



NEWSCAST

REGION FOUR OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

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MARCH 2004



My Ginny (D. Spoon 2000)
Winner 2003 President's Cup
2003 AIS National Convention

On the Cover

MY GINNY — D. Spoon 2003 AIS Convention President Cup Winner

MY GINNY by Ginny Spoon

It was a thrilling experience when we heard MY GINNY announced as the winner of the President's Cup, best in Region introduction, at the AIS National Convention in Falls Church this spring, May 2003. When Don first saw the bloom on MY GINNY he shouted across the garden, "My Ginny!" I ran over to see what all the excitement was about and saw the lovely flower with its pink standards, white falls with a darker rose pink border with cherry red beards. I had to agree that it was indeed a beautiful iris seedling. He asked me if I wanted it named after me and I heartily agreed.

Several years later, MY GINNY won the Nearpass Award as the best in Region at our Region 4 spring meeting and garden tour and we were delighted. MY GINNY had ten increases from a one-year plant with seven stalks in bloom. Carol Warner and other judges present gave it a point score of 98. It is of special note that MY GINNY would not have been possible without the work of Dr. D. C. Nearpass. Don used Charlie's MY KATIE, named for his daughter, in the cross to produce MY GINNY. MY KATIE also had the Emma Cook pattern on the falls and was the only iris seedling that Charlie Nearpass gave 5 stars in his notebook. MY KATIE is also a vigorous grower in our Region. The popular iris STARSHIP ENTERPRISE (with the Emma Cook pattern), by Schreiners, was produced using seedling 80-11 by Charlie Nearpass that was given to them for crossing. Charlie told Don that while the dominant amoenas



Don Spoon

from Cook were important in iris breeding, he felt that the Emma Cook pattern was the exciting breakthrough.

The EMMA COOK pattern, which is a band of anthocyanin color on the edge of the falls, can be traced back to its beginnings to hybridizer Paul Howard Cook and to the irises he produced to achieve the dominant amoenas. Cook crossed *I. reichenbachii* with the tall bearded iris SHINING WATERS, then back crossed to SHINING WATERS to achieve his dominant amoena lines. His inbred seedlings produced PROGENITOR from which he derived WHOLE CLOTH, the ruffled blue and white amoena. Possibly adding a modifier gene from those crosses he obtained EMMA COOK, a pure white with a 1/2" margin of blue violet on the falls that he named for his wife. The lovely QUEEN'S CIRCLE, a ruffled white with a dark blue edge, hybridized by Frederick Kerr, also goes back to the hybridizing lines of Paul Cook. It is interesting to note that LADY OF LOUDOUN by George Crossman, and MID-VICTORIAN by Charlie Nearpass, both Region 4 hybridizers, are in the lineage if QUEEN'S CIRCLE that won the Franklin Cook Cup at the 2002 AIS National Convention in York.

Even more colors and patterns are being added to the falls of the dominant amoenas, from the narrow band of anthocyanin color on the falls of EMMA COOK to the wider band on MY GINNY and STARSHIP ENTERPRISE. The new and exciting seedlings of Schreiners are showing wide blue borders on the falls of white flowers. Now, all they need are red beards. Why not cross MY GINNY on one of them to give a cherry red beard? We are thankful for those hybridizers who have done so much to make it possible to have the clear colors and color patterns we enjoy today. We are truly standing on the shoulders of those whose efforts continue to live on in the irises we love to grow and show.

Newscast

Region 4 of The American Iris Society

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Region 4 is comprised of the states of **Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.**

NEWSCAST is free to AIS members in Region 4. Subscription rate for those not in Region 4 is \$5.00 per year. Checks made to Region 4, American Iris Society should be sent to the Region 4 Treasurer. Permission is granted to reprint any material appearing in NEWSCAST provided that proper credit is given.

The purpose of the American Iris Society, and Region 4, shall be to develop the science of horticulture and any activities related to the study propagation and culture of the genus *Iris*; to stimulate and foster interest in horticulture pursuits, conservation and protection of these plants; to cooperate with other organizations, public and private, in the scientific and horticultural education of all those interested in learning any phase of the genus *Iris*, by any and all means which may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors. These shall include but are not limited to:

- encouragement and support of scientific research, including those pertaining to the solution of diseases related to but not necessarily exclusive to the genus *Iris*, and investigation and conservation of the genus in the wild;
- collection, compilation, and publication of data concerning the history, classification, breeding and culture of *Iris*; and
- education of the public through exhibitions, public display gardens, published standards for judging, and local, area, regional, and national meetings open to the public.

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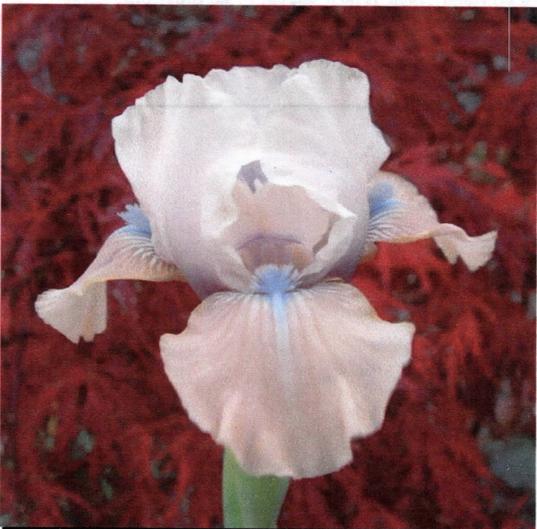
Region 4—New Introductions



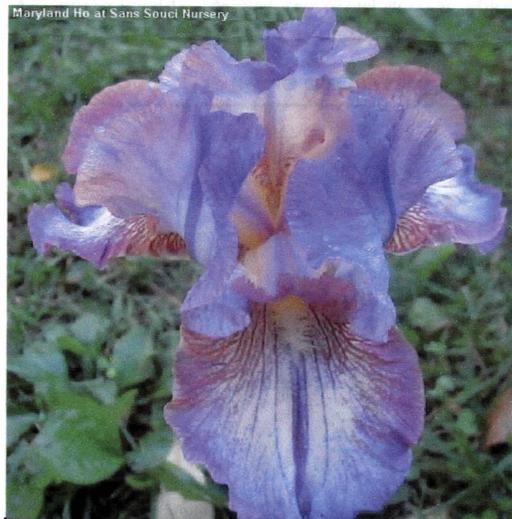
CAREFREE DAYS, J. Griffin Crump (2004)
TB, 38" (97 cm), ML. S. and style arms light peach; F. darker peach, lightening at edges; beards yellow-orange, red-orange in throat; Ruffled
Photo: Courtesy of Anita Moran



SECOND HAND ROSE, Ginny Spoon (2004)
TB 34" M & RE zone 6, rose pink with fuchsia tangerine beards
Photo: Courtesy of Ginny Spoon



SWEETHEARTS AGAIN, J. Paul Hill, (2004)
SDB, 14" (36cm), EML & RE. S. light pink, purple at base; style arms medium pink; F. cocoa pink; beards blue, tangerine in throat; slight sweet fragrance. (Caution Sign x Chanted)
Photo: Courtesy of J. Paul Hill



MARYLAND HO, Dr. L. Bruce Hornstein (2003)
Tall-bearded reliable rebloomer out of Northward Ho X unknown which has reliably rebloomed from July until November for the past 5 years; awarded EC (exhibition certificate) October 2002
Photo: Courtesy of Dr. Hornstein

Region 4—New Introductions



SILVER TRUMPETS (Zurbrigg 2003)

Wide, white self with huge white flounces. The bright red beards are near-white at the tip, but the red is quite visible. Blooms late to very late. 36" (Flying x Godsend) X Mesmerizer.

