorus - (tetraploid Sibiricae x *I.pseudacorus* tetraploid) - hybrids of Sibiricae x *I.pseudacorus* were mentioned earlier in some other publications, the tetraploid version using 'Donau' as a pollen partner is probably new. A hardy, tall plant with yellow leaves in spring, a tall stem crowned with flowers reminiscent of siberians. Similar to I. x aquatilis. Grows in shallow water.

Sibcorus

Sibiensis – (Sibiricae x *I.missouriensis*) – the first cultivar after nearly a century from the wide cross using a species from Series Lonipetalae obtained by G. B. Stoneking-Jones. Unfortunately there is only a short description in Check Lists so I cannot say anything more.

Sibigraphes – (Sibiricae x Chrysographes) and **chrysobirica** – (Chrysographes x Sibiricae) – as the hybrids from the two Subseries should be named. Common garden classification unfortunately treats all such irises as siberians. Meanwhile they are typical interspecies hybrids from wide crosses. Breeding is not easy, the percentage of 'takes' is low and, as should be expected, the plants are sterile. From all known hybrids only one cultivar – 'Foretell' - sets seeds and, as I read, only when pollinated by a 28 chromosome siberian. Some hybrids are attractive garden objects and deserve to be registered in the SPEC X category and separated into a group of their own. Both proposed names were used in the past by Perry as the names of his two cultivars, but this should not be an obstacle in naming analogous groups, the more so that such names for cultivars are now forbidden,

Hybrids from both groups usually show intermediate features sometimes producing exotic colours and are certainly worth attention.

Tetraploid siberians, known for some decades, and tetra sino-siberians obtained not so long ago by conversion by E. Berlin and T. Tamberg allowed Dr. Tamberg to breed hybrids of tetra sibigraphes type. So far there are only a few such irises. According to Tamberg crossing is very difficult. Hybrids resemble siberian irises. Hybrids of chrysobirica type have not yet been obtained. Dr. Tamberg succeeded in pollinating a tetra siberian with sibigraphes pollen but the seedlings are similar to the mother plant. Crosses between tetra sibigraphes produce seeds.

Knowing the hybrids only from reading I cannot add any of my own observations. My own attempts have failed.

Sibkeri – (Sibiricae x I.hookeri) – hybrid analogous to sibtosa, listed due to the new status of I.hookeri.

Sibtocolor – (tetra sibtosa x *I.versicolor*) – a new type of wide crosses uniting three species from three different series. So far four seedlings have flowered – the first time in 2006. Plants are big and decorative with stems up to 130 cm carrying five to seven large flowers. The colours obtained so far vary from deep red to deep blue. They are very vigorous, needing plenty of water and grow very well in an artificial bog. Sibtocolors are of course sterile. At the present time two cultivars are registered.

sibtocolor 'Strong Personality' in clump

single flower

Sibtosa – (Sibiricae x *I.setosa*) – a very attractive group of hybrids. A. Perry first crossed these two species in the '20s of the last century, next, at the end of '30s, came M. Simonet. In 1979 the cultivar 'Stilles Wasser' which appeared by chance from open pollination was registered by E. Berlin. In the '80s T. Tamberg seriously started to breed these hybrids and realising their great garden value registered some cultivars. Other breeders followed him and such cultivars appeared in the Check Lists. Tamberg succeeded also with the conversion of sibtosa to tetraploid form. Unlike the diploids, which according to the theory are sterile, the tetraploids are fertile. This fertility allows new generations to be obtained and to form breeding lines. The presence of tetraploid siberians and tetra clones of *I.setosa* permits breeding tetra sibtosas by crossing without using the colchicine treatment so that new possibilities are opened up. Crossing tetra siberian with tetra sibtosa gives sibtosas ¾ – ¼; again sterile, but often very spectacular garden plants.

Sibtosa, both diploid and tetraploid, is intermediate between the parental species and usually combines their best features. Stems as tall as siberians, often taller, branched, with many buds. Big flowers with shorter standards. Colour range wide enough and in future will probably be even wider. Vigorous plants need generous watering and may grow in beds, in artificial bogs and even in shallow water.

Note: Flowers of siberians should be pollinated by *I.setosa*. Backcrosses never succeeded for me; this observation is confirmed by T. Tamberg and independently by Ukrainian botanist O. Amekhin

Diploid sibtosa 'Uśmiech Afrodyty' ('Smile of Aphrodite')

Calsib – see Series Californicae
Longsib – see Series Longipetalae
Verbiritosa – see *I.versicolor*
Verrica – see *I.versicolor*

SERIES SIBIRICAE

SUBSERIES CHRYSOGRAPHES

Sino-siberian irises

Still undervalued as garden plants these irises are appreciated by the hybridisers as a good object for wide crosses. As in the first Subseries so here all the sino-siberians are treated as one species in the widest sense of the word.

Calsib (Californicae x Sibiricae) – as well calsibe or cal-sibe – similar variants of the name used, it seems, in the middle of '70s of last century. The name is misleading suggesting these hybrids are obtained from Californian irises pollinated by siberians. It is however a custom that the name is given by the breeder who first obtained a new type of hybrids, so it probably will not be changed. It covers three or even four groups different enough to be described separately. Readers will find these groups under the same common name in different places according to the principle that the description is under the female parent.

The hybrids of irises from the Subseries Chrysographes pollinated by Pacific Coast irises form the vast majority of this big and still growing group. These hybrids should be named **chrysofornica** (Chrysographes x Californicae). Using the parts of the names of parental plants is not obligatory. A Latin adjective being in character of the hybrids would do as well, but the proposed name at once shows the pedigree of the group.

Calsibs are very attractive, as a rule similar to both parents so usually there is no doubt if the cross was true. Often taller than Californicae, sometimes with better bud count, with wider decorative leaves they have very rich colour range, wider than siberians. They need good soil, calcium free, and plenty of water. Usually frost hardy they may become an original ornament in the gardens of colder climate sharing with viewers at least a part of the beauty of the Californicae. On the diploid level the plants are sterile,

For more than ten years Dr. Tamberg has bred tetraploid calsibs obtained by colchicine treatment. These plants are fertile due to doubled chromosome number. That allowed breeding to be continued. The results are unusual and beautiful indeed – the plants have all the values of diploid calsibs but the flowers are bigger and stems stronger. Some cultivars are already registered and for sure it is only the start of the group with a successful future.

Dr. Tamberg crossed again some of his tetra calsibs with tetra sino-siberians as well as with tetra Californicae and named these new hybrids '**sibcals**' in order to distinguish them (see below).

A small group of hybrids from the cross Californicae x Chrysographes deserves separate discussion – see under Californicae.

Hybrids of siberians x Californicae are included also in calsibs and that is evidently unjustly. Very small so far this group will also be discussed separately.

Chrysata – (Chrysographes x Ensatae) – hybrid of a sino-siberian with *I.lactea*, the only representative of Series Ensatae. Till now two cultivars registered by Tomas Tamberg. There is also a tetraploid clone, registered in 1988, obtained by conversion also by Tamberg, of course. The breeder uses it for backcrosses with tetra sino-siberians. In his opinion tetra chrysata ¾ – ¼ is a promising hybrid and raised plants have the charm of their own. I have seen tetra chrysata and for me it is itself a nice plant.

