

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.