Photo: Courtesy of Dana Brown



OBI WAN KENOBI (Mahan 2003)

Sdlg CWJP-20. TB, 35" (89 cm), M. Standards yellow and lavender blend, olive cast; style arms with yellow center bordered lavender, deep yellow edges; F. lavender blue (near RHS 91A) veined olive, edges blending to light olive, yellow area around gold beard; slight fragrance. (Financier x Ruffled Ballet) X Joan's Pleasure.

From the Editor

Hello to all,

My name is Anita Moran and was recently been asked to be the editor of the NEWCAST. Hopefully all of you will enjoy, even anticipate, the arrival of this publication so I am looking to make a few small changes. To make these changes work your help and input is needed

"On the Cover", hopefully an award winning Region 4 iris can always fill this spot. It does not have to be recent introduction, but the AIS description, photo (electronic or print), and information about the hybridizers if available should be sent in.

"Letters to the editor", what would you like to see in your NEWCAST? How can more experience gardeners help those with less knowledge? Have you recently attended an iris show and have questions on the judging?

"For your Information", a web site or other informational source that is helpful, informative and hopefully fun with any ideas of your idea for this entry are more than welcome.

"Articles", even the most novice in our region should submit for this category. Even small articles are welcome as they increase the knowledge and help to fill holes. Make sure all information is referenced. This does not have to be scientific information, a story of your first convention or you 100th and your experiences or a trip to an Iris grower, let us know. Effects you saw in your garden from a particularly harsh winter and how it affected your garden and the steps you took to perhaps save your iris. This is an area for sharing information and it is hoped that you will utilize it to the fullest.

"Meet the Hybridizer", this area is for Region 4 hybridizers. Introduce yourselves. Let us know your thoughts on what makes the perfect iris and how you became involved with the iris.

"What's your thoughts", did something strange happen to your iris?, If you do or do not know what happened and have pictures, send them in. Hopefully the experts and not so experts will respond for publication in the following issue.

"Fun Page", This for the youth and adult members of Region 4. Know how to draw, give me a comic. Have a funny iris or gardening story let us hear it. How about Region 4's Funniest Home Picture, send them in. Puzzles, mind twisters, cross-words (all iris related of course) that are submitted will be placed here. Are your children doing something with iris at home, in schools, can we help?

"Region 4 New Introductions", the entire set of new introduction from around the region can not fit in the NEWCAST, however new introduction will allow those in Region 4 know you, and your iris better. Let us know what you will be introducing, and how to get them. Before the 2003 Convention in Falls Church, I had no idea of the wonderful iris coming from our region, and many want to support our own hybridizers. The goal is to try and place eight submissions of pictures (Electronic or print) and an AIS description from Region 4 hybridizers in the NEWCAST.

Finally **"Around the Region"**, this is for the affiliate officers, Let us all know what plans you have so that we may join you, if possible. Did you have a show? Let us know the judges and the results. Have pictures of the winner please include them.

Thanks so much and I hope we can make a wonderful publication of our NEWCAST.

All submissions can be sent to Anita Moran 5351 Rocks Road, Pylesville MD 21132 or avmoran1@earthlink.net

Your New Editor

Hi my name is Anita Moran, I live in Pylesville in northern HARdford county (really Harford) on ROCKs road. My life long enjoyment of the iris has only recently changed into a passion. Originally from California, roadside iris was a common sight. The first Iris in the garden was a weedy little thing and though it had a name it was not that much of an interest to me until I saw "Homecoming Queen", WOW! Well I was off and running. I learned of AIS and Region 4 in my search for the aril "Syrian Princess" an new love I have just recently acquired. Thanks to Ginny Spoon I joined AIS only to learn that the national convention was to be held near Washington D.C., what better to fall into my lap, especially since my mother would be visiting at the same time. I volunteered and met so many wonderful people and saw so many iris that I am still organizing the picture. From the single iris I now have over 300 different iris and thanks to Laurie from Shadowood Iris, miniatures and standard dwarf abound. Besides my Iris gardens, I work two jobs. First as a Research Psychologist for the military at Aberdeen Proving Grounds making sure are soldiers are as safe as they can be. The second is at a veterinary emergency clinic here in Harford County, as a registered technician. I have just completed my BS degree in Environmental Engineering and am working on my Masters in the same field. I have three sons (32, 30, and 28), my husband Ben, is always yelling about the amount of iris I get each year, but he gamely builds me more beds. We have two dogs, Huck (Lab/Dane cross) and Boof (an English Mastiff). No cats because Ben can not stand to have something sneakier than him on the place. We currently have 5 acres, which I am slowly but surely turning from a pasture to gardens, despite fighting with clay and Maryland weather. I will do my best to continue the fine work of Dr Epperson in providing the best Newscast possible.

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The Nominating Committee composed of Carol Warner (MD), Bill Smoot (VA), Eric Simpson (DC), and E. Roy Epperson (NC) Chair, presents the following slate of officers for Region 4 for 2005.

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Assistant Regional Vice President: Jerry Coates (MD)
Secretary: Carrie Winter (NC)
Treasurer: Carol Warner (MD)

Officers are elected by the general membership at the spring meeting of Region 4 each year.
E. Roy Epperson

The Effect of (2,4-dichlorophenoxy)phenol (2,4-D) Weed-B-Gon® Herbicide on Iridaceae Germanica (German Iris).

Anita V. Moran

Introduction

The herbicide (2,4-dichlorophenoxy) phenoxy acid (2,4-D) is the active ingredient in many herbicides, the most widely known being Weed-B-Gon® from the Monsanto Company. A member of the phenoxy herbicides, 2,4-D was introduced in 1946 and has become the most widely used herbicide in the world.¹ This herbicide is currently used in agriculture, rights-of-ways, road sides, rangeland, pasturage, forestry, lawns and turfs. With over 4,400 tons used in Canada annually,² and 300,000 tons used in the US,³ 2,4-D has over four decades of research and extensive user documentation to attest to the safety of this chemical.⁴ The USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) determined that if this chemical were no longer available that the cost to growers and other users including consumers would total \$1,683 million dollars in the US alone.¹

With a molecular weight of 221.0 (Table 1), 2,4-d is soluble in organic solvents and its free acid in water at 900 mg/L.² When MTD and NOEL doses were studied in a two generational reproduction study in rats, it was found that the NOEL for maternal toxicity well exceeded the 5 mg/kg guidelines of 5 mg/kg (Table 1) showing that both maternal and fetal toxicity level to be 31.25 mg/kg/day.⁶ Because of the use of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T [(2,4,5-trichlorophenoxy) acetic acid] in combination by the military (Agent Orange) many contribute increased incidence of cancer (NHL [non-Hodgkin's lymphoma] in humans and CML [canine malignant lymphoma] in dogs)³ to 2,4-D as 2,4,5-T has been banned in the United States. After an NCI study under controlled conditions by EPA/GLP laboratories, canines feed massive doses of 2,4-D failed to develop cancer.⁷

The formulations of 2,4-D from various countries, fuels the continued debate as to the safety of 2,4-D. Dr. Simon reports to a Mr. Robinson who had a bottle of Weed-B-Gon® explode in his car, that Weed-B-Gon® products contain 2,4-D-triethylamine salt, 2,4,5-TP Silvex and that the likelihood of dioxins is great.⁸ According to the MSDS of two US 2,4-D products, they do not contain 2,4,5-TP Silvex.^{9,10} The studies of 2,4-D products manufactured in the US and Canada were tested for dioxin levels. Of the 26 Canadian amine samples eight were positive for dioxin at levels from 5 to 500 ppb (parts per billion).¹¹ Of the 21-ester samples for Canada, all but one were positive for dioxin. Samples of 2,4-D manufactured in the United States found in three of 30 samples measurable amounts of dioxin (2,7DCOD) at amounts that do not have biological significance.¹¹

A review of studies in scientific literature 2,4-D was found to be less toxic than caffeine and just slightly more toxic than aspirin. At concentration found in the environment it is unlikely to present a threat to wildlife, has low reproductive toxicity, causes no birth defects, chronic effects are limited to high doses, highly improbably that it will cause cancer and does not cause genetic damage.¹²

Based on this data and following packaging instructions damage to adjacent plant life should have been minimal. The following is a

report of three exposures to Iris Germanica and other ornamental plants and the effects seen.

