

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

GARDEN JUDGING - Introduced Varieties SPU Iris

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|--------------------|---------------------------|----|-----|
| 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.