

## Tall Bearded (TB) In Garden Evaluation

### Garden Judging of Introduced and Seedling TB Iris

1. Plant			30
	a. Foliage	10	
	b. Durability/perennial qualities	15	
	c. Floriferousness	5	
2. Stalk			35
	a. Proportion	5	
	b. Strength	10	
	c. Branching	5	
	d. Bud Count & Bloom Sequence	15	
3. Flower			25
	a. Color	5	
	b. Form	10	
	c. Substance & Durability	10	
4. Distinctiveness			10
TOTAL			100

### TB Section Award – Wister Medal

**An Iris Must Always Be Judged on its Total Garden Qualities!**

**Awards must always be based on the total iris: plant, stalk, and flower.**

**General Description** - Bearded iris taller than 27.5-inch stalk with at least two branches plus the terminal, minimum of 7 buds. Should produce between 3 and 5 increases per rhizome per year

#### **Plant: (30 POINTS)**

##### **Foliage (10 points)**

No plant is worthy of consideration if its foliage is floppy, narrow, or sparse. Each leaf should be crisp, erect, and of sufficient width. The foliage should not display excessive discoloration or leaf spot if neighboring varieties appear vibrant and healthy.

##### **Durability (15 points)**

Plant should display vigor and good health.

##### **Floriferousness (5 points)**

A variety must remain in bloom over two weeks to receive credit for floriferousness - ratio of stalks to the number of fans must be at least 25%.

#### **Stalk: (35 POINTS)**

##### **Proportion (5 points)**

The stalk must hold the flowers well above the foliage but must not suspend them awkwardly at excessive heights.

##### **Strength (10 points)**

Unless there has been severe weather, the stalk should remain fully upright

##### **Branching (5 points)**

Branching displays the individual flowers, holding each one so that it does not interfere with another, modified candelabrum type branching is usually best in the

garden. Stalk must have at least two branches plus the terminal, arranged on the upper two-thirds of the stalk.

**Bud count and bloom sequence (15 points)**

Must remain in bloom over two weeks. Total is never fewer than seven. Bloom sequence as important as bud count. Ideally, the terminal socket at the tip of the stalk and of each branch should contain at least three buds that will produce full sized flowers in an extended time sequence.

**Flower – 25 points**

**Color (5 points)**

Flower must be free from any colors which strike a discordant note. They should produce a bright and pleasing appearance as opposed to the dull and drab. New color, if pleasing, is an asset.

**Form (10 points)**

Variability in form is acceptable as long as the standards and falls meet minimum requirements, produce flowers of good balance and proportion. Standards may be erect, domed, open, closed, touching or overlapping. Strong midribs are vital to form. Falls should be large enough in relation to the standards for good proportion. Variability of shape is inevitable, appearing as rounded, oval, or triangular. Never Pinched. Falls can be flaring, hanging, or tucked, flaring falls are preferred.

**Substance and durability (10 points)**

How long the flower can maintain its color and symmetry of form. Tall bearded flowers of today should withstand all variations of weather except the extremes. Substance aids in retention of color.

**Texture**

Is a surface characteristic of the petals that is difficult to evaluate. It plays a significant part in perception of color by the judge. Any texture (whether leathery, satiny, silky, velvety, or waxy) is acceptable if it is visually pleasing.

**Distinctiveness (10 points)**

An award-winning iris is immediately recognized in the garden. An iris may have every asset previously discussed, but if it lacks attractiveness, it will be of little value in the garden. Distinctiveness accounts for only 10 points and awards should not be given to a variety simply because of its individuality. Observe the plant at a distance of 4 to 5 yards (3.7 to 4.6 meters) to determine if all parts combine to present a well-proportioned plant with superior landscape value.

**Judging seedling classes,** New cultivar which not only conforms to the guidelines for the class, but exhibits desirable qualities comprising improvement and/or innovation.

## JUDGING MEDIANS Page 1

ATTRIBUTE	BB	IB	MTB	SDB
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Height	16" – 27.5"	16" – 27.5"	16" – 27.5" (21-22' Preferred)	8" – 16"
Flower (w x h)	< 8.5"	3.5" – 5"	<6"	3.4" – 6.8"
Buds	7+	Variable 5+	6, 8-9 preferred	3
Season	Not sharply defined Post SDB	Variable Late SDB +	With TB	Mid MDB – Mid IB
<b>PROPORTION</b>				
	(25)	(20)	(25)	(20)
	Stalk 3-3.25 X height of stalk	Maybe indistinguishable from BB	Slender and graceful	Terminal above foliage
	Lg flower on short stalk not acceptable	Flower match height	Height and size based on performance	Flower and Leaf width match height
	Too tall disqualified Lack of Proportion disqualify Flower size to match height		MTB not small TB	Out of proportion penalized
<b>FLOWER</b>				
	30	35	40	40
Color	(10) View from distance	(15) View from distance	(20) View from distance	(15) View from distance
	limitless patterns and colors	limitless patterns and colors	limitless patterns and colors	limitless patterns and colors
	Must fill eye	Pumila spot & halo rare	New color and patterns rate high	Pattern distinctive contrasting
	Hold through life	Texture enhance color	High Pts for clarity and richness	Clarity, saturation, distribution high
	Finish and Texture as important	Beard to enhance	Low point grainy texture	Finish/Texture enhance color
	Beard Judged for Contribution		Purple spathes enhance	Beard */-
Form	(10) STD Closed, arched, nearly closed	(10) Diversity of form based on parentage	(10) tailored to slight ruffles	(15) STD Open, arched, domed, pyramidal, if neat
	Little open acceptable if erected or cupped	Decorations should enhance	Decorations kept within daintiness	Falls wide variations acceptable Flared preferred
	No Twisting	No Twisting	Falls Flaring, semi flared	Ruffles vs tailor personal preference
	Falls Flare slight or pronounced	Nothing unbalanced	STD Closed or arched,	No pinched falls narrow hafts, long parallel falls
	decorations should not overwhelm		erect acceptable if interior warrants	
	Nothing unbalanced			
Substance	(10) Able to withstand normal weather 3 days	(10) Able to withstand normal weather 3 days	(10) Able to withstand normal weather 3 days	(10) Able to withstand normal weather 3 days

**JUDGING MEDIANS page 2**

<b>ATTRIBUTE</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>IB</b>	<b>MTB</b>	<b>SDB</b>
<b>STALK/Floriferousness</b>	(10) Minimum 2 branches plus terminal	(20) Many styles based on breeding	(15) 2 branch plus terminal minimum	(15) usually 3 buds per stalk
	Minimum 7 buds	Height/diameter balanced	6 bud minimum 8-9 preferred	Sequential stalk development
	Branches balanced	Flower open artistically	Stalk slender flexible not stiff	Sequential stalk height
	Thick short stalk penalized	Sequential stalks sometimes better than more flowers	Aphylla straighter than variegata breeding	Bloom 15 days per clump
	Stalks slim but strong	Overall Floriferousness importance of clump	Branch graceful	Bloom last 3 days
	1-2 flowers open Too many flowers untidy			Sturdy not corse
	Sequential stalks plus			
<b>FOLIAGE/PLANT</b>	(20) Neither scanty or too lush	(10) proportion to stalk and flower during bloom	(10) restrained graceful	(10) Dense proportion to stem
	Good Color	Good Color	Good Color	Good Color
	Disease resistant	Disease resistant	Disease resistant	Disease resistant
	Erect	Erect with no bloom interference	In proportion	No more than ½ # fans in bloom
	Bloom out can be serious fault	Bloom out can be serious fault	Bloom out can be serious fault	Bloom out serious fault
		Vigorous growth		
<b>DISTINCTIVENESS</b>	(15) Major feature to attract attention	(15) Major feature to attract attention	(10) Major feature to attract attention	(15) Major feature to attract attention
	Improvement in quality, color, pattern plant	Improvement in quality, color, pattern plant	Improvement in quality, color, pattern plant	Improvement in quality, color, pattern plant
<b>SEEDLINGS</b>	Judged by introduced Garden criteria	Judged by introduced Garden criteria	Judged by introduced Garden criteria	Judged by introduced Garden criteria
	Must be introducible	Must be introducible	Must be introducible	Must be introducible
	No Faults	No Faults	No Faults	No Faults
<b>SPECIES</b>	Iris aphylla Iris balkana Iris reichenbachii	Iris albicans, Iris albertii,	Iris aphylla, Iris variegata Iris astrachenica	Iris bicapitata, Iris humilis, Iris lutescens