Chrysmatica – (Chrysographes x *I.prismatica*) – no cultivar registered and the SIGNA Check List contains no note about any cross, but such hybrids were obtained by Dr. Samuel Norris (USA) and next T. Tamberg bred similar plants. On the web page of Tambergs there are two photos with a comment stating the plants are sterile with small flowers and winding stems, difficult in cultivation.

Chrythenica – (Chrysographes x *I.ruthenica*) – hybrids raised by Tamberg are easy to obtain, according to the breeder. As a cross between diploids (though I suppose *I.ruthenica* is a natural tetraploid) sterile. Breeder writes the flowers deteriorate in few hours after opening so the decorative value is not big. So far unregistered.

Chrytosa – (Chrysographes x *I.setosa*) – at the present time only one cultivar registered by T. Tamberg. The cross is possible but very difficult. Tetra sino-siberian pollinated by tetra *I.setosa* may possibly give the tetra hybrid of the type but a lot of luck is needed. So far it is only a theory

Sibcal – as it was said it is the name given by Dr. Tomas Tamberg to his tetraploid hybrids obtained by crossing the tetra clones of the calsib type with tetra sino-siberians or tetra Californicae resulting in ¾ Chrysographes to ¼ Californicae or inversely ¾ Californicae to ¼ Chrysographes. The hybrids are sterile but with beautiful flowers. I was allowed to register one cultivar from Tamberg's seed (see photo right). Plant needs rich and moist soil; it grows about 130 cm, stems are crowned with big flowers. I am sure such plants will be soon desired by gardeners. Breeding unfortunately is possible only for owners of tetraploid parents.

Sibcal 'Przybysz' ('Newcomer') seeds from T. Tamberg

Calsib, calsibe or cal-sibe – see under Series Californicae
Chrysobirica – see under Subseries Sibiricae

SERIES CALIFORNICAE

Pacific Coast Irises (accepted name for garden category)

Hybrids of Californicae with species from other Series are of course nearly completely different plants, as diploids sterile, nevertheless breeding them is probably the only way to show at least a fraction of the beauty of the PCIs in the gardens in cold climate. That is why even the very wide and difficult crosses are worth trying.

Calsata – (Californicae x Ensatae) – hybrids of Californicae and *I.lactea*. First S. S. Berry in 1931 obtained and registered such cultivar. Tamberg too obtained such hybrids but did not register any though described them in one of his articles in the BIS Year Book. The only registered Polish cultivar resembles both parental species having small but nice flowers in deep blue violet, nearly black, with gold dots along signal. It grows quickly and blooms profusely. Replanted from initial place in cold frame needed a year to establish itself but then grew and bloomed well despite certain neglect. Other plants from the same cross had yellow leaves and died during first hard frost.

Calsata 'Across the Ocean'

Calsib - (Californicae x Sibiricae) – in this group are included, in my opinion wrongly, difficult to obtain hybrids from crossing PCIs with 28 chromosome siberians. It is believed that cross is possible only if mother plant was PCI and siberians gave pollen. The difficulty is in fact the siberians start to bloom when PCIs are nearly out of bloom. In my garden PCIs do not bloom so early and I obtained seeds few times but none germinated. At the time being three such hybrids are known – one obtained by Lawrence many years ago, another by Jean G. Witt and the last one by Tamberg. I suggest for such hybrids the name **calibirica.**

Calsib – interestingly, only the cross Chrysographes x Californicae (mentioned earlier, with proposed name **chrysofornica**) is easy. Though the PCIs and sino-siberians are related it is very difficult (in opinion of Tomas Tamberg simply impossible) to pollinate a PCI with pollen of a sino-siberian. For many years there was known only one such cultivar, registered by Perry nearly hundred years ago under the name 'Dougraphes'. I did not know then that it is so difficult and tried to make such cross a few times and even obtained seeds which later did not germinate. At last I succeeded and in 2001 four seedlings appeared. They

were planted in wrong place so grew slowly but nevertheless they formed quite nice clumps and after four years they flowered. One was already registered, good plant with stem 70 cm tall, branched, carrying 5-7 buds. Two others will be probably also registered. All the plants are completely hardy and survived already two strong winters with frost below -25 Centigrade what was a nice surprise. Writing this booklet I tried to find other such hybrids in the Check Lists and it turned out that there were other registered cultivars though not many. For this group I propose the name **caligraphes**.


Chrysofornica 'Liryczny Nastrój'


Caligraphes 'Immigrant's Child'

Tenosa – (*I.tenax* x *I.setosa*) – very small group with only one registered cultivar, coming from free pollination. At the end of '30s of last century Marc Simonet obtained such hybrids and gave them the name but none was registered. Many years later Mrs. E. Page took the pod from *I.gormanii* (yellow variety of *I.tenax*) and raised a hybrid resembling *I.setosa*. This was registered by Mrs. W. R. Hubbard as 'Elvie B. Page'. The cross is very difficult, the seedlings usually grow slowly and for years do not bloom. T.Tamberg lost heart with these hybrids and gave up his attempts. My crosses were a failure – PCIs pollinated by *I.setosa* gave seeds which did not germinate, crosses in reverse direction gave some seedlings ... of pure *I.setosa*.

Calsib - see above under Subseries Chrysographes
Longwat – see below under Series Longipetalae
Monwat – see below under Series Longipetalae
Sibcal – see above under Subseries Chrysographes

SERIES LONGIPETALAE

Less known irises probably because they are not hardy in a colder climate. My attempt to cultivate *I.missouriensis* failed. Small and poorly growing clump vanished after three years without any bloom during this period. In breeding there were only a few attempts noted.

Monwat – (*I.montana* x *I.watsoniana*) – the name created from two old names, changed later. To day the pedigree is denoted *I.missouriensis* x *I.douglasiana*. Cross of Amos Perry from the first quarter of XX century, recorded but not registered.

Longsib – (*I.longipetala* x *I.sibirica*) – again cultivar of A. Perry registered in 1925. Flowers in form resemble siberians, greyed colour and strong veining descend from *I.longipetala*. It is unknown if anybody tried to repeat this cross.

Longwat – (*I.longipetala* x *I.watsoniana*) – another Perry's cross, confirmation that irises from this series may be crossed with the PCIs. The same case as above, nobody has tried to repeat this experiment.

Tollong – (*I.tolmieana* x *I.longipetala*) – plant obtained by Perry back in the XIX century, registered 1906, combining both actually recognised species. *I.tolmieana* is now called *I.missouriensis*.

A note was found about a hybrid of *I.longipetala* with *I.tectorum* but there were no details and such cross seems improbable. It is unknown if anybody tried to verify the information.

There is no agreement if *I.longipetala* and *I.missouriensis* are two different species or only the synonyms of one. The Series asks more questions then it gives answers. There are now five group names, but they are represented only by one hybrid each. Should monwat be named now missfornica? If there were more attempts probably, but a single clone should keep its historical name.

Sibiensis – see under Subseries Sibiricae

SERIES LAEVIGATAE

Unlike other important large Series which can be treated as one big species, the Laevigatae are differentiated. All the species included here are very important particularly for breeders interested in interspecies and interseries crosses.