Exposure Results

Three different exposures occurred during last year. Two occurred with direct application of the product using a paintbrush, and one exposure occurred due to aerosol cross contamination. The effect of these cross contaminations was not visible for 60 days, when the flowers bloom.

Exposure 1 occurred with the application of a 2,4-D product utilizing a paintbrush to directly apply the preparation to deep-rooted weeds within the iris bedding area adjacent to a well-established plant. As a result of this application the dwarf iris plant affected produced normal flowers (Figure 1A)¹³, flowers that were reduced in size, color changes and aberrant flower structure (Figure 1B)¹³, and flowers that were normal in size but had aberrant coloring and flower structure (Figure 1C)¹³.

Exposure two occurred after 2,4-D preparation was thickened using cornstarch then applied using a paintbrush to a deep-rooted weeds adjacent to an established dwarf iris plant. When the iris plant flowered it produced normal flowers (Figure 2A)¹⁴, and flowers with distinct color changes (Figure 2B)¹⁴. There were no size or structural changes seen after this application. The damage to the leaves was due to insects and not the application of the 2,4-D product.

however the plant and blooms seemed unaffected. However, a nearby rosebush lost all leaves and flowers for a period of 6 weeks after which time new growth was seen.¹⁵

Conclusions

The 2,4-D in herbicidal formulations has a mean soil half-life of less than 7-days when tested in three different soil types (heavy clay, clay loam, and sandy loam),¹⁶ with microbiological degradation being the major decomposition mechanism. In the environment, 2,4-D has low soil sorption and a high potential for leachability.¹⁷ Most studies of 2,4-D movement in soil were based on vertical depth of movement in the soil and not horizontal movement. Vertically, 2,4-D has been detected in 6- to 24-inches depending on the organic matter in the soils.¹⁸ Since most iris beds are amended with organic material (manure, compost, and peat moss), it is possible that the affected iris seen in exposure two was due to lateral movement of 2,4-D in the soil. This resulted in a minor effect of color changes on the exterior portion of the plant. Direct exposure to the iris plant may have been due to the increased viscosity of the preparation due to the addition of cornstarch.

2,4D Herbicide (continued)

The effects seen with the first exposure may be due to both the lateral movement of the 2,4-D in the soil as well as direct inadvertent exposure to the plant rhizome occurring during application which resulting in changes in flower structure and changes not only in coloring but in color patterns as well. As 2,4-D has no teratogenic or mutagenic properties, it is possible that these plants will bloom with normal flower structure and coloring.

Aerosol drift, which is the cause of the third exposure, is currently the reason of a tense legal stand off in the town of Fairfax in Marin County, California. The Fairfax town council passed a law forbidding property owners from spraying herbicides and pesticides unless they first notified their neighbors in 150-foot radius, 48-hours ahead, by posting signs indicating chemical spraying will occur.¹⁹ The law also forbids spraying of Fairfax parks which has state authorities prepared to act against the town stating that the law impinges on the rights of pesticide operators and land owners.

Fairfax council members call the "A public right to know law", stating that the ordinance will enable residents to take steps to protect themselves, their families, their pets and their property from the hazards of chemical spray. Paul Heliker of the California State Department of Pesticide Regulations warned that unless the town rescinded the ordinance, the states attorney general would be instructed to prepare a lawsuit against the town. State officials also challenge Fairfax's authority to prohibit the state from using pesticides and herbicides on public parks and rights of way.

Pesticide operators have advised the town council that portions of the ordinance are pre-empted by a 1984 state law governing pesticide use and licensing requirements.

This is an example of the growing concerns throughout the country because of indiscriminant spraying of pesticides and herbicides. Many towns have been requested not to spray in schools and public areas. In 2000, California passed the Health Schools Act requiring parents be notified each year of intended pesticide spraying used in California schools, giving the parents 24-hour notice before spraying occurs.

Much of this problem is not from licensed operators but by homeowners which habitually over spray herbicides and pesticides. Most people buying these products off the shelf believe in their absolute safety and fail to read the directions. Because of this they fail to take precautions to protect themselves, their pets and control their spray drift to their neighbors.

Although the Fairfax ordinance maybe stepping on

toes, it is a call for the states and federal government to control the use of over the counter pesticides and herbicides sales and allowing this suppliers to give training to those who would use these products. By allowing the home users access to training of these products, perhaps applications of these products would become inherently safer to use.

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Figure 1. After topical application of a 2,4-D preparation, this dwarf iris plant adjacent to the treated weed shown symptoms of exposure only after the plant bloomed. Effects include color changes (C), abnormal flower size, and abnormal flower structure (B) along with normal flowers (A). All leaves appeared unaffected.

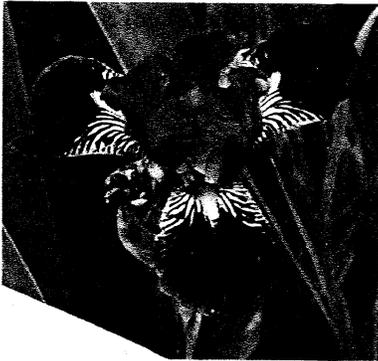


Figure 2. After application of a 2,4-D preparation to weeds adjacent to clump, this dwarf iris plant showed only a color change (B), without changes in structure of the flowers, along with normal flowers (A).

Region IV Meet the Hybridizers

Clarence Mahan

Reminiscence Clarence Mahan, 1994 MTB, 18" M. S. ruffled mineral violet; style arms pallid lavender; F. velvety plum purple, edged mauve, prominent white haft reticulation; beards gold. Consummation X Rosemary's Dream. Award of Merit 2000, Williamson-White Medal 2002.



My love affair with irises began when I was barely old enough to walk along the paths in my grandmother Mahan's garden. All the flowers were beautiful--peonies, roses, tulips, daffodils, delphiniums, lilacs, mockoranges, lily of the valley, hosta, kerria, chrysanthemums, zinnias, bachelor buttons, cosmos, gladioli--but the most beautiful were the irises. They were always my favorite flower. Before my wife Suky and I were married we did not ask about such things--romantic love and passion being what it is--but I was happily surprised to learn later that Suky's favorite flower was the iris.

Suky and I had to move often during the early years of our marriage because of my government assignments. It was in Japan that I first saw Japanese irises. These irises were lovely in pots sitting on benches in small private gardens. Still, these small displays did not prepare me for the acres of gorgeous Japanese irises growing in an artificial lake at the Meiji Shrine Gardens in Tokyo. Suky and I resolved after our first visit to the Meiji Shrine that we would have a large iris garden when we finally could have our own place. And so we have.