## Border Bearded (BB) In Garden Evaluation (Chapter 8)

### GARDEN JUDGING - Introduced Varieties & Seedlings of BB Iris

1. Overall Proportion			25
2. Flower			30
	a. Color & Finish	10	
	b. Form	10	
	c. Substance & Durability	10	
3. Stalk			20
	a. Proportion	10	
	b. Branching & Buds	10	
4. Plant & Foliage			10
5. Distinctiveness			15
TOTAL			100

#### BB Section Award – Knowlton Medal

**An Iris Must Always Be Judged On Its Total Garden Qualities!**

**Awards must always be based on the total iris: plant, stalk, and**

#### General

Erect with branched stems from 16 to 27.5 inches, flowers no more than 5 inches wide (8.5 W+H), length and width of foliage and diameter of stem need to be reduced proportionally with plant height. BB iris resembles the TB iris in color, finish and style, but is smaller, more delicate, and demonstrates good balance. two well placed branches with a terminal, with a total of seven buds. Recent Hybridizers have added species such as *Iris aphylla*, *I. balkana* and *I. reichenbachii* or utilized some of the fertile IB plants in crosses with BBs or TBs

#### Overall Proportion – 25 points

Each part of the plant, including flower size and style, stem height and thickness and foliage length and width, should be considered in relation to each other part. A pronounced lack of overall proportion disqualifies the plant from consideration for any award

#### Flower – 30 points

##### Color and Finish (10 points).

Color palette is virtually limitless, including all colors and patterns available in tall bearded iris as well as variations derived from species. Finish or texture matte, velvety, satiny, crystalline and more is important and should be considered if it enhances or detracts from the underlying color. Beard color, harmonize or sharply contrast judged for its contribution to the total color effect.

##### Form (10 points)

Good form is paramount importance. Decoration ruffling and lace is considered an asset, require a certain restraint so decoration never overwhelms the underlying shape. Beard variations, such as horns, spoons and flounces, should be similarly

restrained. There is a tendency toward shorter and more open standards. Closed or arched and nearly closed standards are preferred. Structural imbalance and disharmony, are severely penalized. Height range require some flare in the falls degree of flare should be appropriate to the height of the flower stalk.

**Substance and Durability (10 points).**

Should have sufficient substance to support its form. It should be able to flutter a bit in a breeze but return to its pose in calm and not look permanently disarranged. Durability varies from climate to climate, should be judged over a period of several days to determine durability. Can be expected to remain in good condition for about three days under normal weather conditions..

**Stalk 20 points**

**Proportion (10 points)**

Stalk is relatively slim and graceful but must be strong enough to support the blossoms. Diameter of the stalk type and placement of its branches must be balanced both the plant and the size and style of the flowers. Excessive thick, clubby stems with branches so short as to crowd the blossoms are to be severely penalized.

**Branching and Buds (10 points).**

Stalk should have, at a minimum, two well placed branches with a terminal, with a total of seven buds. Taller BB more and wider branching is preferred, with corresponding increase in the number of buds.

**Plant & Foliage – 10 points**

The foliage must be in harmony with the flower, neither scanty nor too lush and with its height and width must complement the flower stalk. should be erect in habit. Some varieties are slightly curved like a sickle or scythe or exhibit a slight twist. These characteristics in moderation should not detract from the overall appearance of the clump. BB expected to perform as well in the garden as quality TB.

**Distinctiveness - 15 points**

BB should be instantly recognizable as such, to receive points it must also differ from existing members of the class in some positive way. Distinctiveness includes new and beautiful combination of petal and beard color or a new pattern or combination of patterns. Term could apply to a new iris similar in color and form but have far superior plant habit, or outstanding petal finish.

**Judging Seedlings**

A new cultivar which not only conforms to the guidelines for the class, but exhibits desirable qualities comprising improvement and/or innovation.

## Intermediate Bearded (IB) in Garden Evaluation (Chapter 9)

### GARDEN JUDGING - Introduced Varieties & Seedlings of IB Iris

1. Overall Proportion			20
2. Flower			35
	a. Color & Finish	15	
	b. Form	10	
	c. Substance & Durability	10	
3. Stalk			20
	a. Proportion	10	
	b. Branching & Buds	10	
4. Plant & Foliage			10
5. Distinctiveness			15
TOTAL			100

**IB Section Award – Hans & Jacob Sass Medal**  
**An Iris Must Always Be Judged On Its Total Garden Qualities!**  
**Awards must always be based on the total iris: plant, stalk, and**

**General** – 16” to 27.5”, variable 5+ buds, leaves substantially erect; stalks branched. blooms 3.5” to 5”, blooming between SDB and TB iris. because of the diversity of genetic background, a great variety of plant, stalk and flower types is found that fits the IB class. diversity should be encouraged and no one type is preferred over any other.

#### **Overall Proportion – 20 points**

A pleasing, well-balanced relationship among foliage, stalk and flower is essential in iris, even more critical for the median classes. All parts should contribute harmoniously to the whole, with no one feature overwhelming another

#### **Flower – 35 points**

##### **Color and Finish (15 points)**

Full range of colors can be found in intermediates, as well as a vast array of patterns. Colors should be harmonious, clean, clear colors are more pleasing to the eye. Finish or texture refers to the type of petal surface, e.g. matte, velvety, satiny or crystalline.

##### **Form 10 pts**

Intermediates come in a variety of forms, this diversity should be maintained and encouraged. Standards may be domed, cupped, erect or somewhat open, provided their contours suit overall flower shape, midribs strong enough to hold them firmly in position. Extremely flaring falls might be a greater asset on smaller, shorter cultivars which are viewed from above. Decorations, including ruffles, lace and “space age” features like horns & spoons, which should enhance but

never overwhelm the form. No decoration, however attractive or unusual, excuses serious faults in the underlying flower structure.

**Substance and durability 10 points**

Purpose is to stabilize the flower form and to render the flower able to withstand weather conditions over a reasonable period of time. Flowers should last at least three days under normal weather conditions.

**Stalk 20 points**

**Proportion (10 points)**

Regardless of the branch habit, the height and diameter of the stalk must attractively balance both the flowers and the plant from which it emerges. Its failure to do so should be heavily penalized. Thick and clubby stalks should be heavily penalized.

**Branching and buds (10 points)**

Many types of branching are found in the intermediate class. Whatever the branch habit, it should present flowers artistically throughout the bloom season without crowding. greater numbers of buds are preferred. Plants which produce repeat or sequential stalks give generous bloom for long periods despite few branches and buds per stalk. Such cultivars should not be penalized simply because of their lower bud count. A neat, compact plant is desirable. Vigorous growth is the norm for the intermediate class.

**Distinctiveness – 15 points**

Characteristics which set a cultivar apart from others of its kind. Unusual qualities of flower shape, color and pattern immediately come to mind, but other qualities, such as particularly elegant branching or an especially appealing fragrance, can also render a plant distinctive.

**Judging Seedlings**

New cultivar which not only conforms to the guidelines for the class, but exhibits desirable qualities comprising improvement and/or innovation.



## Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB) In Garden Evaluation (Chapter 10)

### GARDEN JUDGING - Introduced Varieties & Seedlings of MTB Iris

1. Proportion			25
2. Flower			40
	a. Color & Finish	20	
	b. Form	10	
	c. Substance & Durability	10	
3. Stalk			15
	a. Buds & Branches	10	
	b. Characteristics	5	
4. Foliage			10
5. Distinctiveness			10
TOTAL			100

#### MTB Section Award – Williamson-White Medal

**An Iris Must Always Be Judged On Its Total Garden Qualities!  
Awards must always be based on the total iris: plant, stalk, and**

#### General

Height 16"-27.5" Optimum height 21-22" preferred, Stalks 1/8 to 3/16 Slender under terminal two branches plus terminal. 6 buds (8-9 buds preferred) Base 5/8", Foliage not more than 2/3 of stalk height, pleasing fragrance is especially important as MTB are favorite cut flowers.

#### Proportion 25 points

MTB Are NOT very small flowered tall bearded in all aspects. Garden judging should be based on typical performance of the variety

#### Flowers 40 points

##### Color Finish 20 pts

Diploid MTBs is limited to white, yellow, variegatas, amoenas, neglectas, blues, orchids, purples, plicatas and variegata blends. In the tetraploid varieties, the color palette is opened up to the tangerine tones and some dominant bicolor combinations not found in the diploids. New color and patterns rate high but extra consideration should be given to clarity and richness of those colors. heavy striping descended from *Iris variegata*, is not a fault. Purple tint spaths may enhance color. Grainy texture should be downgraded in favor of smoother finish.

##### Form 10 pts

Tailored and lightly ruffled more in keeping with MTB objective of daintiness than heavy ruffles. Flowers not more than 6" height and width. Flaring or semi-flaring preferred drooping falls detract. Closed or arched standards preferred,

Open standards may be acceptable if there is attractive intense contrasting color in the center.

**Substance Durability 10 points**

Allows structure of flower to remain firm ideally 3 days (not tattered by normal weather)

**Stalk 15 points**

**Buds and Branches (10 points)**

2 branches plus terminal, 6 bud (8-9 preferred). diploid cultivars generally have two or three branches plus a terminal and minimum of seven buds. Cultivars with up to 14 buds are known. The tetraploid cultivars derived from *Iris aphylla* and diploid cultivars from *I. astrachanica* can have the basal branch typical of these species

**Characteristics (5 points)**

Slender flexible not stiff. *I. aphylla* derived – naturally straighter than *I. variegata* derived. Branches not close but not out so as to look awkward

**Foliage 10 points**

No more than 2/3 height of stalk at bloom time No wide than 1” at base. Dark green to blue green in color. Purple base foliage preferred. Health and vigor indicated by increase and appearance.

**Distinctiveness - 10 points**

Distinctiveness can result from improvement of any desirable quality of the plant when compared to other similar varieties within the class. Improvements in color range and flower form rate high.

**Judging Seedlings**

New cultivar which not only conforms to the guidelines for the class, but exhibits desirable qualities comprising improvement and/or innovation.

## Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB) In Garden Evaluation (Chapter 11)

### Garden Judging of Introduced and Seedling SDB Iris

1. Proportion			20
2. Flower			40
	a. Color & Finish	15	
	b. Form	15	
	c. Substance & Durability	10	
3. Floriferousness			15
4. Foliage & Plant			10
5. Distinctiveness			15
TOTAL			100

### SDB Section Award – Cook-Douglas Medal

**An Iris Must Always Be Judged on its Total Garden Qualities!**

**Awards must always be based on the total iris: plant, stalk, and Flower**

#### General

Height 8” to 16” can increase in height during bloom season, 2 or more terminal buds branched or unbranched. Leaves no higher than stalk. Numerous stalks per clump expected.

#### Proportion 20 points

Judge flower stalk foliage and clump evaluated together Terminal no lower than tips of foliage. Larger the plant more flowers above foliage. Foliage width should be consistent with height. Thick stalks not appropriate, width flower and height of stalk no matter the form should be balanced (stalk height is 3.75 to 4 X width of flower) Absence of good overall proportion should be severely penalized.

#### Flowers 40 points

##### Color 15 pts

Color and pattern are major component total impact of SDB, Distance – garden effect : Close color clarity, pattern, saturation, Patterns distinctive and contrast well, harmonious not fuzzy, Corse marking or unpleasant color detract from effect, Extraordinary beard color can add substance and distinctiveness, Smooth silky, velvet, waxy contribute: Crepe detract.

##### Form 15 pts

Various forms are acceptable. Flower = Up to 3.9” wide MIN- HxW = 3.4”, MAX – HxW = 6.8”, Open, arched, domed, or pyramidal standard acceptable if neat and precise, Midribs strong keep standards in position. Horizontal or flaring falls display color and pattern best. Falls wide but variations acceptable NOT narrow, pinched or tucked falls, Ruffled or tailored personal neither should be favored over other Scalloped or rolled back edges acceptable if not distracting.

**Substance texture 10 points**

Substance such to provide crispness, stiffness and toughness to endure inclement weather from bud to completion thin watery appearance not acceptable.

**Floriferousness (15 points)**

3 buds per stalk need several stalks per clump less buds need more stalks, One or two blooms. Clumps quickly finish blooming penalized. Reward double socketed terminal spur IF do not crowd blooms, Bloom should last 10 – 15 days in normal size clump.

**Plant and Foliage 10 points**

Dense in proportion to stems and flowers, UNACCEPTABLE: coarse over wide rank untidy growth, No more than ½ fans in bloom stalks. Bloom out a serious fault

**Distinctiveness 15 points**

SDB MUST be judged on own distinctive characteristics, Color breaks and exotic patterns are desirable but NEVER rewarded at the expense of quality. Distinctiveness must not override basic requirements of class.

**Judging Seedlings**

In judging seedling classes, A new cultivar which not only conforms to the guidelines for the class, but exhibits desirable qualities comprising improvement and/or innovation.

## Miniature Dwarf Bearded (MDB) In Garden Evaluation – Chapter 12

### Garden Judging of Introduced & Seedling MDB Iris

1. Flower			40
	a. Color	20	
	b. Form	15	
	c. Substance & Texture	5	
2. Plant & Foliage			25
	a. Leaves & Stalk	10	
	b. Floriferousness	10	
	c. Vigor	5	
3. Overall Proportion			20
4. Distinctiveness			15
TOTAL			100

#### MDB Section Award – Caparne-Welch Medal

**An Iris Must Always Be Judged On Its Total Garden Qualities!**  
Awards must always be based on the total iris: plant, stalk, and

#### General:

Height up to 8", Flower = 1.6-3" wide, Iris pumila most important species in MDB background, MDB of pure I. pumila origin usually bloom first.

#### Flowers 40 points

##### Color Finish 20 pts

Variety with sharp clear spot superior to fuzzy spot. Halo and wing spot patterns should be distinct and clear. Overlays should enhance color not grey. Spotting and streaking seen in cold wet weather normal, varieties without should be credited. Matching or contrasting beard preferred over indistinct beards. Style arm color in open standard varieties can be significant

##### Form 15 pts

Flaring Falls important recurved acceptable if not abrupt and shows color and pattern. Falls roll to point acceptable if not extreme. Standards domes or open in interior interesting. Beards neat bushy preferred.

#### Substance texture 5 points

Crisp Firm substance, texture silky velvety or other that enhances color effect

#### Plant and Foliage 30 points

##### Stalk and Leaves (10 points)

Leaves shorter than flowers width proportional, Unbranched, but if branched does not crowd. Clean slender inconspicuous spathes. Leaves < 5/8". Slender foliage more desirable.

**Floriferousness (10 points)**

Not stalk but clump, several stalks from 1 rhizome via *I. pumila*. **BAD – mass bloom (Days) Few blooms (many weeks)**. GOOD – many flowers over 2 or more weeks (usually from extra buds, stalks, branching)

**Vigor (5 points)**

Too much = crowded clump more often lack of vigor. Ideal wide range of climates condition penalized those doing well only in mild climates.

**Overall Proportion 20 points**

Dainty flowers with flowers and stem in proportion to over all plant

**Distinctiveness 15 points**

Flower may lose points for form but gain much more for distinctiveness. Too many MDBs over looked with new uniqueness for minor fault.