Iris ensata

There were suggestions *I.ensata* is so different from other species of the Series that should be classified separately. Oleg Amekhin even postulated separate subsection for it. No wonder then that the successful crosses between these beautiful irises and other species are rare.

Some botanist consider the sterile forms of *I.setosa*, found in the wild in Japan, to be hybrids with *I.laevigata*; others think they are the result of crosses with *I.ensata*. As far as I know no one has investigated this, even the chromosome count is still unknown which would help to clarify the problem.

There is only one cultivar in the Check Lists registered in 1941 by J. A. Kemp as 'Aureafolia' which is from the cross *I.ensata* x *I.laevigata*. Such a cross should be named **ensigata** and if the opposite cross is also possible then the second group should be named **laevisata**. The cross is however very difficult and my numerous attempts failed. Dr. Tamberg told me that Dr. Yabuya obtained a tetraploid hybrid of one of these types after conversion. The clone is fertile and very promising. Akira Horinaka informs in his book about *I.laevigata* that Dr. Yabuya obtained hybrid plants by embryo culture in 1975 from the cross of *I.laevigata* and *I.ensata* and in 1985 the tetraploid clones were induced in vitro culture of embryos treated with colchicine. It shows how difficult is to obtain results from such cross.

A few years ago there was excitement about hybrids of Ms. C.Hensler who crossed Japanese irises with siberians in both directions. Diploid hybrids were said to be fertile. Some of the hybrids were registered. After initial enthusiasm came silence. From distinguished breeders and experts who received the plants for trial no one found any features confirming their hybrid character. Many breeders tried to repeat the crosses with no result, including me, but it proves nothing. It should be added for justice that the chromosome counts gave the intermediate number 2n=26 but the counting was done not in the laboratories and not by specialists. I am joining the prevailing opinion that – at least at the time being – such hybrids do not exist. If they appeared the groups should be named **ensarica** and **sibsata** according to the mother plant.

Ensicolor – (*I.ensata* X (*I.versicolor* x *I.virginica*)) – name given to the type represented by only one cultivar obtained by Oleg Amekhin, aforementioned Ukrainian botanist and breeder. He was the author of this interesting and very difficult cross.

Ensigata – mentioned in the above group of hybrids. Dr. Tamberg said the plant had nice flowers and branched stems. I cannot add anything more.

Pseudata – see under *I.pseudacorus*
Versata, *biversata*, *reversicolor* – see under *I.versicolor*

Iris laevigata

'A Guide to Species Irises' mentions *I.brevicaulis*, *I.delavayi*, *I.ensata*, *I.orientalis*, *I.prismatica*, *I.sanguinea*, *I.setosa*, *I.sibirica*, *I.versicolor* and hybrids of Louisiana irises as species and groups which produced hybrids with *I.laevigata*. I did not find confirmation for some of the listed species. My own attempts to cross siberian irises with *I.laevigata* failed. In2001 Ms Nerissa Marshall from Australia registered two cultivars obtained from the cross *I.laevigata* x *I.chrysographes*. Short descriptions in the Check List mention only the colour - beetroot purple - which may suggest the cross is true. If the information is confirmed the group should be named **laevigraphes**. Few weeks ago Mrs. Anne Blanco-White informed me there is a hybrid of 'Donau' (*I.pseudacorus* tetraploid) x *I.laevigata*. It sounds very interesting so let us wait for next informations. A. Horinaka in above mentioned book writes that he obtained a few times seeds from the cross of *I.laevigata* x Louisiana hybrids but none germinated. Reverse cross did not produce seeds. From the first type of crosses (I should name it **laevigona** from *I.laevigata* x Hexagonae) Horinaka obtained seedling in 1988 using embryo culture. Nothing more is known.

Ensigata – see above under *I.ensata*
Sevigata – see under *I.setosa*
Versilaev – see under *I.versicolor*
Virgilaev – see under *I.virginica*

Iris pseudacorus

A similar situation as with *I.laevigata*. I read that hybrids were obtained with eight different species but I could not find any confirmation for hybrids with *I.fulva*, *I.prismatica*, and a Louisiana iris. Crosses with Spuriae were registered but the prevailing opinion is that they were doubtful and the plants do not exist so verification is not possible. We know instead the mysterious cultivar 'Holden Clough' and the whole group of unusually attractive offshoot cultivars which will be described below. For some years I hoped the hybrids with *I.setosa* would be very interesting but through years numerous crosses both on diploid and tetraploid level in both directions gave no result. O. Amekhin once obtained diploid seedlings from such cross but they were completely without chlorophyll and soon died. Nevertheless the vitality and vigour of *I.pseudacorus*, the existence of tetraploid cultivars and particularly the yellow colour absent from other species in this Series make it worth trying to cross *I.pseudacorus* with other species and hybrids.

Pseudacolor - (*I.pseudacorus* x *I.versicolor*) – only a few hybrids of this type were registered but probably many attempts were successful. The hybrids however are too similar to *I.versicolor* and as for now they do not inherit the yellow colour; they are usually deep blue or violet. Decorative value is rather average. Nevertheless it is possible that the potential of such crosses is still unexploited.

Some breeders tried to cross tetraploid clones of *I.pseudacorus* with *I.versicolor* and with hybrids named reversicolor (see *I.versicolor* under versata). I have a few plants grown from seeds from SIGNA and some are quite interesting though yet under evaluation. Features of *I.pseudacorus* are hardly visible. Plants grow taller than *I.versicolor* and have bigger flowers.

Pseudata – (*I.pseudacorus* x *I.ensata*) – extremely interesting and promising group of hybrids. Cross is very difficult and leads to pollination only when mother plant is *I.pseudacorus* which usually blooms considerably earlier than Japanese irises which have to give pollen. Percentage of obtained pods compared with number of pollinations is less than 10. To date, backcrosses have been unsuccessful. (Admittedly one cultivar from such cross was registered but it was not verified.) Germination is erratic, most seedlings have yellow leaves without chlorophyll. If all these obstacles were overcome you may be rewarded with plants having flowers similar to these of Japanese irises, though smaller, in yellow colour which is absent from JI though other colours, e.g. violet may show. Work with tetraploid clones of both species gives a chance for fertile hybrids and in consequence for next generations. However, as far as I know, no one seedling from tetraploid crosses was yellow.

It seems that the first reason for such crosses was the lack of yellow *I.ensata*. Breeders tried to raise irises resembling Japanese irises which would widen the colour scale. Japanese breeders Shinnosuki and Ryuichi Osugi first obtained a hybrid from such cross. It was famous yellow 'Aichi No Kagayaki' bloomed first in 1962 but registered by Japanese Iris Society only in 1993. Next came 'Kimboshi' by Ueki and now there are many such hybrids. In 1999 Kamo Nursery registered 'Hatsuho' which according to Check Lists had deep green leaves and this means the exceptional female parent. Nursery claimed also it was the first such hybrid

fully pod and pollen fertile and it was indeed a sensation. Fertility was proved by Dr. W. Ackerman who in 2001 registered 'Ohayo Gozaimasu' from 'Sayo-no-Tsuki' x 'Hatsuho'.

