

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.