**Judging Seedlings**

In judging seedling classes, A new cultivar which not only conforms to the guidelines for the class, but exhibits desirable qualities comprising improvement and/or innovation.

## Aril (AR) and Arilbred (AB) In Garden Evaluation (Chapter 13)

### OVERVIEW

The name "aril" refers to *Oncocyclus* and *Regelia* species and hybrids involving only these two groups:

**The Arils (AR)** - There can be hybrids of *Regelia* (RH) species and hybrids of *Oncocyclus* (OH) species. A hybrid of a *Regelia* and an *Oncocyclus* that is predominantly *Regelia* is called a *Regeliocyclus* (RC). A hybrid of a *Regelia* and an *Oncocyclus* that is predominantly *Oncocyclus* is called an *Oncogelia* (OG)

**The Arilbreds (AB)** - The term "arilbred" refers to hybrids between the arils and other bearded iris. An arilbred must contain at least one-quarter or more aril chromosome complement. Arilbreds are divided into three subclasses: *oncogeliabred* (OGB), *oncobred* (OB), and *regeliabred* (RB). Iris in each of the 3 subclasses are further divided by aril chromosome complement; i.e., less than 1/2 aril, 1/2 aril, and more than 1/2 aril. This is indicated respectively by a minus (-), no sign, or a plus (+) after the class abbreviations, (e. g., RB-, OB, and OGB+).

### Terminology

These irises are so different and variable that it is difficult to judge them properly without a thorough knowledge and understanding of the entire group. Therefore, it is vital that judges review "Terminology: Understanding Aril and Arilbred Iris" before entering the garden or any exhibition

Arilbreds must exhibit at least two aril flower characteristics. To review these characteristics, see the illustrations in the chapter, "Terminology: Understanding Aril and Arilbred Iris." The recognizable aril flower characteristics include:

### Regelia Type

1. Elongated standards or falls as in *Iris korolkowii*.
2. Linear beards and beards on standards as well as the falls.
3. Conspicuous veining.
4. A prominent V-shaped spot in contrasting color.

### Oncocyclus Type

5. Broadly domed and reflexed standards as in *I. gatesii*.
6. Ruffled and reflexed standards as in *I. lortetii*.
7. Accentuated globular form as in *I. susiana*.
8. Extremely broad falls.
9. Well recurved falls.
10. Thick, heavy, or broadly diffuse beards as in *I. susiana* or *I. gatesii*.
11. Exaggerated styles as in *I. bismarckiana* and *I. iberica*.
12. A definable signal spot at the end of the beard.
13. Flaring and lanceolate falls as in *I. acutiloba*.
14. Narrow and flaring falls as in *I. paradoxa*.
15. Linear beards as in *I. meda* and *I. maculata*.
16. Beards on standards as well as falls.

Although some of these examples appear to be in direct conflict, they have been chosen to represent the incredibly wide and varied forms.





## **Aril (AR) and Arilbred (AB) In Garden Evaluation (Chapter 13)**

**A pointscales would be difficult to apply to the wide variation of flowers and plant types encountered. In both arils and arilbreds the flower in all of its aspects should receive approximately two-thirds (2/3) of the total evaluation credit, and the plant and stem one third (1/3).**

**AR ( $\geq 1/2$ ) Section Award – The Clarence G. White Medal :AB ( $< 1/2$ ) - William Mohr Medal**

**An Iris Must Always Be Judged on its Total Garden Qualities!  
Awards must always be based on the total iris: plant, stalk, and Flower**

### **General**

Height – 2” up to 28+” Stalk – branched or unbranched Bloom – can be within proportion or large flowers on short stalks. Judge should evaluate cultivars for desirable improvements, diversities, goals, and typical expectations for the type and class. Plants should be evaluated for increased cultural and weather tolerances, regularity of bloom, number of stems, rate of increase, general vigor, better substance and disease resistance

### **Evaluation Of Aril Flowers**

Hybridizing goals include new and improved forms; new colors and combinations of color; transfer of signal color, size, and shape to different plants; and different patterns and combinations of patterns

#### **Flower form**

Of prime importance. While no variety should be considered unfavorably because it has a different and unfamiliar form, the goal is to accentuate and enhance the most aesthetically appealing features of aril species in their progeny and hybrids.

The round, globular form of many *Oncocyclus* species have made them the most sought-after arils by gardeners and plant collectors. The recurved falls, domed closed standards and wide flower segments which create this form are highly prized in new aril hybrids of the OH and OG groups.

Regelia features (RH and RC groups) with their less broad petals and more open, vertical segments are likely to display a somewhat oval form in overall aspect. Standards that flop or splay outward at their tips cause undesirable disruption. Excessive recurving, rolling, or "snapping" (a tucking under causing a horizontal petal break) of the falls is highly undesirable. Pinching or swirling of blossom segments is unacceptable.

Color aspects are more highly rated in arils than in most other iris types, for not only flower color, but signals, decorative patterns, veining, stippling, arid dotting are evaluated. Size, color, shape, and definition of signals are considered in their effect on total flower evaluation.

## **Evaluation Of Arilbred Flowers**

Basically the same as for arils. Hybridizing goals include transferring the exotic forms, signals, colorations, and patterns of the arils to plants having more hardiness, increased branching and bud count, better disease resistance, and greater adaptability to growing conditions. Most valuable attributes of the oncocycli is the prominent dark or brightly colored signal, which is completely lacking in other bearded iris. Flower forms and beards are also more aril-like than found on some of more than 1/2 aril complement. arilbreds of more than 1/2 aril complement can have widely differing height and flower forms depending on whether the aril content is predominately *Oncocyclus* or predominately *Regelia*. Judge should evaluate amount and degree of desirable aril flower characteristics for its particular class. Two or more aril flower characteristics are required of all arilbreds, and three or more aril flower characteristics are required for arilbreds of 1/2 or more aril complement to be considered eligible for awards.

### **Flower characteristics**

Of the oncocycli are particularly sought after, for they are the most beautiful and spectacular. *Regelia* content sometimes results in unusual bright color patterns.

### **Color**

Aspects are also more highly rated in arilbreds than in most other iris types. Irregular color flecking, streaking, or splotching in arilbreds that is caused by broken color genetics is acceptable

## **Evaluation Of Arilbred Branching**

Branches should be well placed and evenly spaced to display each flower separately without interference from another and should hold blossoms away from the stem. Judge must remember that amount of aril content is inversely related to the degree of branching displayed by arilbred cultivars. Plants of less than one-half aril complement should display branching almost equal to that of the *Eupogon* parentage. Branching of plants having one-half aril complement is expected to be intermediate between the aril and *Eupogon* parents. Half-bred cultivars involving tall bearded should usually display one branch, a spur, plus terminal, with a total of four buds. Varieties of over one-half aril complement typically have no branching. Arilbred with median parentage should not be merely “stubby” versions of tall arilbreds, but show the appealing proportion and balance expected in median iris. Foliage, stalk, and flowers should be in balance and appealing. Some, particularly those with 1/2 aril complement, may show enlarged, globular blooms from *Oncocyclus* ancestry that would be out of scale in the SDB and IB classes. This ‘onco look’ is a desirable trait in arilbred with median parentage. Arilbred with dwarf parentage should convey the daintiness and charm expected of MDBs and small SDBs. Floriferousness should compensate for the usual absence of branching. Weather and cultural practices strongly influence arilbreds depending upon aril content, resulting in erratic plant performance, degree of branching, and atypical expressions in the flowers. Necessary to observe the cultivar for several years for evaluation.

## **Judging Seedlings**

In judging seedling classes, A new cultivar which not only conforms to the guidelines for the class, but exhibits desirable qualities of improvement and/or innovation.