In United Kingdom Dr. J. R. Ellis was the first who raised 'Chance Beauty' from *I.pseudacorus* x *I.ensata*. The cultivar is fertile but its seedlings usually are the reversion to *I.pseudacorus*. 'Chance Beauty' was awarded an AGM. Its sibling 'Fair Chance' bloomed later and received an AM.

Eye Shadow hybrids are a special part of the described group. Japanese breeder Mr. Hiroshi Shimizu imported from the whole world seeds of *I.pseudacorus* and raised more than 100 clones which he pollinated with pollen of different Japanese irises, sometimes using mixed pollen. Between the hundred clones he found one giving pods more often than other. Growing seedlings had green leaves. Shimizu named this clone 'Gubijin' and this plant changed the breeding of pseudatas. Subsequent seedlings have nice flowers coloured from cream to yellow and even to pale pink with ornament of lines around the signal reminding the shadow from eye lashes. The new irises arosed great interest in the iris world and brought to the breeder a great success – he was awarded by AIS the Hybridizers Medal and then the Bee Warburton Medal.

Certainly yet another clones like 'Gubijin' exist. Tony Huber lately obtained and registered from unknown clone of *I.pseudacorus* some hybrids which have similar colour range as Eye Shadow hybrids.

'Holden Clough' and next generation hybrids – in 1971 an unusual hybrid was registered. It was found in the field planted with *I.chrysographes* seedlings. At first sight it resembled *I.pseudacorus* but deep yellow flowers were covered with violet brown lines. It was recognised as *I.chrysographes* x *I.pseudacorus* hybrid and was named for the nursery in Lancashire where it was found. The chromosome count was 37 which suggested the other parent had had 2n=40. When the hybrid was better known and popularised some experts came to the conclusion it had not the features of *I.chrysographes* and the second parent was declared *I.foetidissima*. This opinion was strengthened by fact that nobody obtained seed from the cross *I.chrysographes* x *I.pseudacorus* though many breeders tried. I do not know if anybody tried to cross *I.pseudacorus* with *I.foetidissima* or if anybody tried to explain how such seed could get in the mass of the *I.chrysographes* seeds. The riddle was later solved in the laboratory by Dr. J. R. Ellis, a cytologist, whose investigation showed it was a sport of pure *I.pseudacorus* but with three additional chromosomes. It is a pity that the result of the investigation was not published to be known to the wider circles. 'Holden Clough' gives sometimes seeds though not often and from open pollination only. Some seeds germinated giving the origin of 'Roy Davidson', 'Phil Edinger' and other. One seedling of this kind was colchicine treated by Tamberg, most probably converted to tetraploid, and named 'Berlin Tiger' – very attractive cultivar, fertile, though the fertility is not unlimited. Most of these cultivars, unfortunately, with the exception of 'Berlin Tiger', are not very hardy. In last years seedlings from third generation appeared, for example Terry Aitken's white, striped violet, 'Roy's Lines' and 'Roy's Repeater'.

Two seedlings from 'Berlin Tiger' (open pollination)

Sibcorus – see under Subseries Sibiricae
Virgicorus – see under *I.virginica*

Iris versicolor

Very important species for breeders, natural tetraploid, as it was said, opening many possibilities. Crosses with many species are relatively easy, with some other even very easy. The list of types of hybrids of *I.versicolor* origin is quite long but it seems it may be yet longer.

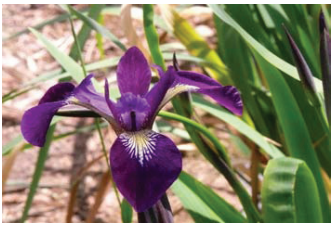
Robusta – properly **I.x robusta** – American botanist Edgar Anderson so called his hybrids from crosses of *I.versicolor* with *I.virginica*. He was the first who obtained these hybrids from controlled pollination. Strong and quickly growing plants, combining features of both parents, give sometimes valuable seeds. Few registered cultivars, some from open pollination, recognised in gardens or in the wild. The best known is 'Dark Aura' very interesting and attractive because it has in early spring deep violet leaves becoming green few weeks before bloom. Deep blue flowers are placed on dark, nearly black stem.

I. x robusta (¼ – ¾) selected seedling flower

I obtained interesting plants crossing my own seedling of robusta type again with *I.versicolor*. New seedlings are vigorous and make clumps quickly. One of them is very decorative having cherry red flowers with big white signal on tall violet stem. Unfortunately the photos do not show the true colour.

coloured stem

Verbiritosa – (*I.versicolor* x tetra sibtosa (Sibiricae x *I.setosa*)) – cross analogous to sibtocolor but with *I.versicolor* used as mother plant. Extremely vigorous hybrids grow very quickly. From nine seedlings three bloomed in first year after germination. Stems above 100 cm, flowers about 10 cm wide with flared falls in deep blue violet to red purple. Big white signal is rounded with irregular white dots. Two branches lengthen before opening their buds resulting in all flowers blooming on the same level but in sequence. This feature seems very attractive and unusual.



verbiritosa 'Three Continents'

Verganica - (tetra versilaev (*I.versicolor* x *I.laevigata*) X tetra *I.virginica*) – it is the cross of new type in which the tetraploid clone of *I.virginica* was used. First seedlings bloomed in 2007. Clearly intermediate between the parental plants. Cross combines three different species from the same Series. Four seedlings are very similar to each other. One seedling was registered. Blue flowers with white lines, yellow signal, big and conspicuous. Tall stems, about 130 cm, strong. Grows in water.

Verganica 'New Possibilities'

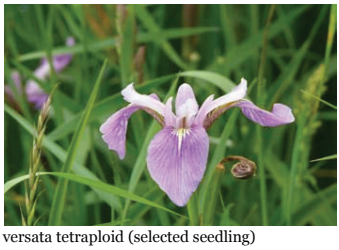
Verrica – (*I.versicolor* x Sibiricae) – from the same species as sibcolor but here cross is made in opposite direction using *I.versicolor* as mother plant. Plants from this group are evidently different from sibcolors. In flowers features of siberians are less visible though still present, falls are longer and arched down. In spring leaves are nearly white becoming green in course of growing. I had two such seedlings from two different crosses and both had the same serious flaw – young white leaves and the stem buds hidden inside them were very prone to late night frosts (which usually happened in the first half of May) although they survived winter in good form. One clump never bloomed so was disposed of, another one bloomed nicely twice but next year, after strong morning frost, died. In spite of all I shall try the cross again. In more moderate climate the problem should not exist.

Versata – (*I.versicolor* x *I.ensata*) – group of hybrids from pollinating *I.versicolor* with pollen of the Japanese irises. Canadian Tony Huber was the first who obtained them. Reverse cross never succeeded. Flowers bigger than those of *I.versicolor* in similar colour range, standards and signal resemble *I.ensata* cultivars. Generally these hybrids are similar to the versilaev group, which will be discussed below. Cross is difficult and obtaining these hybrids was certainly an achievement. Hybrids are partly fertile and sometimes give seeds when pollinated both with *I.versicolor* or *I.ensata* pollen. Huber called these hybrids **reversicolor** and **biversata**. He used also yet another names like Xversata, reversata, reensata etc. I must confess I prefer the system of Dr. Tamberg according to which it would be versata ¾ – ¼ or ¼ – ¾ or simply 3-1 or 1-3. It seems much clearer.

