

Border Bearded (BB) In Garden Evaluation (Chapter 8)

Garden Judging of Introduced and Seedling BB Iris

1. Overall Proportion			25
2. Flower			30
	a. Color & Finish	10	
	b. Form	10	
	c. Substance & Durability	10	
3. Stalk			20
	a. Proportion	10	
	b. Branching & Buds	10	
4. Plant & Foliage			10
5. Distinctiveness			15
TOTAL			100

BB Section Award – Knowlton 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

Erect with branched stems from 16 to 27.5 inches, flowers no more than 5 inches wide. Flower size, length and width of foliage and diameter of stem need to be reduced proportionally with plant height. BB iris resembles the TB iris in color, finish and style, but is smaller, more delicate, and demonstrates good balance. Two well placed branches with a terminal, with a total of seven buds

Overall Proportion – 25 points

Each part of the plant, including flower size and style, stem height and thickness and foliage length and width, should be considered in relation to each other part. A pronounced lack of overall proportion disqualifies the plant from consideration for any award.

Flower – 30 points

Color and Finish (10 points).

Color palette is virtually limitless, including all colors and patterns available in tall bearded iris as well as variations derived from species. Finish or texture (e.g. matte, velvety, satiny, crystalline) is important and should be considered if it enhances or detracts from the underlying color. Beard color--blending, harmonizing, or sharply contrasting--is judged for its contribution to the total color effect.

Form (10 points)

Good form is of paramount importance. Decoration (e.g. ruffling and lace) is considered an asset but requires a certain restraint so decoration never overwhelms the underlying shape. Beard variations, such as horns, spoons and

flounces, should be similarly restrained. There is a tendency toward shorter and more open standards. Closed or arched and nearly closed standards are preferred. Structural imbalance and disharmony are severely penalized. BB height range requires some flare in the falls. Degree of flare should be appropriate to the height of the flower stalk.

Substance and Durability (10 points)

Should have sufficient substance to support its form. It should be able to flutter a bit in a breeze but return to its pose in calm and not look permanently disarranged. Durability varies from climate to climate and should be judged over a period of several days. Can be expected to remain in good condition for about three days under normal weather conditions.

Stalk -- 20 points

Proportion (10 points)

Stalk is relatively slim and graceful but must be strong enough to support the blossoms. Diameter of the stalk, and type and placement of its branches, must balance both the plant and the size and style of the flowers. Excessively thick, clubby stems with branches so short as to crowd the blossoms are to be severely penalized.

Branching and Buds (10 points).

Stalk should have, at a minimum, two well placed branches with a terminal, with a total of seven buds. Taller BB more and wider branching is preferred, with corresponding increase in the number of buds.

Plant & Foliage – 10 points

The foliage must be in harmony with the flower, neither scanty nor too lush, and with its height and width must complement the flower stalk. Should be erect in habit. Leaves of some varieties are slightly curved like a sickle or scythe or exhibit a slight twist. These characteristics in moderation should not detract from the overall appearance of the clump. BBs should perform as well in the garden as quality TBs.

Distinctiveness - 15 points

BB should be instantly recognizable as such. To receive points it must also differ from existing members of the class in some positive way. Distinctiveness includes new and beautiful combination of petal and beard color or a new pattern or combination of patterns. Term could apply to a new iris similar in color and form but having far superior plant habit, or outstanding petal finish.

Judging Seedlings

A new cultivar which not only conforms to the guidelines for the class, but exhibits desirable qualities comprising improvement and/or innovation.