## Japanese Iris (JI) In Garden Evaluation (Chapter 14)

### GARDEN JUDGING - Introduced Varieties of JI

1. Plant				50
	a. Vigor		35	
		i. Foliage	30	
		ii. Versatility	5	
	b. Stalk		15	
		i. Proportion	5	
		ii. Branching & Bud Count	5	
		iii. Strength & Flower Support	5	
2. Flower				30
	a. Form, Substance & Proportion		20	
	b. Color, Pattern & Texture		5	
	c. Durability		5	
3. Distinctiveness				20
TOTAL				100

### Japanese Section Award – Payne Medal

**An Iris Must Always Be Judged On Its Total Garden Qualities!**

**Awards must always be based on the total iris: plant, stalk, and**

#### General :

Garden judging of JI is based totally on performance in the garden. Never reward varieties with glaring deficiencies. Bloom later than any of the other iris. Cultivars and seedlings must exhibit healthy and vigorous plants for garden use, regardless of how beautiful the flower.

#### Plant - 50 points

##### **Vigor (35 points).**

Single most important set of points in the scale. A plant with vigor will be a good grower, a reliable bloomer and produce many flowers. No iris should receive an award unless it has vigor

##### **Foliage (30 points).**

Foliage can be blue-green or yellowish green, can be upright or fountain-like, must be vigorous and in good proportion to the stalks, disease resistant, virus free and attractive through the growing seasons. Blue-green upright foliage will be the most trouble free.

##### **Versatility (5 points).**

will grow in many soil and climatic conditions.

#### Stalk (15 points).

##### **Proportion (5 points).**

height should be in good proportion to the size of the plant and flowers, with the flower carried above the foliage.

**Branching & Bud Count (5 points)**

Bud count for a clump depends both on branching and on the number of bloom stalks produced. Not be judged on branching alone. Branches present should be spaced so that the individual flowers are properly displayed. Preferably only one flower should open at a time

**Strength & Flower Support (5 points)**

Stalk should be reasonably straight and sufficiently strong to keep the flower erect, regardless of size, during ordinary weather conditions

**Flower - 30 points****Form, Substance & Proportion (20 points)**

Flower parts be harmonious, pleasing and in good proportion. Unusual flower parts must be attractive as well as distinctive. Single types and various double forms equally desirable, include 3-fall types, 6-fall types, and multiple petal (9-petal, 12-petal, etc.). Style arms may be vertical, in graceful arches, or fully converted to petals. Anthers conventional, have petal-like extensions, or converted to petals, may also have petaloids. Standards may be large or small or converted into falls, maybe vertical or angled, plain or fancy. Falls may be tailored, ruffled or fluted. Narrow falls, recurved falls or prominent holes in the top of the flower) which limits the show of color should be penalized. Flowers may vary from 3 to 10 inches.

**Color, Pattern & Texture (5 points)**

Colors must be clear and pleasing. New colors should be encouraged whether they come from chromosome mutation or genetic engineering patterns, including selfs, veining, rays, bicolors, marbled, splashed, blends, shading, sanding, etc. All of these are encouraged but must be harmonious. Texture include velvety, satiny, creped and smooth.

**Durability (5 points)**

Must have the ability to resist heat, rain and other stresses and to remain fresh at least two days. High temperatures may cut the flower life in half

**Distinctiveness - 20 points**

Distinctiveness may be a new color, a new pleasing pattern, a new harmonious combination of colors, a new graceful form, a new pleasing texture, a new size, more floriferousness, more durability, a different bloom season, a longer season, more flexible growing conditions, or more disease resistance. Distinctiveness must be an improvement.

**Judging Seedlings**

A new cultivar which not only conforms to the guidelines for the class, but exhibits desirable qualities comprising improvement and/or innovation.

## Louisiana Iris (LA) In Garden Evaluation (Chapter 15)

### GARDEN JUDGING - Introduced Varieties LA Iris

1. Plant			40
	a. Vigor & Stamina	20	
	b. Foliage	10	
	c. Stalk	10	
2. Flower			60
	a. Color	20	
	b. Substance & Durability	15	
	c. Beauty & Distinctiveness	25	
TOTAL			100

#### LA Section Award – DeBaillon Medal

**An Iris Must Always Be Judged On Its Total Garden Qualities!  
Awards must always be based on the total iris: plant, stalk, and**

#### General :

Hexagonae, are commonly referred to as Louisiana iris. Five species *Iris hexagona*, *I. fulva*, *I. brevicaulis*, *I. giganteaerulea*, and *I. nelsonii*. Based solely on garden performance and should not be influenced by personal likes and dislikes. Judging requires that both the desirable and undesirable traits be considered. Observations should not be limited to just the blooming season.

#### Plant - 45 points

##### Vigor and Stamina (20 points)

Must grow and multiply under normal garden culture and conditions, tolerate normal variations in weather conditions, and be free of disease. Especially the presence of rust and leaf spot. rhizome must produce a minimum of two offsets per season few is a fault. Poor culture conditions, especially insufficient or inconsistent moisture can result in Leaf miners (moths (Lepidoptera), sawflies (Symphyta, the mother clade of wasps), and flies (Diptera), or brown dried leaves.

##### Foliage (10 points).

varies in length, thickness, width, and coloring. No criticism should be made of variations, provided the foliage is proportionate and free of disease. Foliage in colder climates tends to be more yellow, especially in early spring when the weather is cool and damp. Determine foliage is truly yellow-green and not result of chlorosis, caused by poor culture, damaged roots, compacted roots, and nutrient deficiencies. Crinkling or pleating of the foliage, especially on the bloom stalk, is normal and should not be considered a fault. Terminal bud spathe valve is normally longer on one side than the other and might extend above the flower or curl under the petals. This is not a fault.

**Stalk (10 points)**

May be straight, gracefully curved, or zigzag. All are acceptable provided they have sufficient strength to remain upright without staking. height of the stalk should be 10 to 50 inches, consistent within a clump. stalk should be in proportion to the size of the flowers. Carry a minimum of six buds per stalk. Grown in cooler climates will tend to be shorter and have a lower bud count. Cultivars should carry two buds at most positions. Cultivars taller than 30 inches (90 cm) should carry four or more positions. Two or more buds may open at once, terminal may not be first, do not fault.

**Flower - 30 points****Color (20 points)**

All the primary colors and their combinations are found. Blended colors bright, pleasing color or color combination, not dull or drab. Bicolors a good color contrast and be in harmony. A new and different color or color combination must not overshadow the other characteristics. New color patterns, such as pronounced veining, spray pattern, halos, wide edges, multiple-colored rims, broken color, or luminata patterns should be evaluated along with other good characteristics. Streaking and blotches of color on floral segments is acceptable but should be consistent if not it is a fault.

**Substance and Durability (15 points)**

Flowers, under normal weather conditions, should last two to three days and still maintain their color and form without becoming floppy. Texture leathery, satiny, silky, velvety, rough or smooth. Any texture acceptable if underlying substance is good and adds to the beauty and distinctiveness.

**Beauty and Distinctiveness (25 points)**

Iris to be worthy of introduction or awards, it should possess distinctiveness as well as beauty and should not overshadow the other requirements. All forms are acceptable, and great care should be exercised to preserve this diversity. Contributing to the individuality and distinctiveness is the ruffling of the standards and falls. However, the smooth, tailored form is equally good. important to differentiate between additional petaloids on the double flower form compared to an extra standard or fall, which does not constitute doubling. The latter is considered a freak bloom caused by weather or growing conditions. Frequently the style arms are a different color than the standards and falls, and such variations should be considered desirable, may be ruffled or edged with a different color and vary in length and width. Signals are a marking, typically in yellow, orange, green, white or a combination of colors. Can be large or almost absent. Variations of signal considered desirable if they add to the overall beauty and distinctiveness of the flower

**Judging Seedlings**

New cultivar which not only conforms to the guidelines for the class, but exhibits desirable qualities comprising improvement and/or innovation.