My experience with this group is rather limited. Seeds of reversicolor from Mr. Huber (via SIGNA seed exchange) produced plants looking completely like *I.versicolor*, fertile and unfortunately not interesting. They went out. One seedling of biversata type was intermediate between Japanese irises and *I.versicolor* but in unattractive fading grey pink colour. This one I keep as it is fertile so useful for some attempts of wide crosses. Seeds of versata type I have ordered many times and each time unfortunately *I.versicolor* was received. At last one seedling of tetra versata was true and nice and I hope I should be able soon to say more.


Reversicolor (selected seedling)


I.versicolor (left) and reversicolor


versata tetraploid (selected seedling)

versicorus – (*I.versicolor* x *I.pseudacorus*) – only one cultivar of the type was registered. Perhaps the cross using tetraploid clones of *I.pseudacorus* would give more exciting results. My own attempts were unfortunate.

Versilaev – (*I.versicolor* x *I.laevigata*) – so called by Tomas Tamberg extremely impressive hybrids of two interesting species from the same Series. Nice flowers, a bit smaller than these of *I.laevigata*, but much bigger than blooms of *I.versicolor*, having inherited from mother plant much wider range of colours than *I.laevigata*. Diploid hybrids, according to the theory sterile, though with some exceptions, had been known in Japan for many years. About twenty cultivars exist there though, unfortunately, they are not present in the World Register. The barrier of infertility was broken definitely few years ago by Dr. Tamberg who obtained by colchicine conversion tetraploid clones. The breeder generously shared out the seeds from new plants and these hybrids appeared in many gardens. In my garden the plants grown from the received seeds had been crossed easily and in 2009 first Polish cultivars were registered obtained from next generation of seedlings. Verilaevs are vigorous, quickly growing as well in water as in an artificial bog. They bloom profusely and the leaves stay decorative till autumn. The genetic pool is rich enough due to the Tambergs work so new colours appear in next generations. I am sure that breeding these irises may be very satisfactory.

The history of this type of hybrids started in 1929 when Clyde Chandler of the New York Botanical Garden raised first such plant. It was unexpectedly fertile. Next hybrid from G. M. Reid was sterile. A. Horinaka has hybridised such hybrids from 1966 and has observed that some hybrids were fertile, some were not. My only diploid registered cultivar is fertile and has given the progeny. Tetraploid cultivars represent subsequent generations obtained from crossing seedlings raised from seeds received from Dr. Tamberg.


Versilaev diploid 'Oczekiwanie' (fertile!)


tetra versilaev ¼ – ¾ selected seedling


versilaev tetra 'Przepych'


'Rumunki Kid'


'Królewskie Barwy'

Versitosa – (*I.versicolor* x *I.setosa* tetraploid) – about ten years ago having my first tetraploid clone of *I.setosa* I obtained an interesting seedling from this cross. Flowers had short standards and deep dark blue colour. Seedling had no pods but with its pollen used on *I.versicolor* I obtained some seedlings practically identical with mother plant. My versitosa died after a year due to an infection which killed some valuable plants. A similar seedling was obtained a bit later by T. Tamberg who informed me the plant is sterile. It was registered in 2011 as 'Bluebird Fountain'. Tamberg also gave the name to the group. Now I have two new seedlings of this type, one has six falls form. Cross seems worth trying.


Vertosa seedlings

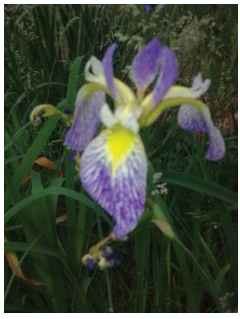
Pseudacolor – see above under *I.pseudacorus*
Sibcolor – see under Subseries Sibiricae
Sibtocolor – see under Subseries Sibiricae

Iris virginica

Species less popular than *I.versicolor* and rarely used in breeding but attractive and worth attention.

Robusta – see also under *I.versicolor*. Only one registered cultivar has *I.virginica* as mother parent but it is enough for listing robusta here too. Seemingly there is no clear difference between this cultivar and these from reverse cross so they all are classified together in the same group.

Virgicorus – (*I.virginica* x *I.pseudacorus*) – again a new hybrid which bloomed for the first time in 2011. Seedling was obtained from cross of *I.virginica* x 'Donau' (tetraploid). In maiden bloom stem was not tall, the flower was medium blue with white lines and big yellow signal. Falls long, rather narrow but visible from distance. Plant will be under observation.



virgicorus

Virgilaev – (*I.virginica* x *I.laevigata*) – so are called the hybrids, per analogiam to well known versilaev, attractive but rarely bred. Seedlings are resembling versilaevs, perhaps not so vigorous. No cultivar registered, no tetraploid clone known.

Virgirica – (*I.virginica* x Sibiricae) – I have now two new seedlings from such crosses. First from diploid clones bloomed in 2010 showing intermediate features in flower's pattern. The other was obtained from tetraploid clones of both species and having white leaves in spring lost growing stem after hard late frost but survived. Both plants grow in water. Time will show if the cross had potential.

Virgirica diploid seedling

Virgona - (*I.virginica* x Hexagonae) – name suggested for hybrids of the species with Louisiana irises. There are some registered cultivars. It should be noted that due to cork covered seeds I.virginica was decades ago classified with Hexagonae. I have heard that this type of hybrids was known long time ago. Having no possibility of growing Louisianas I imported some seeds from such cross but robust plants during hard and snowy winter were completely eaten by voles.

Virsicogata – (*I.virginica* tetra x versilaev tetra (*I.versicolor* x *I.laevigata*)) – again a new group of hybrids parallel to those described under verganica. First seedlings bloomed in 2007. Tall plants with big enough flowers in blue colour, with big white signal and median line on falls. Two branches, five to seven buds. Excellent grower in water.

virsicogata 'Jezioro trzech rzek'
('Three rivers lake')

SERIES HEXAGONAE

LOUISIANA IRISES

Wonderful group, extremely interesting for breeders. Unfortunately my own experience is very limited. It would be an important event if somebody succeeded in acclimatising these irises. Breeding hybrids suitable for colder climate would be probably possible and growing them much easier. It would be a great achievement to bring even a part of the beauty of Louisianas to our gardens. Maybe one should try to cultivate them in a greenhouse? Or at least in a frame? Fascinating task for iris enthusiasts.

In the Check Lists I found three hybrids of Louisiana irises with Spuriae, all registered before 1940 and all questioned. The plants which probably do not exist any more had no intermediate features. No one could repeat the cross. There are some known hybrids with *I.virginica* but only a few in the Register as it was said above.

Virgona – see under *I.virginica*

SERIES PRISMATICAE

There are some hybrids of *I.prismatica* with irises from the Subseries Chrysographes though they are not mentioned in the Check Lists. A few years ago I received from SIGNA seed exchange seeds from the cross *I.prismatica* x *I.douglasiana* but the seedlings proved to be a white form of mother plant. Nothing is known about another attempts.