When we began our first garden we bought some irises from Margaret Thomas in Herndon, Virginia. Later, Margaret told us about the American Iris Society and suggested we join it. We did. We went to our first Region 4, AIS Spring meeting. We thought these iris people were the kindest, most wonderful people we had ever met. We still do.

Clarence Mahan

What's Your Thoughts? Terribly wet year in the Mid-Atlantic States with several curious iris flowers occurring within Jewel Baby Clump. What Do You Think? (Respond to avmoran1@earthlink.net Subject THOUGHTS)



Jewel Baby SDB 2003 5 falls
4 standards



Jewel Baby SDB 2003 4 falls
3 standards and NO
BEARDS!



Jewel Baby SDB 2003 4 falls
3 standards

All Responses will be printed in the next NEWSCAST

Youth Corner:

I Am Really Happy When...

By Kristen Laing

I am really happy when I am with my iris friends.

I became interested in iris when I was 4-years old because of the colors and the different shades. Mother and Daddy encouraged me to plant my own beds of iris. I have large ones, medium ones, and little ones. I even have ones that bloom in the fall. I belong to a local iris society and I am a member of the American Iris Society. Through these two societies I have met many people. These include hybridizers of iris, professors of colleges, and just good friends that treat me as an equal even though I am only 11-years old. My opinion counts just like one of the adults and I feel a lot of pride and confidence when I am showing my friends some of the iris I have grown or hybridized myself, Mom and Daddy say this is good because everybody needs confidence and pride in what they do.

One of my friends, Dr. Roy Epperson, has helped me to get the training I need to be a garden judge. Another friend, Dr. Spoon, has taught me a lot about hybridizing. Dr. Spoon's wife, Ginny Spoon, is out Regional Vice-President. She always welcomes me. We have people that are presidents from other societies or are experts come to our meetings to teach us about different kinds of irises. Some of these are Lois Rose, Carol Warner, and Clarence Mahan. Mr. Mahan always takes time to tell me one of his jokes and treats me just as nice as one of his grandchildren.

I just love it when Mom and Daddy and I go out of town to a convention. We go to Winchester and Fredericksburg and to different parts of Maryland, and North Carolina. Everywhere I go people know me and are really nice to me, and are always interested in what I have to say or think about an iris. It is so nice to have iris friends. It is like we are one big happy family. That is why I am really happy when I am with my iris friends

(Kristen Laing is a youth member CVIS, AIS, Apprentice Judge)

Crypto Quizzes For your entertainment: Break the code Each Set has the same code, i.e. tyltzy = people. I will give you a hint in the first group. Enjoy

PINK IRISES: Z = H	INDIAN NAMES:	DYKE MEDAL WINNERS:
ZPIOQ SR IAOTUI	OWVOFW PAOIR	MESBY RWLMYMKI
YTVF ASOTESV	JEPFAEWXFK	HWAJMNEV
IYYIP JDSBBSH YTVF	JFUWII JGOWPIKK	WLNLK CHSELSFE
USCVQOL MIVUP	WFCFYE JGOVI	IWL ELZ ZFJSNMY
YTVF JDTV F	FJFPYE UFGGOEG	QMPMYW
DPQI JDIUF	PAIGEZII WFXOEW	REMAEAL YJKYLI
YOTNNL HTBB	PAOIR UFUZIKAF	YMPNL KASWI
UDSCMTI	PENFWPAIGE	YMK DEMKHAYHF
FPVQCUFL GSHIV	PAOJJIUF QGFCI	PNBL EWVIWC
HSGTP XCPPV	OWVOFW JEU UEU	HFEMNAL

Around the Region

CAROLINE MOUNTAINS IRIS SOCIETY President: Danee Hoover

2004 Officers:

President: Danee Hoover

Vice President: Mavis R. del Vecchio

Secretary: Jeanne Grundies

Treasurer: Flossie Nelson

Schedule for 2004

April 24th — *Spring Meeting* - Hendersonville Public Library Main Branch at 3:00pm.

May 8th — *Spring Show* - The First Congregational Church, Hendersonville, entries from 7:00am to 9:00am, opened to the public at 1:00pm.

June 10th & 11th — *Japanese Iris Show* - The Opportunity House, Hendersonville, entries from 8:00am to 10:00am, opened to the public from 1:00 - 5:00pm on the 10th and from 9:00am to 4:00pm on the 11th.

August 14th - *Iris Sale and Auction* - The First Congregational Church, Hendersonville, doors open to public at 12:30pm.

November 6th — *Fall Meeting* - Hendersonville Public Library Main Branch at 3:00pm.

CENTRAL VIRGINIA IRIS SOCIETY President: Linda Laing

CVIS is looking forward to the challenges of 2004! It has been so cold that we can hardly wait until springtime.

In March we will be having our own Region 4 RVP Ginny Spoon as our guest speaker. The Topic will be rebloomers and space agers.

In May we will be hosting our second annual iris show. We are also planning our plant sales in June and July with possibly an Autumn plant sale in October as well. Of course we will be continuing with our public appearances to net us new and enthusiastic members.

Come on Spring! CVIS is waiting with iris that are enticing, elegant, and enduring.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY President: Sylvia Smith

April 3rd: Saturday—*Spring Luncheon*—Wilhelms LTD Caterers—Route 140 Westminster MD 410-833-9898 \$15.00 per Person Program: IPM by George Mozal—Door Prizes will be given

May 22nd: Saturday—*Spring Show*—Kenilworth Shops, 800 Kenilworth Drive, Towson MD 21204

May 23rd: Garden Tours

Jun 3-5th: *Ensata Extravaganza*—Virginia Beach

Jun 19th: Saturday—*Beardless show*—FSK Mall, Fredrick MD 550 Buckeystown Pike

July 10th: Saturday—*Rhizome Sale*—Watson's Garden Center 1620 York Rd Lutherville MD 21093, 1-877-4 WATSON

July 17th: Saturday—*Rhizome Sale*—Dutch Plant Farm, 151 Baughman's Lane, Fredrick MD 21702 301-694-7012

Words From Our Vice President

In Cross Junction, VA the snow and ice cover has been over ten inches deep for most of the month of February. But the good news is that the irises will benefit from the slow melting of the snow, and the bloom this spring should be fantastic! Don and I enjoyed the January AIS *Bulletin* with photos of Kimberly Stoll and Bryan Spoon hybridizing. The photos of the new iris seedlings were awesome. New iris catalogs are arriving each week, and we are having fun studying the 2004 introductions and making our wish lists.

I am so grateful to all of you who contributed so much to our 2003 AIS National Convention and the Region 4 Fall meeting, and especially to all who attended and enjoyed these great meetings. As we begin a new year of iris activities the officers of each Affiliate Iris Society would be so pleased and happy if you would volunteer. There are lots of different activities that you might find interesting that fit your talents, and you can select an activity that will be just right for you in terms of time and effort. No one needs to be overworked if we carry the load together.

I am so pleased that Anita Moran has agreed to take over as editor of the *Newscast*. Roy Epperson has done an excellent job providing us with interesting and informative issues of the *Newscast*. Roy contributes greatly to so many activities in AIS, and we thank him so very much. Bill Smoot has agreed to become webmaster for the Region 4 website <www.irisregion4.com>. If you have any updates to send him, please e-mail him. Mike Lockatell is our new Reblooming chairperson. If you have any reblooming reports that you want included in the Region report, please send them to him. Our Regional Youth Chairman is David Stoll. Contact David with any of your youth activity questions. Their addresses and e-mail listings are on the inside cover of the *Newscast*. I thank these wonderful people for making Region 4 function so well for all of us.