## **Pacific Coast Iris (PCI) In Garden Evaluation (Chapter 16)**

### **Garden Judging of Introduced Cultivars of PCI**

**The Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris adopted criteria for judging this group of iris but did not establish a point scale for garden judging**

### **PCI Section Award – Sidney B. Mitchell Medal.**

**An Iris Must Always Be Judged On Its Total Garden Qualities!  
Awards must always be based on the total iris: plant, stalk, and**

#### **General :**

The most common hybrids are derived primarily from *Iris douglasiana* and *Iris innominata*, however, other species such as *I. tenax*, *I. munzii*, and *I. fernaldii* can be found in the heritage of some PCIs. The PCI appear in a never-ending variety of sizes and forms. goal is to retain the diverse characteristics and charm of the species while producing attractive and easy to grow garden plants. Two tactics are being used to extend the range: Incorporating the genotype of some of the little used species into the gene pool of the modern hybrids such as the deciduous species *Iris tenax* for the purpose of increasing cold hardiness and *Iris macrosiphon* and *Iris munzii* for increasing the tolerance for hot summers; Growing PCIs from hybrid seed in unfavorable climatic zones and using the survivors to produce hybrids. judge to reward advancements in this diverse group that produce especially attractive and garden-worthy plants. first year plants do not always perform in a manner typical for the variety.

#### **Plant**

Plant should be vigorous and hardy in the areas where the Pacific Coast Iris thrive. Plants which thrive beyond this normal growing area are especially desirable, provided they can produce an attractive garden effect. Disservice to reward a plant that is a difficult garden subject. plant should bloom reliably every year and should be able to withstand adverse weather conditions, including excessive heat, cold, wind and moisture.

#### **Foliage**

Except for the deciduous species and their hybrids, the foliage should remain attractive throughout the year, varying in size under six inches to broad and tall up to 3.5 feet tall. Foliage might be stiff and upright or gracefully arching. Foliage not uniform in appearance, is sparse, or produces a twisted looking clump should be penalized. Judges encouraged to evaluate foliage when in bloom and other times of year, particularly in late summer.

#### **Habit**

Plant should form a neat clump. Those with wandering tendencies or overly compact form should be faulted. should be sturdy and floriferous, producing a few well-branched stems or many unbranched stems. each bloom should be displayed such that the flower can be viewed without interference from its neighbors. A long bloom period is preferred. A short, sparse bloom season should always be faulted. A good modern hybrid should

give a minimum of two weeks of bloom. Mild coastal climates, the variety should bloom sunny conditions or in partial shade. Hot summer variety should bloom reliably when planted in partial or deciduous shade.

### **Stem.**

The size and length of the stem should be in pleasing proportion to the size of the flower it supports. Branching that creates a top-heavy, loose or relaxed appearance is heavily faulted as are snaking stems. Stems should always hold the flower away from the ground and at the top or above the foliage. Crowding of bloom stems or crowding of flowers on a branched stem is a serious fault. stem should bear a minimum of two buds. The exceptions are *Iris innominata* and *I. tenax*, which may often have one bud per stem but display many stems per clump. Credit should be given if there are more buds or additional bloom stalks opening in sequence to extend the season.

### **Flower.**

The size of the flower should be in proportion to the foliage and stem. Larger the flower, the more color it will project. Width and size of flower parts is of little value unless desirable traits are present. Large flowers, with wide floral parts can be just as appealing as smaller flowers with a dainty and graceful shape. Shape and color contribute to the aesthetic value more than size alone. Standards may be erect or spreading toward the horizontal, but they should never flop. Substance in all flower parts is of utmost importance. Ruffling and the more tailored forms are both acceptable, but neither should alter the flower's basic form. The flower should endure harsh weather conditions without losing its form. Twisted or distorted flowers are to be faulted. Color may vary from almost pure selfs with no visible signal area to patterns with elaborate and intricate veining, contrasting style arms and eye spots or blazes. All are acceptable, if pleasing to the eye. Variety in color patterns is encouraged. Subtle coloring is as desirable as the vivid and vibrant. Streaking occurs occasionally and should not be penalized unless it detracts. Colors should not fade. Dirty or muddy coloring is a fault.

### **Judging Seedlings**

Identify those seedlings which represent significant advances in color, color combinations, form, size, good growth and bloom habits. Judge must be familiar with introduced varieties already available. The judge should be aware of what color patterns are common and what colors or color combinations and patterns represent an innovation or advancement. Special attention should be given to the overall effect of the clump and foliage as well as the form, substance, color, color pattern and size of the bloom. Distinctiveness is a plus. Large flowers are appealing if in proportion to the plant and stem. Equal consideration should also be given to the development of the dwarf types from *Iris innominata*. Only genuine and solid advances should be encouraged.



## Siberian Iris (SIB) In Garden Evaluation (Chapter 17)

### GARDEN JUDGING - Introduced Varieties and Seedlings of SIB Iris

1. Distinctiveness & Garden Impact			25
2. Plant			45
	a. Vigor & Disease Resistance	15	
	b. Stalk, Buds, Branching & Length of Bloom	15	
	c. Foliage	15	
3. Flower			30
	a. Form, Proportion & Substance	10	
	b. Colors, Patterns, Contrasts & Textures	10	
	c. Durability	10	
TOTAL			100

### Siberian Section Award – Morgan-Wood Medal

**An Iris Must Always Be Judged On Its Total Garden Qualities!  
Awards must always be based on the total iris: plant, stalk, and**

#### General :

Siberian iris comprise that group of beardless iris consisting of two subseries: Sibiricae with 28 chromosomes and Chrysographes with 40 chromosomes. There are three species in the Sibiricae subseries: *Iris sibirica*, *I. sanguinea*, and *I. typhifolia*. Subseries Chrysographes presently includes eight species: *Iris bulleyana*, *I. clarkei*, *I. hrysographes*, *I. delavayi*, *I. dykesii*, *I. forrestii*, *I. ramsayi*, and *I. wilsonii*. All are native to central Europe and Asia. They vary in height from 7 to 48 inches. There are tetraploid forms of both subseries, judging remains the same. 2-3 buds per socket.

#### Distinctiveness & Garden Impact - 25 points

A superior Siberian iris should be attractive both in and out of bloom, vigorous, disease free, and, when in bloom, should provide a glorious bouquet of attractive flowers with a distinct personality.

#### Plant - 45 points

##### Vigor & Disease Resistance (15 points)

Vigor is critical for a good garden impact with abundance of flowers and reliable performance. Susceptibility to disease is a very serious fault. An iris which often shows evidence of disease should not be introduced and should not receive any award, whatever its other virtues may be

##### Stalk, Buds, Branching, & Length of Bloom (15 points).

Stalks should be upright and resistant to wind and weather, never need staking. Higher number of branches and buds is desirable, since it increases the floral display and extends the bloom season. Blooms on an established plant should last over two weeks, and three or four weeks is possible. Some Siberians send up a

second crop of bloom stalks a few weeks after the first. This is 'repeat bloom.' If reliable, this is a very desirable trait. Typically, two branches plus a terminal are the maximum found. A third branch occurs quite rarely. Multiple buds in the flower socket are generally desirable. Two or three most common number, but may have five or six buds in the terminal. Presence of red or purple spathe valves (flower sheaths). These give a colorful and attractive effect before the flowers open.

**Foliage (15 points).**

varies from very narrow less than half an inch to quite broad about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch. Colors may vary from light green to dark green to blue-green. Any marked tendencies to untidiness or disease should be seriously faulted. Foliage to collapse in the late summer and is a significant fault.

**Flower - 30 points**

**Form, Proportion and Substance (10 points)**

No preferred size or form for a Siberian flower, new ones should be encouraged. Absolute criteria are that Siberian flowers should be graceful, reasonably balanced in relationship of their parts, symmetrical, and with good clarity of outline. Both standards and falls may be held horizontally or assume a more vertical orientation and may vary considerably in size. Multiple Siberian flower forms are acceptable unless gross differences in size or visual impact or the flower parts are distorted.