Chrysmatica – see under Subseries Chrysographes

SERIES SPURIAE

The series is not so homogenous as those discussed above. Until now breeders only worked with some tall and large flowered species, other ones were not tried. It is not even known if it is possible to cross tall spurias with the short species. Tall species cross with themselves more or less easily despite some differences in chromosome number (most of them have 2n=40, some 2n=38 or 44) and hybrids are fertile. The cultivars come first from the 40 chromosomes group and are a mixture of the most used species. Treating them as an entity seems justified. To me crossing tall spurias with irises from other series seems impossible as my attempts gave no result but of course it proves nothing. Little is known about such crosses made in the past. Three cultivars registered as hybrids with Louisianas (one even in next generation with *I.pseudacorus*) were later admitted as not true.

A few years ago the outstanding breeder of spurias, Dr. B. C. Jenkins crossed an iris from this series with *I.lactea* but no details nor photos were published. Hybrids were not registered. Only once at the Convention of the Spuria Iris Society some photos were exhibited and well known iris expert Dr. James Waddick was very impressed by these hybrids. He wrote however only about his impression but did not write any description. How do the hybrids look, what about flowers? Do they exist still? Questions without answer. Dr. Tamberg doubts if such cross were possible though Dr. Jenkins was an experienced breeder.

Dr. Rodionenko suggested years ago a possibility of crossing spurias with *I.foetidissima*. The idea seemed very interesting so more that it was supported with arguments of some physiological similarities between the Series. Unfortunately *I.foetidissima* twice refused to survive winter in my garden so I could not try such crosses. Mrs A. Blanco-White nearly at the last minute found a report of Mrs E. Cleaves of USA who had obtained a hybrid from cross with *I.graminea*. Unfortunately after ten years the plant was lost and there was not even any photo. It would be possibly named **gradissima**.

Another suggestion of Dr. Rodionenko, supported by results of the genetic investigation in the laboratories of Kew Gardens concerns two species – *I.kolpakowskiana* and *I.winkleri*. These irises classified with Reticulatae are, so to say, half way between rhizomatous and bulbous irises. Both species are very rare and difficult to obtain.

Spurias seem to differ a great deal from other beardless irises. Nevertheless even the improbable possibilities of using these beautiful irises should be tried. Risk is not big – at worst lack of success.

Gradissima – (*I.graminea* x *I.foetidissima*) – from the report of the breeder we know the plant was like small *I.foetidissima,* 25-30cm high, with scarlet seeds not as close and in the pod which was a bit smaller than that of pollen parent. Though plant does not exist the report witnessed that such cross is possible and may be interesting.

SERIES FOETIDISSIMAE

I.foetidissima in Great Britain growing wild as well as in some gardens is not very popular on the continent. I never heard before about any hybrids though Rodionenko's suggestions, discussed above, were known for many years. Making corrections in this text I found however a cultivar registered in 2001 by G. G. B. Stoneking-Jones from USA who crossed this species with *I.pseudacorus*. The hybridiser is mainly interested in Hemerocallis but he made yet some other very unusual crosses with irises.

Foeticorus – (*I.foetidissima* x *I.pseudacorus*) – there is only short description in Check List so nothing more can be said.

Series Tenuifoliae

Irises practically not cultivated.

SERIES ENSATAE

Iris lactea

Tony Huber has distributed seed from a cross *I.lactea* x *I.typhifolia*. Dr. Tamberg informed me that seedlings from this seed looked very near to *I.typhifolia* but varied in colour from dark blue to white. He repeated the cross and obtained three seedlings. The name of the group is up to breeders. I should propose **lacbirica** or **lactifolia**.

Calsata – see under Series Californicae
Chrysata – see under Subseries Chrysographes

Series Syriacae

Very rare plants, nearly unknown. Probably not in cultivation.

SERIES UNGUICULARIS

Very peculiar species cultivated in regions with soft winter, in Poland probably unknown. No attempts of hybridising.

OTHER HYBRIDS

Some years ago, reading an article about genetics of irises, I found a statement that at least in theory it is possible to breed an allotetraploid. It means a very special plant having four different sets of chromosomes coming from four different species. Speaking simply it would be a plant having four grandparents of four different species. It is of course not an easy task demanding a vast collection of tetraploid clones of species and interspecies hybrids.

The range of difficulties is very big. In a homogenous Series as e.g. PCI or sino-siberians, in which all the species cross with other ones easily, combining four species in one plant is possible even on diploid level and it is quite probable such plants already exist. Obtaining an allotetraploid however in such Series would need conversion of four different species as in these series there are not any natural tetraploids. It is already a serious problem. Every conversion from diploids to tetraploids is difficult and not always successful. Also the next step is unpredictable – the tetraploid clones of Japanese irises are not fully fertile and pollination is difficult resulting in small number of pods.

In the case of a series so differentiated as Laevigatae crosses leading to a combination of genes from four species in one plant are even more difficult. Some crosses may be done only in one direction, some tetraploid clones are not easy to obtain, tetra ensatas have limited fertility, some genetic or physiological barriers are impossible to break down at least with our present knowledge. Crossing hybrids is of course much more difficult. The breeder has to collect a considerable number of such tetra hybrids wanting to achieve the goal. Gathering plants for a start took me years and yet is not finished. I am still waiting impatiently for some seedlings. The time however was not wasted. In this period I obtained some new groups of hybrids having in their pedigree three different species, in two cases from three different Series. At last in 2007 the first group bloomed of four seedlings from four different species, the result of cross tetra sibtosa x tetra versilaev. The taste of success was unfortunately bitter. All the seedlings looked like male parent. It is probably an allotetraploid which is witnessed by complete sterility but without the value of being different. And only the chromosome count would give the definitive answer.

In the gardens where many different beardless species grow new hybrids sometimes appear by chance. Bumblebees are sometimes very innovative breeders and unharvested pods spread their seeds. Sometime it happens that a plant is very attractive. Some calsibes, robustas or sibcolors appeared this way and were later recognised and identified.

Writing this I do not suggest that all seeds from open pollination should be sown. If you however found a self sown plant it may be worth waiting for the bloom and possible identification. I advocate also watching carefully for pods of plants thought to be sterile. Nobody yet could pollinate 'Holden Clough' nevertheless from time to time there are some seeds from open pollination and from these seeds interesting cultivars were obtained. 'Sibtosa Princess' (Tamberg) has unbalanced chromosome structure (¾ – ¼) and rarely sets seeds but does occasionally. Probably it depends on some processes during meiotic division but I am not competent to offer any hypothesis.

I mentioned above some plants obtained from seeds marked as reversicolor x *I.pseudacorus* ((versata x *I.versicolor*) X *I.pseudacorus* tetraploid). Plants look like *I.versicolor* but are taller, very vigorous, with a bit bigger flowers. May be some patterns of flowers are a bit different from *I.versicolor* but I could not find any feature of *I.pseudacorus*. Are they indeed hybrids? I cannot say. Certainly the cross is worth repeating.

GENERAL REMARKS

CULTIVATION

Nearly all the hybrids above may be cultivated the same way. All need rich and wet soil, all should be planted about 5 cm deep. Most of them need acid pH, some – first of all PCI and Japanese irises – do not tolerate calcium. The same treatment is proper also for many beardless species. Only spurias, *I.lactea* and *I.missouriensis* need slightly alkaline soil, but spurias may grow successfully in slightly acid.

Roots must not dry out so irises should be replanted as soon as possible. If they have to wait keep them in a bucket with water. Do not cut roots, especially new, and take care while planting they are straight and lying lower than rhizomes. After planting water generously until the new growth will be seen.