The Symposium of 100 Favorite Tall Bearded Irises is an annual insert in the July *Bulletin*. This is the one chance that all members of the American Iris Society, not just the judges, get to vote for their favorite TB irises. Last year, about twice as many in Region 4 voted the Symposium compared to former years. There were 65 total votes (nationwide) for My GINNY, and it made the list of 100 joining other Region 4 introductions. This spring, I hope you will find time to see the newer irises blooming in area gardens. Sending in your vote lets you pick the winners.

The eligibility requirements to be on the TB Symposium list are: TBs on the top 100 of the previous year's symposium, TBs included in the current year's Dykes eligibility list, TBs included in the current year's AM eligibility list, TBs included in the current year's Wister eligibility list, AM winners of the previous year, and HM award winners of the previous year. Region 4 irises that were on the 2003 voting list included CLARENCE, FOREVER IN LOVE, LITTLE JOHN, UNCLE CHARLIE, and MY GINNY. Have you seen any of these in bloom? If not, you are welcome to visit our Winterberry Gardens near Winchester or Jack and Rosalie Loving's garden near Fredericksburg in May and treat yourself to these and thousands of other lovely irises in bloom. Why not visit Winterberry Gardens on May 29th when we hold the youth hybridizing clinic and see the irises? Don and I hope to visit as many gardens as possible this year and take more photos.

Wishing you beautiful iris blooms to enjoy in 2004, and good weather, health and happiness.



3, 4, 5, June, 2004
 Virginia Beach, VA
 Bill Smoot, Chairman

Come celebrate the beauty of Japanese Irises with us! The Society for Japanese Irises and Region 4 of The American Iris Society have combined efforts to promote the education and popularity of Japanese irises. Our Spring Regional Meeting will be something unique for Region 4 members. We've extended a southern invitation to the members of The Society for Japanese Irises to join us. At the Memphis Society for Japanese Irises Board meeting in May, SJI President Jill Copeland challenged those present to promote Japanese irises by offering to host a mini convention, or symposium, during alternate years between SJI Conventions. Members of the Hampton Roads Iris Society took her challenge to heart. We had already volunteered to host an AIS Region 4 Spring Meeting in 2004. By combining a Spring Regional Meeting with a Japanese Iris Symposium we'd promote Japanese irises and offer something never tried before to Region 4 members!

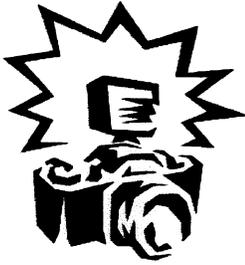
At first the suggestion seemed a little crazy, but as we bounced this idea off of other Region 4 members, they offered their support and convinced us that perhaps we were really not "that" touched by the Memphis heat. This would be unique and different! We have many local hotels in this resort area, an international airport, and Interstate connections. Our membership has several Japanese iris enthusiasts and the society has two public gardens housing our Japanese Iris Display Beds. We've hosted several regional meetings, and we've done this before! The more we thought about it, the more we realized that "We can do this". Hence, the blossoming of *Ensata Extravaganza!*

Ensata Extravaganza will have something to offer the beginning as well as the advanced Japanese iris enthusiast. Our main focus is to introduce everyone to the beauty of Japanese Irises. Here's what we have to tempt you with:

- ❖ **Six Hours of Judges Training**
 - Exhibition Judging of Japanese Irises (2hrs)
 - Garden Judging of Japanese Irises (2hrs)
 - Judging the Design Division (2hrs)
- ❖ **Japanese Irises for Beginners 101** – a two hour education series of mini-courses covering topics such as JI growth, culture, showing, dividing & planting, color patterns & form, and hybridizing.
- ❖ **An AIS Beardless Iris Show** with a Federation of Garden Club design division.
- ❖ **Exhibitions, Demonstrations & Displays** There will be a Sumi e flower painting demonstration and exhibition,, a Ikebana flower arranging display, and our own Japanese iris Photography Contest.
- ❖ **A Day of Garden Tours** We will be featuring some interesting visits to unique gardens. We'll visit:
 - The Norfolk Pagoda – a Chinese Garden featuring a two- story pagoda, goldfish & koi ponds, unique plants, and the HRIS display bed of JIs. From the second story you have a great view of the Norfolk waterfront. An interesting side-trip will an opportunity to go aboard the Battleship Wisconsin, which is berthed adjacent to the garden.
 - We'll also visit 4 private gardens of HRIS members- one featured on Home & Garden TV, and one in a national gardening magazine!
 - Lastly, we'll tour The Norfolk Botanical Gardens, and visit the HRIS display planting of Japanese irises there. You'll take a tram ride thru the gardens.
- ❖ **A Super Plant Auction!**
- ❖ **Hybridizing Forum:** Crosses between I. Ensata and I. Pseudachoris opens up a new avenue in the iris world! This new variety named "Pseudata" will shortly set the iris world ajar. Crosses from these two species have introduced new forms, colors, and color patterns never seen before in the iris world! Our Hybridizer's Forum will be your first introduction to "Pseudatas". This is a first, because we are at the crossroads of hybridizing history-in-the-making, and this is a forum you won't want to miss!

We intend to have more surprises and additions! This will be an event you'll not want to miss. *Ensata Extravaganza* will be held on the 3rd, 4th, & 5th of June 2004 in the Virginia Beach, Virginia.. Further information can be found on the AIS, Region 4 web page www.irisregion4.com/, and at <http://home.earthlink.net/~billsmoot/>.

Come and help us celebrate the beauty of Japanese irises!



Ensata Extravaganza

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

We always see them at shows, conventions, and other iris related activities. They're burdened with camera bags, multiple cameras strung around their necks, several two foot long lens, and tripod in tow. These are the shutterbugs! Unfortunately, many of us never get the opportunity to see the results of their compassion. Now we can! *Ensata Extravaganza* is having a photography contest at the combination 2004 Region 4 Spring Regional Meeting and Society for Japanese Irises Symposium to be held in June 2004 in Norfolk, VA. Since the purpose of *Ensata Extravaganza* is to feature Japanese Irises - our contest is limited to photographs of Japanese irises!

CLASSES

1. **Individual Flower.** - Photo features Japanese irises or one of its species crosses and can be either single, double, or peony flower form.
2. **Ensata Clump.**- Photo features a clump of Japanese irises, or one of its species crosses.
3. **Artistic Landscape.**- Photo of Japanese irises or one of its species cross in a landscape scene.
4. **Photographer's Choice.**- Photographer has complete control of composition of photo, but must have Iris Ensata, or one of its species crosses as a featured element in the photograph.

RULES

1. Entries must be in either print or digital format. Upon receipt, the entries will be enlarged to 8 ½ x 11" size and will be displayed in a black matted frame (no glass) for judging.
2. A maximum of three (3) photos per class may be entered. Photos entered must have been taken in 2003 iris season.
3. By entering the contest, photographer grants SJI permission and all rights for future use of the photographs in any manner they choose.
4. Judges, or members of their families, may not enter.
5. Entries will be judged and exhibited at "Iris Extravaganza" in Norfolk, VA on June 4th, 2004. **All entries must be received by 15 May, 2004.** Mail or e-mail entries to:
Bill Smoot
213 Derby Road
Portsmouth, VA 23702
billsmoot@cox.net
6. The following information should be included with each entry:
Name, Address, Phone Number and/or e-mail address of entrant, Cultivar name (if known) Any other information for educational purposes may be included about the photo, such as camera/film/technique used, location where picture was taken (private or public garden, show, etc.), or other pertinent information (i.e. people in photo, other plants).

