

Canadian Iris Society

cis newsletter

Summer 2018 Volume 62 Issue 3



Canadian Iris Society

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CIS Newsletter

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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 is available on the official CIS website: www.cdn-iris.ca. One-year membership is \$20, Three-year membership is \$50. (cheque or money orders accepted)



Send membership application or renewal to Canadian Iris Society/membership, 1960 Side Road 15, Tottenham, Ontario L0G1W0.

Cover Photo: *"Black Cherry Blast"* T Aitken 2018

President's Report

By Ed Jowett

First I would like to apologize to **Terry Aitken** for spelling his name wrong in our sales catalog. Next I would like to thank **Barb** and **Terry** for all the work and suggestions in making our great list of selection of rhizomes we had. I feel like I know these people personally from all the helpful emails I have had with them from the time we decided to order newer Rhizomes to the final keeping up-to-date on inventories and name registrations etc. Barb is also a constant reader of the bulletin as I get comments from her at times, which I appreciate.



Next I would like to thank **Trails End Iris Gardens** for supplying the materials and time for shipping. Thanks to the following members for their time for packaging and boxing: **Nancy Kennedy** who checked the contents against the orders I gave them to pack; **Ann Granatier** for preparing shipping labels and boxes ready to ship; and **Bob Granatier** for seeing that they got to the post office for shipping. I would like to thank those who did take advantage to purchase. Our sale though would have been a disaster had it not been for Trails End Iris; they volunteered to purchase all of our leftovers. We have six members who every year have their order in on the first day. I found within a few weeks sales were not happening so I started sending email notices and got 1 or 2 after each notice. So I conclude people do not always read this bulletin or they forget by having advanced notice of sale. So if we continue to have this sale we will send out email flashes weekly from beginning to end of the sale.

The S.O.I.S. held their annual sale this year and had a better than ever sale since the end of their auction sales.

I see on the TV our Prime Minister has announced in 2021 they will take a look at the chemicals causing the bee population to die. I believe everyone should bug their MPP and ask as to why 3 years when we have already lost over 44 percent of the bee

The comments and statements in this bulletin are those of the writers and not necessary those of the board or society.

population. Is this to allow the chemical companies to come up with a new product that is not proven for years to come? Through my connection with Hort Societies I will ask them to petition the government.

I hope everyone had a good bloom season in spite of the lack of rain. I had a real good season this year with about 99 percent of flowers blooming. I am hoping for a good rebloom season also. As I record all my bloom dates; it is interesting to note that in spite of the weather the Iris bloom is within 2 days max. This shows how mother nature is not fooled. In the last few years I have purchased a few iris that are considered black and it is amazing how some are getting very close. The reds are also running a close second.

The students are getting ready to return to school so that means gardening is coming near a close. Really I have had enough of this hot humid weather.



Ed Jowett

Send us your articles

The editor would appreciate contributions to the newsletter from the general membership. If you have news of an Iris event; or looking for a particular variety or type of Iris; growing or cultivation advice, let us know. If you have plants to sell or anything you would like to share, please do so. Send them to the editor for submission. This way we can make our newsletter bigger and of more interest to our readers. (For address see inside front cover.)



Musings From Manitoba



By: B. J. Jackson

(jacksonb@mts.net)

As I write this in late July, The Can-West Iris Society's annual rhizome sale has just concluded. It was a great sale with 23 varieties from our commercial supplier and another 65 varieties donated by members. For the second year in a row we broke a record for the number of varieties available as well as the number of member orders. Another very successful sale is in the books.

We also held our 11th annual show early in June. In total, 52 stems of 46 different varieties were judged from 8 exhibitors. There were 5 TB, 19 IB, 8 MTB, 19 SDB and 1 Sp-X. For the first time in many years, the Historic Section had a good representation. The display table held another 13 specimens and 1 arrangement.

The sale table was its usual hub of activity early in the afternoon. So much activity that it totally sold out. I think that is definitely a first! And there certainly were a lot of iris to start with.

