

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.