**Colors, patterns, Contrasts & Textures (10 points).**

Color in Siberian iris currently includes all shades of blue-violet, blue, purple, near black, lavender, pink, yellow, brown, gold, shades of red and pure or creamy whites. High awards should not be given to iris based solely on color advances. Color patterns may include dappling, veining, dotting, lighter colored rims on the falls, and combinations of colors and shades, bitones and bicolors. Color patterns, blends and contrasts are only a fault if they combine to provide a muddy effect or the colors clash inharmoniously. Texture is a surface characteristic which influences color impact as it reflects or absorbs light. Texture variations include silky, satiny, velvety, suede-like, or diamond-dusted effects.

**Durability (10 points)**

Under average temperature conditions, it is expected that a Siberian flower will remain attractive for three days. A second aspect of durability is the capacity to withstand adverse weather conditions such as rain and wind or bright sun.

**Judging Seedlings**

New cultivar which not only conforms to the guidelines for the class, but exhibits desirable qualities comprising improvement and/or innovation.

## Species (SPEC) and Species Cross (SPEC-X) In Garden Evaluation (Chapter 18)

### GARDEN JUDGING - Introduced Varieties SPEC & SPEC-X Iris

1. Aesthetic Qualities			55
	a. Flower	20	
	b. Foliage	15	
	c. Overall Presentation	20	
2. Cultural Qualities			20
	a. Vigor	10	
	b. Disease & Pest Resistance	5	
	c. Growth Habit	5	
3. Distinctiveness			25
TOTAL			100

**SPEC Section Award – Founders Of Signa Medal**  
**SPEC-X Section Award - Randolph-Perry Medal**

**An Iris Must Always Be Judged On Its Total Garden Qualities!**  
**Awards must always be based on the total iris: plant, stalk, and**

#### General :

Species (SPEC) iris selection of a single species originally collected in the wild as a division, seedling, or seed; has come from seeds of the former plants grown in cultivation or from mutations of the above. SPEC-X literally means “species cross”. The SPEC-X hybrid iris will have a species as a parent or as a close ancestor. SPEC-X iris are hybrids with a mix of species traits. SPEC and SPEC-X are the broadest and most diverse classes of iris, representing many sizes, forms, bud counts, branching habits, types of stalks. Species have a great deal of variation. SPEC-X is a wide-open class. Some cases, the judge will be evaluating iris never existed before. A lot of leeway in this class to reward innovation. However, cultivars must also be evaluated on its garden merit.

#### Aesthetic Qualities - 55 points

Is it visually pleasing? leave preconceptions regarding color, proportion, form, ruffling, branching, behind

#### Flower (20 points)

Color and/or pattern are among the easier elements to judge. beards, signals, crests, etc., are important, and there are no hard and fast rules as to what is visually pleasing. All shapes may be acceptable. However, it must be pleasing for that particular iris. Natural (wild) shape of a species or SPEC-X iris can be a helpful guide. New shapes can be considered improvements if they are visually pleasing. Double or multi-petaled flowers are acceptable if they enhance overall aesthetic quality. Extra parts should be displayed in multiples of three. Flowers which do not open because of multiplicity of parts are to be discouraged. special qualities is daintiness. Individual judgments must be made in each case. Colorful seed pods can be just as attractive as flowers and should be rewarded if present

**Foliage (15 points)**

Consider the aesthetic qualities of the foliage. Start with the typical wild form of that species and look for its best qualities and improvements. Variegations in the foliage may be a distinct garden asset. Variegations should be consistent, appearing on all of the leaves. Purple based foliage (PBF) effect must be pleasing. Finish of the foliage shiny or dull, or textured in some special way. Durability of the foliage should hold up over a long period of time not collapse in a heap after bloom. SPEC & SPEC-X iris which naturally goes dormant after bloom should not be penalized.

**Overall Presentation (20 points)**

Consider: color harmony, stalk carriage, balance and proportion, carrying power, and floriferousness. SPEC & SPECX judged with the typical wild form in mind. Do not expect the presentation of *Iris cristata* to compare to *I. pseudocorus*. Balance and proportion are difficult areas to judge in species, if you are unfamiliar with arils and more with *I. pumila*, Arils may appear out of proportion. Floriferousness is important for garden impact and presentation. Floriferousness achieved by duration of each bloom, the number of buds per stalk, and/or the number of stalks per plant, and repeat bloom.

**Plant - 35 points****Cultural Qualities - 20 points****Vigor (10 points)**

Strong growth and good increase,

**Disease and Pest Resistance (5 points)**

If a cultivar is not favored by a pest such as iris borer or thrips, while others are, it should receive more points. The same is true for virus, leaf spot, rust, etc. Clearly, any cultivar susceptible to diseases which also affect the vigor of the plant should be seriously penalized.

**Growth Habit (5 points)**

If iris ordinarily grows in a rambling habit, it should not be penalized for conforming to its species type. More clump forming habit should be rewarded, because it will be more useful in the garden scene. SPEC-X may be sterile. it should not be penalized as a garden plant.

**Distinctiveness - 25 points**

A named cultivar should be distinct enough to be recognized without a label. Points awarded for any of the elements listed above under aesthetic qualities and cultural qualities if they are especially positive. Special recognition for an innovative feature such as a color break, even though the flower may be somewhat lacking in shape and substance. If the overall presentation of the plant is poor do not reward.

**Judging Seedlings**

A new cultivar should represent a distinct improvement in flower color or form or some aspect of plant performance.

## Spuria Iris (SPU) In Garden Evaluation (Chapter 19)

### GARDEN JUDGING - Introduced Varieties SPU Iris

1. Clump Effect			15
2. Flower			40
	a. Color	15	
	b. Substance & Durability	15	
	c. Form	10	
3. Plant			35
	a. Stalk & Foliage	15	
	b. Floriferousness	10	
	c. Stamina & Vigor	10	
4. Distinctiveness			10
TOTAL			100

### SPU Section Award – Eric Nies Medal

**An Iris Must Always Be Judged On Its Total Garden Qualities!  
Awards must always be based on the total iris: plant, stalk, and**

#### General :

Two groups of spuria species. dwarf *Iris sintenisii*, *I. graminea*, (16 to 34 Chromosomes[C]), *I. pontica* (72 C) rarely seen in garden or in show. Dwarf species have summer green foliage grow well in northerly climates. Modern SPU hybrids are descended from tall species that are summer dormant (i.e., Desert Southwest). *I. notha*, *I. demetrii* (38 C) some hybrids *I. carthalinae* and *I. klattii*. (44-C), almost none go dormant in North. Shorter growing SPU 25” to over 60”. Spuria Iris Society itemize approximately twenty species including *I. spuria*. Bloom Later than TB,

#### Clump Effect – 15 points

Spuria iris do not require the frequent digging and dividing. Clump should in size and continue to be floriferous for many years. The foliage dark green and the stalks tall enough to rise out of the foliage all flowering positions on the stalk occurring above the foliage. Cultivars with sparse foliage, fewer blooms in the clump and/ or have flowers not above the foliage are faulted.

#### Flower – 40 points

##### Color (20 points)

More limited than other types of iris, basically whites, yellows, blues, lavenders, browns and close to red or pinks are found. Yellow amoenas and browns, common in SPU iris. Improve clarity of color or orange, pink, red or true blue should be considered favorably. Strong signals of white or yellow on the falls add distinction if pleasing. Selves, especially whites or blues are also welcome often have large yellow signals. “Dark Top” effect especially pleasing and distinctive if colors well separated and contrasts are great. Flower can have smooth color some

have patterns of striping that extend over both standards and/ or falls. The velvety texture especially for red and purple flowers, can darken the color. Smooth texture accentuates the brilliance of yellows and golds. Faults in color include muddy colors, bloom colors that fade to unattractive shades or where the signal and basic petal contrast in non-harmonious

**Substance and Durability (15 points)**

SPU have most durable flowers of any iris. SPU flower should last a minimum of 3 days, even under the worst conditions. Flowers that last longer are encouraged.