Awards

AIS Best Specimen In Show - MTB Merit
exhibited by BJ Jackson

CWIS Best Canadian Stem in Show - not
awarded

CWIS People's Choice - TB English Cottage
exhibited by Mary Kurtz

CWIS Best Historic Iris in Show - TB Berkeley
Gold exhibited by EI Hutchison

Sweepstakes

AIS Silver Medal & Certificate (most first place
ribbons) - Rita & Len Giesbrecht (6)

AIS Bronze Medal & Certificate (second most
first place ribbons) - BJ Jackson (4)

Section Certificates

Section A: Miniature Dwarf Bearded - not
awarded



Best Specimen In Show - MTB
Merit exhibited by BJ Jackson

Can-West Iris Society

Section B: Standard Dwarf Bearded - Cocoa

Pink exhibited by Rita & Len Giesbrecht

Section C: Intermediate Bearded - Arctic Fancy

exhibited by El Hutchison

Section D: Miniature Tall Bearded - Merit

exhibited by BJ Jackson

Section E: Border Bearded - not awarded

Section F: Tall Bearded - not awarded

Section G: Other - Alpha Gnu Sp-X exhibited by

Rita & Len Giesbrecht

Section H: Collections - not awarded

Section I: Seedlings - not awarded

Section J: Historic - Berkeley Gold exhibited by

El Hutchison

Section K: Unidentified - Unknown exhibited by

Diana Dhaliwahi



People's Choice - TB
English Cottage exhibited
by Mary Kurtz



Design Arrangement

In other news, the weather has been foremost in most gardener's minds this season. Too hot, too humid, then too cold. The one constant has been the lack of rain in most areas of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. We are just not used to such high temperatures for so many days in a row. An occasional 30 plus and an occasional 80 plus humidity reading, yes, but weeks on end? In the month of July, south-western Manitoba has seen just three rain events and only one of those was a day long, not thunder storm induced soaking.



Pod collection has begun as well. It is starting to feel more like autumn than summer.

And that's it from too sunny and too hot Manitoba. Enjoy the rest of the summer.



Silver Medal & Certificate (most first place ribbons) - Rita & Len Giesbrecht
presented by BJ Jackson



Wanted

Is there a Canadian who grows TB “Chianti Classic” (T Aitken 2010)?
If so Don McQueen would appreciate a reply.
He can be reached at ddmcqueen@rogers.com

Iris tectorum - Roof Iris, Japanese Roof Iris or Wall Iris

By John Moons



The Genus *Iris* is very big. In order to study this Genus, it is divided in six subgenera. One of these subgenera is the Subgenus *Limniris*. This group, the beardless *Iris*, is divided into two sections: one is the section *Lophiris* or the *Evansias* and the other is the *Limniris*. The *Evansias* are mostly easy to grow although some are quite tender. They are also called crested *Iris*es.

Instead of a beard, the falls have a series of ridges or crests. These crests have often a different colour than the falls. The standards are flaring or horizontal and this gives the flower a very flat shape. The *Evansias* come from North America and east Asia. They grow in temperate climates. The best known *Evansia* is the *Iris Japonica*.

The *Iris tectorum* was first described in 1871 by **Karl Ivanovich Maksimovich** who lived from 1827-1891. He was a Russian botanist who travelled and studied plants and animals in east Asia. From 1871-1891 he was director of the Botanical Museum in St. Petersburg. This museum is now part of the Komarov Botanical Institute in St. Petersburg.



Iris tectorum

Synonyms that have been used over the years are: *Evansia tectorum* (Maxim) Klatt, *Iris chinensis* Bunge, *Iris rosthornii* Diels, *Iris tectorum* f. *alba* (Dykes) Makino, *Iris tectorum* var. *alba* Dykes, *Iris tectorum* f. *tectorum*, *Iris tomiolopha* Hance.

This *Iris* comes from south-west and central China. Some people claim that the cultivation can be traced back to the seventh century. It is now widely distributed in China, Japan, Korea and northern Burma. In its native habitat the winters are dry and cold and the summers are wet and warm.



Iris Evansia tectorum



Iris growing on thatched roof

This Iris gets its name roof or wall Iris because in China and Japan it grows often on roofs and walls. It seems to be very happy up there. Several stories circulate as to why people put these plants on a roof. One story goes that this Iris is very good at keeping the thatch on the roof together. Another story says that women in Japan used the ground-up powder of the rhizome to make their faces white. In times of famine all the land had to be used for growing food so the only place where you then could grow Irises was on the roof. The word *tectorum* comes from the latin word for roof or covering.