Instructions usually advise to replant beardless irises in early autumn. In colder climates it is much too late. Replanting should be done not later than August 15; plants should have time to root properly before an arrival of first frosts. For siberians and hybrids the best time is early spring when frosts have gone. Water growing irises may be replanted practically any time during the season, not later than in the first half of August, and better not during bloom period.

Cultivation in the artificial bogs was often mentioned above. I advocate this method as it is not very expensive, easy to be realised even in small gardens and allows growing water needing irises even on sand. A hole 50 cm deep is needed, minimum 50 cm diameter, maximum according to wish, limited only by size of the plastic foil. Dig out good soil and keep carefully nearby if not calcareous. Cover the hole with plastic foil. The thick one, used in the building trade, is the best. In case of a small place for one clump only even a big plastic bag would be enough. The top edges should be fastened to the ground with V shaped pins from thick wire or with long nails put every 40-50 cm. At the bottom goes a layer of coarse sand or gravel (5-7 cm) then a layer of manure (composted if possible) about 10 cm thick, then similar layer of peat moss and finally the dug soil. If the soil is calcareous some sulphur may be added but probably better would be to obtain new soil. Add water, not too much, and plant the irises keeping the distance of 50 cm between the plants. Then tread down the soil. It should be at least 8-10 cm below the ground level. Fill the bog with water. Boarders may be decorated with stones according to personal preferences. Keep watering once a week, in case of drought fill the bog completely again once a week. If it rains watering is not needed. I grow this way nearly all my beardless irises. Siberians need a small aperture in the bottom to drain off the excess of water. For water irises a hole should be a bit deeper and soil level about 15-20 cm below the ground. Watering usually is stopped in the middle of September of course taking the weather into account.

Such a bog should play its role for four to five years. After that plants probably will need dividing and replanting. When they are removed the bog may be carefully dug again, fresh manure added, and again used.

Old leaves in spring look ugly, especially those growing in water. They may be removed but with maximum care. For example young leaves of my *I.laevigata* cultivar are grey violet and are difficult to distinguish from old dead leaves. It is easy to cut them together with starting stems and to loose bloom. Old leaves of many irises are sharp. Cutting is best done with a knife, not scissors, and wearing gloves please.

Spray against the insects just before bloom and at the end of this period is beneficial. Take care to spray only flowers and buds, most of the chemicals are dangerous for fishes and amphibians. Spraying should be done early in the morning or near to evening for bees and bumblebees sake.

The demands of some hybrids, particularly the new ones, are not yet well recognised. There are some surprises – sibtosa grows well in shallow water, sibcolor grows better in a bog and the same may be said about sibtosa 3-1 (¾ Sibiricae) which was predictable. Plants with white leaves in spring are prone to damages by late frosts though they descend from completely hardy species. Careful and experienced gardeners will certainly find proper methods of cultivation.

BREEDING

Technically the pollination of beardless irises is a bit more difficult than with bearded. Style arms and stigmas are usually smaller (especially in diploid flowers) and much more tender. Breeders have to observe the plants which they want to use and to open the flowers by hand when they are swelling just before opening. Detecting the moment is quite easy. The falls, which are a landing place for insects, should be very carefully cut away (I prefer to remove standards too) and the anthers should be removed at the same time – the styles are very fragile and easily broken which means the loss of the flower. With some practice and care all the falls may be removed by hand together with anthers in the same action. Tweezers for extracting the anthers, small soft brush for the pollination and small plastic containers for keeping the pollen are useful tools of trade.

After few hours when the stigmas are deflected from style arms put the pollen with the brush or directly from the anther on them. The brush should be later disinfected with 70% alcohol and allowed to dry before next attempt. Next wait few days and the positive results will be visible – the pod will swell.

Do not pollinate during heat. In high temperatures with drought the watering in previous evening is advised and pollinating next early morning when the dew has dried. Water is the worst enemy of the pollen.

Contrary to the common opinion pollination in cloudy day is usually successful. If only there were no rain during an hour after pollination the percentage of takes should be high.

As a rule diploids should be crossed with diploids and tetraploids with tetraploids. It is advisable to make the cross in both directions - to pollinate flower A with pollen from flower B, then flower B with pollen of flower A. The seedlings may differ, sometimes significantly. Some parts of the DNA are saved in mitochondria and are transferred to the gametes only by female parent. That makes the genetic material slightly different depending on the direction of the cross.

Planning interspecies or interseries crosses breeder should remember that using two tetraploid plants gives chance for obtaining fertile seedlings and in consequence forming breeding lines. Crossing diploid plants gives as a rule sterile plants and rare exceptions only prove this rule. Diploid hybrids however may be very interesting and decorative plants, useful for many gardens.

Nearly every interspecies cross is a travel to an unknown land. Some breeders suggest that plants with higher chromosome number should be pollinated by plants with lower 2n or 4n. This rule too often does not work. It is easy to obtain sibtosas pollinating siberian iris (2n=28, 4n=56) with pollen of *I.setosa* (2n=38, 4n=76) no matter if we are using diploids or tetraploids. Opposite cross seems impossible or at least very difficult. Sibcolors are obtainable when siberians were pollinated by *I.versicolor*. Opposite cross however is also possible as was said earlier. It is known *I.pseudacorus* may give pods if pollinated by *I.ensata*. Nobody yet has successfully pollinated *I.ensata* by *I.pseudacorus*. No rule may be formed on base of these facts.

These were only some examples of known and already made crosses, successful or not. There are still a great number of crosses worth trying if only to know that they are not possible. It would be good to know if tall spurias may be crossed with the small ones, if any spurias may be crossed with species from other groups or what else would cross with *I.pseudacorus*. It is only the beginning of long list of unexplored possibilities.

Breeders must be ready for the unexpected. Seedlings of very tender PCIs crossed with not very hardy sino-siberians are completely hardy. Seedlings (verrica type) from hardy *I.versicolor* and siberians are tender. It is impossible to predict all possibilities when we have to do with new hybrids.

Breeders must be patient. Successful pollination is only a first step. Even quickly growing pod do not always ripen viable seeds. Pods from difficult crosses sometimes look well but the seeds inside are undeveloped. Obtaining ripened valuable seeds means next step. Sowing them means waiting for the germination. They should germinate next spring but I cannot say anything about the germination of seeds of the hybrids. Their demands are practically unpredictable. Usually I treat such seeds the same way as seeds from mother species but I do it always with a slight fear. Sometimes I had a bit of luck, sometimes not and I never knew if it had been my fault or the invalidity of the seeds. And only when the seedlings have reached maturity and finally blooms the breeder would be able to say the goal is reached.

Advice – do not sow seeds arduously putting every grain separately. Germination is better when seeds are sown closely and touch each other. Do not be too eager to select the good plants and eliminate bad ones. From my experience it follows that only the colour is evident. Form often is changing in next years, usually in second and third year plants grow taller, flowers are bigger and of better form. Unfortunately it happens also that the flower which in first bloom captured us in next years is disappointing. Let us observe the new plants at least for two years and only then make the decisions.