PRIZES

1. A first, second, third place, or honorable mention ribbon will be awarded at the judges' discretion.
2. A \$25.00 cash prize will be awarded to each First Place class winner.
3. A "Best In Show" ribbon and an additional \$25.00 cash prize will be awarded to the best in show entry. All judging decisions will be final!

Here's your opportunity to display your photographic talent and win a cash prize at the same time. **REMEMBER** you must take pictures this year for your entries next year. So keep those shutters clicking!

Ensata Extravaganza

REGISTRATION FORM

Name (1)	Name Tag Preference		
Name (2)	Name Tag Preference		
Address	City	State	Zip
Society	Region	E-Mail Address	

Package #1	FULL REGISTRATION This full package consists of 5 Meals (3 Dinners & 2 Lunches, the Saturday Garden Bus Tour, admission to The Norfolk Botanical Gardens. Cost is \$ 145.00 per person.	Number of Persons ___ x \$145.00 per person = \$ _____
Package #2	PARTIAL REGISTRATION This package is for those people who are unable to attend the Thursday evening activities. It includes 2 Lunches & 2 Dinners, the Saturday Garden Bus Tour, admission to The Norfolk Botanical Gardens. Cost is \$ 125.00 per person.	___ x \$125.00 per person = \$ _____
Package #3	YOUTH (FULL) REGISTRATION This full package consists of 5 meals (3 Dinners & 2 Lunches) Dinner Thursday, the Saturday Garden Bus Tour, admission to The Norfolk Botanical Gardens. Cost is \$ 130.00 per youth member.	___ x \$130.00 per youth = \$ _____
Package #4	GARDEN TOUR ONLY! This package is only for those attending the Saturday Garden Bus Tour, Lunch, admission to The Norfolk Botanical Garden! Cost is \$ 25.00 per person.	___ x \$25.00 per person = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

JUDGES' TRAINING:

How many people will be attending the Saturday "Garden Judging of Japanese Irises" Class?	
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Please make all checks payable to:
 HRIS
 (Hampton Roads Iris Society)

Mail registration to:
 Bill Trotter
 213 Derby Road
 Portsmouth, VA 23702

Questions/Information:
 Bill Smoot (757) 393-4617
 E-Mail: billsmoot@cox.net

MEALS:

THURSDAY DINNER: Choice of ___ Roasted Pork Loin with with Rosemary demi-glace	___ Fillet of Flounder atop a bed of spinach with lemon caper sauce
FRIDAY LUNCH: Deli Express – assorted cold cuts, salad, chips, drink & dessert.	

HOTEL INFORMATION:

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL!

Holiday Inn Executive Center

5655 Greenwich Rd.

Virginia Beach, VA 23462

PHONE: (757) 499-4400 1-800 HOLIDAY

www.holiday-inn.com/vabch-execctr

To book online go to www.holiday-inn.com/vabch-execctr . On the left side of the page will be a box titled "Reserve This Hotel". Complete the requested booking information. You must put EEX in the Group Booking Code box to get our special rate!

Flat Rate (up to five in a room): \$105.00 + applicable state and city tax, currently 12.5% , and a \$1.00 per room per night city occupancy tax. Mention *Ensata Extravaganza* or EEX when making reservations to get this rate. Rates cannot be changed at check-in or check-out for guests who fail to identify their affiliation at the time the reservation is requested. Reservations must be made no later than 30 days to get these special rates. Otherwise, summer rates apply!

AIRPORT INFORMATION:

There are two airports serving the area

The Norfolk International Airport. This is the largest airport and is about 6 miles away from our hotel. (The hotel will provide free shuttle to/from the airport). Its three letter designation is ORF if you're making reservations on the internet. This airport is approximately 6 miles away from our convention hotel.

The Williamsburg/Newport News International Airport is approximately 25 miles away. Its three letter designation is PHF.

WEATHER:

Average temperatures for the Tidewater area range from 60 low to 83 high with 63% sunshine. You can check out the current Norfolk, VA weather at www.fredheutte.org/weather.htm. You may want to apply some sunscreen protection when visiting the gardens.

DRESS:

Clothing for all events is casual comfortable. Leave your suits, ties, or fancy dresses at home! The hotel has an outdoor & indoor pool, so don't forget your bathing suit!

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From the East: Take I-95 South from New York area to Richmond, VA. Then take I-64 from Richmond to Norfolk.

From the South: You may take either I-95 North or I-81 North up to Virginia. Then follow signs to I-64 to Norfolk.

From the North & West: I-40 to I-64-East, or I-64 East.

When you get to Norfolk, VA -from I-64, take Exit 284B (Newtown Road), then take the South Newtown exit. At the traffic light, continue straight ahead onto Greenwich Road. The Holiday Inn Executive Center is a large glass greenhouse enclosed building on the right.

For detailed directions there is a Map/Driving Directions button on the Holiday Inn web site at www.holiday-inn.com/vabch-execctr which will provide you with detailed directions & map!

HANDICAP ACCESS:

With The exception of one garden, all of the other gardens are handicapped friendly! One garden has a rock walkway down a hill. Even with that limitation, handicapped visitors will be able to see over75% of that garden.

THURSDAY - June 3, 2004

THURSDAY - June 3, 2004	
Time	Activity
All Day	Ikebana & Sumi-e Art Display
3:00pm – 5:00pm	Region 4, BOD Meeting
6:30pm – 8:00pm	Welcome Banquet
8:00pm – 10:00pm	PROGRAM: Judges' Training (2 hours JT credit) "Judging the Design Division"
10:00pm	Show Set-Up

FRIDAY – June 4, 2004	
Time	Activity
All Day	Ikebana & Sumi-e Art Display
8:00am – 10:00am	Accept Show Entries
10:00am – 12:00am	Educational Program: "Japanese Irises for Beginners"
10:00am – 12:00am	Set-Up/Judge Photo Contest Judge Show
12:00am – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:30pm – 5:30pm	The Great Plant Auction Visit Show & Displays
6:30pm – 8:00pm	Dinner
8:00 – 10:00pm	PROGRAM: Judges' Training (2 hours JT credit) "Exhibition Judging of Japanese Irises"

SATURDAY – June 5, 2004	
Time	Activity
7:30am – 5:30pm	Leave Hotel for "A Day of Garden Tours!"
6:30pm – 8:00pm	Closing Banquet
8:00pm – 10:00pm	PROGRAM: Hybridizer's Panel "Pseudatas"

JUDGES' TRAINING:

Classes	Hours	Date	Time	Location
Judging the Design Division	2	THURSDAY June 3	8:00 PM— 10:00 PM	Hotel
Exhibition Judging of Japanese Irises	2	FRIDAY June 4	8:00 PM— 10:00 PM	Hotel
Garden Judging of Japanese Irises	2	SATURDAY June 5	Afternoon	TO BE DETERMINED

FURTHER INFORMATION / WEB SITE:

The below web addresses are packed with additional information:

www.irisesregion4.com <http://home.earthlink.net/~billsmoot/>

Any questions contact Bill Smoot at (757) 393-4617 e-mail: billsmoot@cox.net or Frances Thrash (757) 481-3484 e-mail: francestrash@cox.net

New Tools to Combat Southern Blight in Bearded Irises

By

P. Michael Lockett

One of the few blessings of being a landscape professional is having access to technical representatives of the major players in the agricultural chemical business. No commercial grower likes the prospects of applying pesticides, but extreme weather patterns plaguing the majority of the United States over the past few years has created suitable environments for damaging diseases and insects to flourish at the expense of our favorite garden plants.