This Iris grows from 2.5 cm thick rhizomes and is creeping. The rhizome is buff coloured or greenish where it is exposed to light. The rhizomes look like the rhizomes of the bearded Irises. It has short thin roots under the rhizomes and you will see fibers on the top. There are no stolons. Because of its creeping habit it makes spreading clumps.

The fans are yellowish or pale green. The leaves are sword - or lance shaped and can be 15 – 60 cm long and 1.5 – 5 cm wide. The leaves are floppy and semi-evergreen. They look thin, glossy and feel ribbed. The flowers sit on round stems that can be between 20 – 45 cm tall. Along the flower stems there are 1 or 2 small stem leaves. There can be a bit of branching. The stems and branches have 1, 2 or 3 flowers.

They bloom around the time that the taller bearded Irises have flowers. The display of flowers can last for up to 2 weeks. The flower stalk is about 1 cm. At the bottom of the flower is a spathe (2 or 3 green leaves around the ovary). The perianth tube is 2.5 cm long. The whole flower is about 10 cm across. The falls are almost round and about 5 – 7 cm long and 4 cm wide. The crest is deeply cut, and the edges are wavy. They are usually white, although there are yellow forms. They have brown violet streaks. The standards are spreading, 5 cm long, 3 cm wide. The falls and standards are almost in one flat plane and spread out like the spokes of a wheel. The hafts of the standards are very thin. They look very fragile. The normal colour of the tectorum flowers is deep lilac to blue purple with darker veins. There is a white form called Alba. The parts of the falls and standards in the Alba close to the centre of the flower, are light yellow. The flower is also flat.



Cruella variegated orchid iris

The flowers are self fertile, but insects help also to pollinate them. The pollen is white. The seed capsule is oblong and rounded with 6 ribs and 4 cm long. The surface looks coarsely netted. The chromosome number is $2n=28$. The ripe seeds are black brown and pear shaped.

The plants grow best in the sun or half shade. The soil has to be very well drained. Their native area has dry cold winters and wet warm summers. The roots under the rhizome are very short. That means that the plant has only a limited amount of soil to take the nutrients from. In order to make it grow fast it has to be fed a few times over the summer. They seem to be happy with leaf mulch. In a warm summer with enough food they will grow very fast. This Iris is also happy in a big pot.

The preferred pH is 6-7.8.

Propagation is by dividing the plant after it has bloomed. Most books recommend to divide it every 2 years, but if you give it leaf mulch you can wait longer. Because the roots are shallow, they exhaust the food supply quickly.

They are also prolific self seeders. They produce a good amount of seed that germinates easily. The white form Alba grows true from seed.

It is hardy in the USA in Zones 4 - 9. Young plants and young parts of the plants can be damaged by frosts in the spring. They bloom best where the summers are hot. In Great Britain they will not bloom much in a cool summer without a lot of sun.

Because the plant has been cultivated for so long, there are a good number of cultivars. A few names are: Adamgrove strain, *Atrocaeruleum*, Japan Form, *Middleton Blue*, *Lilcina*, Taiwan Form, Norris Strain, *Moon Gold*. Variegata has striped and streaked creamy white foliage. *Cruella* has variegated foliage.

There are several hybrids:

Queen's Grace, a lavender hybrid between *I. wattii* and *I. tectorum*.

Paltec or Iris x Paltec, a hybrid between *I. pallida* and *I. tectorum*, has deep lavender blue flowers.

Iris x Lucilla is a cross between *I. tectorum* and a dwarf bearded Iris.