Fertility is an important factor. Fertile plants allow to form breeding lines and make further experiments. This leads to progress. Sterile plants may be very decorative and good garden objects but they cannot be used for farther breeding and the farther progress is impossible. Crossing tetraploid plants there is a good chance that the progeny will be at least partly fertile. The diploid hybrids however despite their unbalanced chromosome set as well as some tetraploid plants of the 3-1 or 1-3 type sometimes are fertile making true the old saying that the exception confirms the rule. The fact that the usually sterile plants may sometimes set seeds is even more curious. The answer is probably hidden in the complicated meiosis process but I dare not make any hypothesis. Genetics unwillingly reveals its secrets. The only advise is to observe scrupulously all seedlings for possibility of unexpected.

IRISES FOR WET PLACES

Practically all of above listed, as well as many species. Calsata was not tried in such situations and I cannot say anything about chrythenica and the Longipetalae hybrids.

IRISES FOR DAMP SITUATIONS AND ARTIFICIAL BOGS

All hybrids of my breeding except calsata grow in my garden in artificial bogs.

IRISES GROWING IN WATER

Aquatilis, pseudacolor, reversicolor, robusta, sibcolor ¼ – ¾, sibcorus, sibtosa (shallow water), verbiritosa, verganica, versicorus, versilaev, virgirica, virsicogata, 'Holden Clough' descendants.

Versilaev diploid 'Oczekiwanie' ('Expectation')

A FEW WORDS IN CONCLUSION

While writing the booklet and then working on this text I have investigated many sources to be sure I collected all hybrids from wide crosses. Many times I met the words – 'hybrids are known with...' and there were numerous names of species but farther research has shown that the primary source of the information was impossible to find, such a hybrid was absent from the Check Lists. Even many registered hybrids had been the results of wishful thinking of breeders rather than of successful crossing. In Check List from 1939 I met registered cultivar from the cross TB x *I.versicolor*! Many registered hybrids caused excitement but then were questioned. The fact that somebody set pollen from a flower on the stigma of the other flower does not mean that the resulting seedlings are indeed planned hybrids. If nothing is known about the method of the pollination, if the plants do not show any feature of both parents, particularly pollen parent, the seedling must not be recognised as a hybrid.

In this text and in the included lists the reader will find mostly recognised and verified hybrids. SIGNA Check Lists were used as a basic source but much information came from personal communications.

Photos were made by the author in his garden. Apologies for poor quality of some of them.

* proposed new names (by L.K.)

** new hybrids

Join the American Iris Society

$25.00 one year, $60 for three years

Send payment to:
Tom Gormley–AIS Membership Secretary
205 Catalonia Avenue
P.O. Box 177
DeLeon Springs, FL 32130

Phone and Fax: 386-277-2057
Email: aismemsec@irises.org
or visit: www.irises.org for more details

Your new AIS RVP's for the regions aligned with Canada:

Region 1 Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, **Newfoundland/Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island**

Norine Veal nsveal@aol.com
30 Franklin Park East, Rockville, CT 06066

Region 2 New York, **Ontario, Quebec**

Donna Lowry donnadonlowry@aol.com
9660 Ridge Road, Brockport, NY 14420

Region 13 Washington, Oregon, Alaska, **British Columbia, Yukon**

Alan Brooks ebb1012@aol.com

Region 21 Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, **NWT, Nunavut, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba**

Ron Cosner keighley15@msn.com
328 Central Ave SE, Lemars, IA 51031

AIS newly updated web site: www.irises.org

Coming Events and Dates to Remember

2012 Meeting Dates

Sunday Jul 15 Library "RBG" 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Sunday Jan 06, 2013 Library "RBG" 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

2012 Event Dates

Sunday June 3
Annual Show & Picnic 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Trails End Iris Gardens
3674 Indian Trail Rd
Lynden, ON (R.R. 8 Brantford)

June 7 – 9
Siberian & Species Iris Convention
Lansing, Kalamazoo, MI
For info www.socsib.org/convention2012.pdf

CANCELLED

Sunday June 10
Can-West Iris Society 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Bourkevale Community Centre
100 Ferry Road
Winnipeg, MB

Sunday August 19
Annual Sale & AGM 1:00 pm
RBG Gardens Room 3&4
680 Plains Rd West
Burlington, ON

Sunday September 30
Late Season Show & Judges Training
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
RBG Rooms 3&4
680 Plains Rd West
Burlington, ON
(not yet confirmed)

2012 Publication Dates

August 2012 Vol56 No3 Summer Issue
November 2012 Vol56 No4 Fall Issue

Canadian Sources for Irises

We provide this listing as a resource for our members and readers. This listing does not necessarily imply endorsement of the businesses by Canadian Iris Society (CIS). The sources listed have paid donations/contributions to help support the society. If you know of someone who should be added to the list please send the information to the editor. The listings in BOLD are members of the CIS

Chapman Iris
RR #1 8790 Wellington Road 124,
Guelph, ON N1H 6H7
Phone: 519-856-0956
Email: chuck@chapmaniris.com
Website: www.chapmaniris.com
On-line catalogue: $3.00

McMillen's Iris Garden
RR1 285112 Pleasant Valley Rd.
Norwich ON N0J 1P0
Phone 1-866-468-6508
Email: info@mcmillensirisgarden.ca
e-mail or call for Price List

Tara Perennial Farm
123 Concession # 6, RR2
Tara, ON N0H 2N0
Call for availability/price list
Marion Kuhl 519-934-3447
Website: www.taraperennialfarm.com

The Plant Farm
177 Vesuvius Bay Road
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1K3
Phone: 250-537-5995
Email: hello@theplantfarm.ca
Website: www.theplantfarm.ca
On-line catalogue

Trails End Iris Gardens
3674 Indian Trail, RR#8
Brantford, Ontario N3T 5M1
Phone: 519-647-9746
Email: bob@trailsendiris.com
Website: www.trailsendiris.com
On-line catalogue

Liaisons and Regions

British Columbia Iris Society (BCIS)
Ted Baker, 185 Furness Rd.,
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1Z7
ph: 250-653-4430 www.bc-iris.org

Can-West Iris Society
B.J. Jackson, 2421 McDonald Avenue, Brandon, MB R7B 0A6,
ph: 204-725-4696 email: jacksonb@mts.net

Southern Ontario Iris Society (SOIS)
Chris Hollinshead, 3070 Windwood Drive,
Mississauga, ON L5N 2K3
ph: 905-567-8545 e-mail: cdn-iris@rogers.com

London Region Iris Society
Gloria McMillen, RR#1 Norwich, ON N0J 1P0
ph: 519 468-3279 email: gmcmillen@execulink.com
Please inquire for membership and group activities.

Ottawa River Iris Society (ORrIS)
Maureen Mark, 1077 Guertin Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1H 8B3
ph: (613) 521-4597 e-mail: mmark@rogers.com

cis website
www.cdn-iris.ca

up-to-date information on CIS activities and many useful links to other iris sites and information

Canadian Iris Society
1960 Sideroad 15, RR#2
Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0

CANADA POST / POSTES CANADA

Postage paid / Port payé
Publications Mail / **Poste-publications**
41247546 Tottenham ON

Walker Ross

CIS Newsletter

Published four times a year at
Canadian Iris Society
1960 Sideroad 15, RR#2
Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0

Publication Agreement #41247546