After a series of rolling seasonal droughts, Central Virginia witnessed one of the wettest years on record. With the exception of a brief dry spell of about three weeks after Hurricane Isabel ravaged metro Richmond and surrounding communities, rain events have dominated local forecasts. Heavy downpours on the order of one to two inches in a matter of hours saturated heavy clay soils. Runoff from these heavy showers leached valuable nutrients out of the soil mass and created ideal growing conditions for some of the region's worst soil borne pathogens.

One such disease is *Sclerotium rolfsii* commonly referred to as Southern Blight or Mustard Seed Rot. Peanut farmers in the southeastern portion of the state have wrestled with this problem for years. Fungicide programs are an integral part of farm culture to bring peanut crops to productive maturity. Central Virginia's milder climate, Zone 7, allows this fungus to be present in local soils. Hybrid bearded irises are very susceptible to this pathogen, and my garden in Powhatan, VA suffered its first major outbreak during the wet spring of 2000.

Southern Blight will rot healthy leaf tissue of bearded iris fans at the top of the rhizome. "The fungus appears as a gray or tan cottony mass over leaf bases and adjacent soil and adjacent rhizomes."¹ As this disease matures, small fruiting bodies or spherical sclerotia the size of mustard seeds can be detected at the infection site by using a good hand lens.

Contaminated plants are common pathways for the appearance of this disease. Once the fungus is introduced into the garden, existing bearded iris clumps under stress become easy targets. Summer night humidity and temperatures play primary roles in disease development. Other important factors such as water movement, footwear, hand tools and power equipment become the means for the pathogen to infect entire gardens. Sterilization of divided rhizomes with a 10% laundry bleach solution before planting is sound cultural practice to eliminate one avenue of infection by this pathogen.

After speaking with many iris growers about *S. rolfsii*, a remediation program to improve soil drainage was enacted in my Powhatan display garden. Growing space was raised by adding additional fill soil and modifying it with a coarse grade builder's sand. A local sand and gravel quarry supplies this product to area golf courses and the VA Department of Transportation (VDOT). Uniform particle size must meet strict specifications to be sold to these customers. The sand renovation was expensive and required a lot of work, but I decided to back up the remediation work with a fungicide labeled for Southern Blight control.

Terrachlor® 75% WP, PCNB (pentachloronitrobenzene) has been the fungicide of choice to combat *S. rolfsii* in bearded irises. It is packaged as a wettable powder and applied in solution as a soil drench before planting. These formulations can be spilled easily and become instantly airborne during the mixing phase of use. The applicator should be wearing boots, long sleeve shirt, rubber gloves and a respirator both mixing and applying this material. Despite toxicity associated with Terrachlor®, effective control can be obtained.

Following label instructions, uniform application of this material should be made after digging each hole to plant rhizome divisions. This fungicide will provide residual control of Southern Blight for two growing seasons. Multiple plantings of bearded irises should be placed on a staggered schedule of division. One bed divided and reinstalled one year, additional ones replanted in succeeding years. This rotation renews protection with Terrachlor® and allows for consistent flowering of mature clumps throughout the garden. This practice may become unnecessary in the future thanks to the development of a new class of fungicide products capable of controlling *S. rolfsii*.

Strobilurins are naturally occurring fungicides produced by various species of wood decay fungi including *Strobilurus tenacellus* and *Oudemansiella mucida*.² These organisms produce strobilurins as defensive mechanisms to out compete other fungi for scarce nutrients. Some 1,400 compounds based on strobilurin chemistry were tested for their efficacy before azoxystrobin was discovered in 1988.² Research proved this new chemical compound had extremely high levels of fungicidal activity with minimal phytotoxicity to ornamentals or turfgrass. Other benefits indicated were low mammalian toxicity and minimal environmental impact.

Zeneca formulated azoxystrobin into a product named Heritage®. Its active ingredient attacks target fungi, disrupting mitochondrial respiration by blocking the pathogen's ability to form ATP.² The absence of this vital energy life source causes fungal cells to die. Its combined preventative and curative activity inhibits the pathogen by blocking spore germination and infection. Heritage® can enter the ornamental plant through leaves, shoots and root system. This product exhibits translaminal activity by entering and diffusing through the leaf via spray solution. Once inside the plant, the azoxystrobin molecules translocate upward (acropetally) for uniform distribution.² This mode of action is not critical for Southern Blight, but it may prove to be a useful deterrent for *Didymella macrospora* (fungal leaf spot) and other fungi pathogens.

New Tools to Combat Southern Blight in Bearded Irises (Cont.)

This past monsoon-like growing season created the perfect environment for *S. rolfsii* during mid summer. Two years worth of Terra-chlor® protection had run out, and persistent wet conditions held back division and replanting. The fungus started appearing on isolated clumps in early August. The Syngenta representative for Central Virginia recommended a Heritage® application. One of the big advantages to using Heritage® is the minuscule amount of active ingredient needed for control. It is barely measurable in a gallon of water, and the product is tank compatible with other pesticides.

Heritage® was sprayed at the center of each leaf fan and allowed to run down the foliage unto the soil surface. This technique resulted in 100% control of *S. rolfsii* for the remainder of the season despite periodic heavy rainfalls. An early spring application of Heritage® will likely give the iris grower control of this disease for an entire season. Planned sprays on undivided three-year-old beds this spring should help to support or refute this past summer's results.

D. macrospora was another disease problem plaguing my bearded plantings. Infection began in early spring on new foliage after night temperatures stayed above freezing. Circular to oval spots appear on leaves. Fungal spores produced by these lesions are easily dispersed throughout the iris garden by heavy rains and wind. Early control measures featured using Daconil® (chlorothalonil) as contact treatment and Cleary's 3336™ (thiophanate-methyl) for both contact and systemic protection. These materials were marginally successful for two to three week intervals. Since the systemic activity of azoxystrobin for *D. macrospora* occurs through root uptake, Heritage® was suggested as another alternative to use in combination with either Daconil® or Cleary's™ 3336.

The latter two products could be used to furnish immediate protection to healthy leaf tissue until the azoxystrobin molecules were successfully translocated from the roots. Runoff from heavy rains immediately after application in my garden may have mitigated the presence of adequate concentrations of Heritage® in the soil. Soil saturation may have further affected quantity and quality of rhizome roots thereby compromising plant uptake of azoxystrobin to the foliage. More study needs to be done to better understand the product's potential for leaf spot control under various weather conditions.

Irisarians may have new tools to use in their struggles with Southern Blight in bearded irises. Another promising compound also being used for daylily diseases is flutolanil. It is labeled for *S. rolfsii*, but the problem with this material is it needs to be thoroughly and continually agitated in solution before use.

Heritage® is not yet available on the retail market shelf. It is currently packaged in one pound containers for commercial use. It is pricey for landscape professionals and lawn care applicators, but Syngenta may develop smaller packaging for wider distribution (personal communication). The advantages of low doses of azoxystrobin, ease of use, long residual activity and environmental compatibility make Heritage® a potentially better alternative than Terrachlor® for control of Southern Blight on bearded irises.