**Form (10 points)**

Historic SPU had erect, fairly narrow, standards. falls had a long, extended claw, style laid flat. wide petals term “butterfly iris”. Modern SPU have shorter claw areas, forcing styles to be raised from the falls. Flat, portion of falls, increased in size and breadth. along with increased ruffles and to lace. Some SPU have difficulty opening can open with severely twisted petals. Cultivars that have elongated standards often twist the standards into unattractive shapes. These form defects, along with any tucking or pinching of the petal should be considered major faults.

**Plant - 35 points**

**Stalk and Foliage (15 points)**

Tall and very erect stalks. Stalks that lean or fall over should be heavily penalized. Flowers at all positions on the stalk should open easily with no odd corkscrewing, this is a severe fault often related to *Iris orientalis*. Bud count on SPU varies tremendously by climate. judges should be familiar with spuria bud count and branching typically in the area. Flowers should open at intervals without crowded mass.

**Floriferousness (10 points)**

A good spuria iris should have 2 to 3 branches with at least 4 buds per stalk. more desirable to have 5 to 7 buds and exceptional to have even more.

**Stamina and Vigor (10 points)**

SPU should produce at least two increases per rhizome per year to increase the size of the clump and produce a good display of bloom each season. Judge should have some knowledge of typical growth of spuria iris in their area in order to properly assess a cultivar. Virus symptoms include light to clear streaks on the flowers or very dark streaks on some of the paler cultivars. Foliage will often have lighter streaks of pale green to white when they have virus.

**Distinctiveness – 10 points**

Distinction is not limited to flower attributes. Exceptional vigor and/or bud count can also add distinction. A judge may never see a cultivar worthy of the full 100 points.

**Judging Seedlings**

A new cultivar should represent a distinct improvement in flower color or form or some aspect of plant performance.

## Novelty Iris In Garden Evaluation (Chapter 20)

### Garden Judging of Introduced and Seedling Novelty Iris

**An Iris Must Always Be Judged on its Total Garden Qualities!**  
**Awards must always be based on the total iris: plant, stalk, and Flower**

#### General

.Iris with multiple petals, broken color, variable color patterning or flat shaped flowers are examples of novelty iris. Variegated foliage is also included in the novelty iris category. Warmer temperatures enhance novelty features like flat-shaped flowers. Space age iris came into existence through the work of a single individual, Lloyd Austin of Placerville, California

#### TYPES OF NOVELTY IRIS

Horns, spoons, flounces, pompoms, or feathers are beautiful additions but can be detrimental to a flower. Appendages do not distort the flower's shape and weigh it down be harmonious. projections are not 100% consistent on the flower, Extra points awarded for consistency.

**Horn** – The term “horn” is used to describe a short, stubby protrusion or extension of the beard.

**Spoon** – The term “spoon” refers to an elongated beard that widens near the end creating a spoon-shaped petaloid that flares upward. “Reverse spoons” are inverted compared to a typical spoon.

**Flounce** – A “flounce” refers to a still larger expansion of the beard into a wide, folded, often canoe or fan-shaped projection. Some flounces are so large they give the iris an appearance of being double. A “full moon” flounce lies flat against the fall and covers most of the fall. Pompom – A “pompom” refers to a consistent multilayered carnation-like collection of petaloids that protrudes from the beard.

**Feather** – A “feather” refers to a long horn or horn-flounce (double appendage) that ends in small narrow fringed petaloids.

**Multiple Petal (multi-petal) Flowers** - possess more than three standards and three falls. The judge should closely ascertain that the flowers, though still must exhibit the basic accepted outline of iris flower. Flowers with multiple petals (standards and falls) must be consistent at least 85% of the time.

**Broken Color** – The expression of an unstable color gene or other genetic material flowers that exhibit random application of two or more colors. While the broken color pattern (streaking, splashing, etc.) should be fairly consistent from flower to flower, the color markings themselves are randomly expressed on the flower. should not be confused with plicata pattern. Some iris can possess plicata and broken color applications together on the same flower.

**Variable Color Patterning** – There are rare cultivars produce flowers with different colors. (e.g. MTB ‘Joseph’s Coat Katkamier’ [A.B. Katkamier by Eric Tankseley-Clarke, R. 1989] produces flowers with a color pattern that varies from a white and violet amoena to a yellow and red variegata. This is different from broken color where the cultivar produces flowers of a consistent color or colors, but those colors are randomly expressed in the form of streaks, dots and splashes.

**Flat-Shaped Flowers** – Flat-shaped iris, also known as flatties, are novelty iris with six falls arranged in a horizontal to downward arching pattern with six visible beards. Must consistently grow flat at least 85% of the time. style arms of the flat-shaped flowers will most often appear in the normal quantity, but can appear in multiple or irregular counts.

**Variegated Foliage** – foliage with colors other than the standard green such as purple, black, white, cream, etc. These unusual colors could be streaked, striped, edged or seasonal.

## **GARDEN JUDGING**

### **Introduced Cultivars & Seedlings of Novelty & Space Age Iris**

The Rule of Thumb is: The better the flower, the better the novelty. While a novelty iris flower may not look exactly like a traditional form, it should still be a beautiful flower. Judging novelty iris in the garden should use the TB chapter when the novelty iris is a TB iris or SDB if novelty iris is SDB. The judge will have to exercise an independent judgment on specific points, particularly form and distinctiveness. Improved and innovative flowers, bud count, stalks, and plants are to be stressed as with all garden judging.



## **Reblooming Iris In Garden Evaluation (Chapter 21)**

### **Garden Judging of Introduced and Seedling Reblooming Iris**

**An Iris Must Always Be Judged on its Total Garden Qualities!**  
**Awards must always be based on the total iris: plant, stalk, and Flower**

#### **General**

Reblooming iris (RE) is one that blooms more than once in a growing season. There are basically five distinguishable behavior patterns in modern reblooming iris. Some iris might have multiple patterns of reblooming.

#### **Types Of Reblooming Iris**

A reblooming iris in any of these five categories should produce enough additional bloom stalks to double the total number of days of bloom produced annually. Heavy fall-flowering means there will be LESS increase for spring blooming buds. Reblooming iris have a shorter recovery period which can substantially reduce the spring bloom stalk to fan ratios and overall flower quantity and size when compared to neighboring spring-only blooming clumps.

Summer weather conditions can play a large role in rebloom frequency, particularly in the fall. Heat, humidity, drought, and excessive moisture can also affect bloom stalk height, branching, bud count, flower quality and delayed bloom during this period. Judges need to look for consistent performance over a consecutive three-year period to eliminate any doubts about a reblooming variety's worthiness.

#### **Rebloomers (cyclic rebloomers)**

Cultivars which complete two distinct cycles of bloom. After the spring flowering, there is a second nearly predictable period of bloom.

#### **Multiple blooming iris –**

Cultivars that send up bloom-stalks repeatedly at any time throughout the growing season, spring to summer and fall

#### **Repeaters –**

Cultivars which produce additional bloom stalks with some regularity immediately following or shortly thereafter the initial spring bloom season. It is not uncommon for these varieties to extend the spring bloom season from four to eight weeks.

#### **Sporadic rebloomers**

Unpredictably produce bloom stalks at varying times during the growing season. Occasional rebloomers perform well on the West Coast and the southern areas they might not show reblooming tendencies in colder climates.

#### **Secondary stalk rebloomers**

Cultivars that send up a second stalk from the same rhizome during the same growing season. Secondary stalk rebloomers are rare.

## **GARDEN JUDGING**

### **Introduced Cultivars & Seedlings of Reblooming Iris**

Bearded iris are not the only iris that can rebloom. Examples of rebloom are found in the classes of Siberian, Japanese, Louisiana, arilbred, and Pacific Coast iris. The appropriate chapter in the AIS Handbook for Judges and Show Officials can serve as a general judging guide for eligible garden candidates. Instead of expending energy on fan increase and size and number of blossoms, reblooming iris devote energy to multiple cycles of bloom. This characteristic makes reblooming iris distinctive.