Queen's Grace

Books used for this article:

The Gardener's Iris Book by William Shear, The Taunton Press

The Gardener's Guide to Growing Irises by Geoff Stebbings, Timber Press 2001

Irises by Pamela McGregor and Alison Nicoll, Firefly

Magic of Irises by Barbara Perry Lawton, Fulcrum Publishing 1998

The Iris Book, Molly Price, D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc. 1966

Iris by Fritz Kohlein, Timber Press 1987

The World of Irises edited by Bee Warburton and Melva Hamblen, The American Iris Society 1978

The Genus Iris by William Dykes Reprint from original 1913 edition, Dover Publications 1974

The Iris by Brian Mathew, B.T. Batsford 1981

Hortus Third by staff of Liberty Hyde Bailey Hortorium, MacMillan Publishing Co. 1976

Wikipedia



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Iris Twins Part 5

Selected by Don McQueen

Although colouration appears to be almost similar, height and perhaps bloom cycle may help clarify the possible confusion. But the width of the banding on the falls and the bright white veining on BUMBLEBEE DEELITE are significant observable differences.



Don McQueen digitals

SDB FIREPLACE EMBERS: May 9, 2015

For the record:

SDB 'FIREPLACE EMBERS' (O. David Niswonger, R. 1993). Seedling SDB 28-90. SDB, 10" (25 cm). Midseason bloom. Standards dark yellow; Falls dark maroon; beards gold. 'Jazzamatazz' X 'Slap Bang'.

MTB BUMBLEBEE DEELITE (Jack and Glenda Norrick, R. 1985). Seedling #JN-82-1. MTB, 18" (46 cm), Early midseason bloom. Standards yellow; falls maroon, edged yellow; orange beard; tailored. 'Pewee' X 'Ornate Pageant'. Miller's Manor 1986. Honourable Mention 1988; Williamson-White Award 1991; Williamson-White Medal 1993.



MTB BUMBLEBEE DEELITE: June 6, 2009

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If you receive your bulletin by postal mail. Your mailing label has the date on top; If your membership has expired or is about to expire before the next mailing your label will be coloured not plain.

CIS JULY 2018 - JULY 2019
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Canadian Iris Society

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Dear xxxxxx

Your membership is about to expire in (month yr). We have appreciated your support in the past and hope you will continue.. Your payment can be made by cheque or money order. Payable to the Canadian Iris Society.

Membership rates are	1 year	\$20.00
	3 years	\$50.00

Mail payment to:
Canadian Iris Society/ Membership
1960 Side Road 15
Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0

Again thank you for your support

Ed Jowett

President CIS



Join the American Iris Society

\$30.00 one year, \$70 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



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260 Michigan Hollow, Spencer, NY 14883

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

Bob Seaman kcisbob@leonineiris.com
7051 S 126th St, Seattle, WA 98178

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

Kelly Norris gardens@kellynnorris.com
1109 25 Street #9, Des Moines, IA 50311

AIS newly updated web site: www.irises.org

Coming Dates to Remember

2018 Board Meeting Dates

Sunday October 21, 2018

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

2018 CIS Annual Meeting

Sunday October 21, 2018

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Royal Botanical Gardens
Plains Road West, Burlington

2018 Publication Dates

November 2018

Vol 62 No 4 Autumn Issue

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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.



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Email: bob@trailsendiris.com
Website: www.trailsendiris.com
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Chris Hollinshead

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Ontario L5N 2K3 Canada

Email: erinmillsiris@gmail.com

Website: www.cdn-iris.ca/erinmills

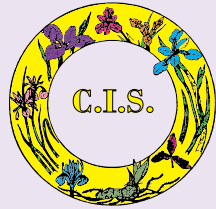
Check with the above sources to see if bloom season tours and times are available.

TOURS:

If you are in Brandon Manitoba area and wish to see a couple of good gardens One of HIPS and a MIS display garden. Best bloom time is the first 3 weeks of June. Call or email Barb Jackson at 204-727-6049 email jacksonb@mts.net

If you are in the area of Tottenham (between Etobicoke and Barrie). Best bloom time is last 2 weeks of May. Call or email 905-936-9941 416-434-3225 or jowettfarm@copper.net

Liaisons and Regions



British Columbia Iris Society (BCIS)

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CIS - AIS Affiliate

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Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0
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London Region Iris Society

Gloria McMillen, PO Box 385, Otterville, ON N0J 1R0
ph: 519 532-2364 email: gmcmlen@execulink.com
Please inquire for membership and group activities.



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
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Walker Ross

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