

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.