Sources:

World of Iris Pages 338-341

Zeneca Technical Bulletin: Pages 1-2

Special Thanks to Mr. T. Michael Likins, VA Cooperative Extension Service Agent, Chesterfield County, and former State Plant Pathologist for the Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services for his technical assistance in the preparation of this article.

2003 Region 4 Rebloom Report

By

P. Michael Lockatell

Occasional rainfall during dry summers is one ingredient favoring successful fall rebloom in bearded irises. Excessive moisture on the other hand may be a boon to beardless iris culture, but wet conditions can hinder both the quantity and quality of fall flowering.

Rain totals for Richmond, VA in the past calendar year easily averaged in excess of sixty inches. Central Virginia already had forty plus inches in the bank before Hurricane Isabel arrived. Clay soils were beyond the point of super saturation. This condition closed vital pore spaces around root systems limiting the flow of air and the availability of nutrients to bearded iris plants. Summer divisions indicated little new root development in the majority of the bearded clumps in my garden. Even though rebloom selections proved to be more weather resistant, diminished root mass could have either eliminated or delayed fall flowering. This situation may help to explain the lack of entries at the Fall Flower Show in Winchester, VA.

Judges at this event tabbed Ginny and Don Spoon's Prince Lollipop as Best Specimen in Show with Tim Stanek's TB Days of Summer taking Runner-up honors. Prince Lollipop (Spoon 2002) is a ruffled and flared reddish purple SDB. Days of Summer (Stanek 2001) is a ruffled and lightly laced self with buttercup yellow beards.

Reports of late rebloom were common throughout Region 4. Jerry Coates of FSK reported cutting stalks from a selection of Hemstitched, Lady Emma, English Cottage and a seedling out Zurich X Hemstitched for an arrangement in his home on the December 4th. He had more stalks left with bloom potential, but winter weather finally ended his fall show. Jerry was encouraged by the performance of one of his seedlings. Its buds seemed to show frost hardiness after several below freezing nights. He also brought a stalk of Twilight Fancies (Zurbrigg 2001) to the Fall Rebloom Show. Twilight Fancies features different shades of blue violet with beards blended blue and light yellow.

Jim Schroetter from FAIS has a large selection of rebloomers in his Fredericksburg garden, but he only found fall bloomstalks on July Sunshine, Queen Dorothy and Clarence. Lois Rose from the same vicinity found rebloom on medians Lady Emma (MTB), I Bless (IB) and (BB) September Buttercup. Tall bearded in fall splendor were Queen Dorothy, Buckwheat, Istanbul and Brown Duet. Dr. Roy Epperson, High Point, NC mentioned rebloom in the 2003 December issue of *NEWSCAST* on Over and Over (Innerst 2000), Daughter of Stars (Spoon 2001), Christiane Elizabeth (Mahan 2001), Sunny Disposition (Zurbrigg 1989) and Fire Beard (Sutton 2001). Roy cut three stalks of Daughter of Stars, and their presence brightened his kitchen for several days. Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg in Durham, NC had rebloom on Lo Ho Silver and six to seven weeks of flowering on I Bless. Wow!!

Ginny and Don Spoon reported a nice diversity of fall bloom in the 2003 AIS National Convention guest beds. Again and Again (Innerst 1999) took top honors in the tall bearded class. This medium yellow self with white beards bloomed on at least three occasions during the fall. A number of recent Region 4 introductions proved their rebloom value. Apollo's Robe (2003) introduced by C&P youth member, Ryan Carter is an unusual combination of lavender standards and yellow falls. Christiane Elizabeth (Mahan 2001) is a lovely blue with white blaze and beards. Daughter of Stars (Spoon 2001), a large flowered purple bitone luminata, Lilla (Spoon 2000), a medium yellow self and Autumn Joy (Spoon 2001) were successful tall bearded rebloomers from Don Spoon seen in many Region 4 gardens. Out of Region TB selections to mention were Bolder Boulder (Magee 2000), a gray-blue neglecta, Over and Over (Innerst 2001) white trimmed lavender, Mariposa Autumn (Tasco 1999), a gorgeous rosy violet plicata and Double-day (Sutton 2001), a lovely yellow with a white blaze.

2003 Region 4 Rebloom Report (Cont.)

Medians again took center stage at Winterberry Gardens. Spoon creations putting on notable rebloom performances were Autumn Ivory BB (G. Spoon 2001), a ivory white self with heavy substance blooming from late September through October. Peach Parasol BB (Spoon 1997) sent up a number of wide branched rebloom stalks and Midsummer's Eve BB (Spoon 1999). The latter with Constant Companion IB (Marsh 1995) supplied four months of continuous fall bloom. Out of Region medians worthy of mention were Double Your Fun IB (Aitken 2000), Midsummer Night's Dream IB (Baumunk 1999), Sugar Snaps (Pinegar 1999) and Elegant Lass BB (J&V Craig 2002). Rosalie Loving (Spoon 2003) is a SDB with plenty of appeal during October and November. Named for a long time FAIS member, it features glowing yellow highlights, red maroon spot and orange beards. Another Spoon SDB, Prince Pele was a nice companion plant to *Sternbergia lutea* (Autumn Daffodil). This 2001 introduction has bright golden flowers with several months of pleasing bloom. Hilda's Gift MDB (Spoon2002) was another yellow median rebloomer with lots of merit.

Rebloom at my Powhatan, VA garden was in full swing after the Fall Show. Early bird tall bearded standouts were Northward Ho (Zurbrigg 1990), Unchained Melody (Mahan 1992) and Grace Thomas (Zurbrigg 1979). Light frosts towards the end of October threatened to ruin further bloom, but an array of tarps, barrels and nursery pots covered developing stalks. My efforts were richly rewarded with impressive flowers in early November on Rosalie Figgie (McKnew 1991) and Priscilla of Corinth (B. Miller 1996). Other TBs chipping in rebloom were Rose Teal (Holk 1995) and Anxious (Hager 1992). Median rebloom was seen multiple times on Midsummer Night's Dream and Sailboat Bay (Zurbrigg 2000), a net little blue amoena of unknown parentage.

Despite weather setbacks throughout the year, rebloom development in Region 4 looks bright and promising. Stay tuned.....

This report was an impromptu attempt to cover some of this fall's bearded rebloom performance in Region 4. This chore was previously handled by Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg. Lloyd has not been able to file reports in recent years, so I will try to continue this valuable yearly forum. Region 4 irisarians are encouraged to send reports to me for the 2004 edition this coming fall at CMarti8855@aol.com or Mike Lockatell, 500 Pantela Drive, Richmond, VA 23235-5020. Your input helps us to update information on rebloom activity each year, so I look forward to hearing from you.

For Your Information

Average Annual Minimum Temperature

Temperature (F)	Zone
Below -50	1
-45 to -50	2a
-40 to -45	2b
-35 to -40	3a
-30 to -35	3b
-25 to -30	4a
-20 to -25	4b
-15 to -20	5a
-10 to -15	5b
-5 to -10	6a
0 to -5	6b
5 to 0	7a
10 to 5	7b
15 to 10	8a
20 to 15	8b
25 to 20	9a
30 to 25	9b
35 to 30	10a
40 to 35	10b
40 +	11



Never be without your USDA hardiness Zone. The U.S. Department of Agriculture web site allows you to find your Hardiness zone.

<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/hzm-ne1.html>

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