

Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB) In Garden Evaluation (Chapter 10)

Garden Judging of Introduced and Seedling MTB Iris

1. Proportion			25
2. Flower			40
	a. Color & Finish	20	
	b. Form	10	
	c. Substance & Durability	10	
3. Stalk			15
	a. Buds & Branches	10	
	b. Characteristics	5	
4. Foliage			10
5. Distinctiveness			10
TOTAL			100

MTB Section Award – Williamson-White 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

Height 16"-27.5" Stalks 1/8" to 3/16" thick directly under terminal increasing to 5/8" at base. Two branches plus terminal; at least 7 buds (8-9 preferred). Flower 6" of combined height and width. Foliage not more than 2/3 of stalk height. Pleasing fragrance is especially important as MTB are favorite cut flowers.

Proportion -- 25 points

MTB are NOT very small flowered tall bearded. All aspects are proportionally smaller. Garden judging should be based on typical performance of the variety

Flowers -- 40 points

Color and Finish (20 points)

Diploid MTBs are limited to white, yellow, variegatas, amoenas, neglectas, blues, orchids, purples, plicatas and variegata blends. In the tetraploid varieties, the color palette is opened up to the tangerine tones and some dominant bicolor combinations not found in the diploids. Heavy striping descended from *I. variegata* is not a fault. Purple tint spathes may enhance color.

Form (10 points)

Tailored or lightly ruffled flowers are more in keeping with MTB objective of daintiness than heavy ruffles. Flaring or semi-flaring preferred; drooping falls detract. Closed arched standards preferred. Open standards may be acceptable if there is attractive intense contrasting color in the center.

Substance and Durability (10 points)

Allows structure of flower to remain firm. Ideally flowers should last at least 3 days in normal weather conditions.

Stalk -- 15 points**Buds and Branches (10 points)**

Minimum 2 branches plus terminal; at least 7 buds (8-9 preferred). Diploid cultivars generally have two or three branches plus a terminal and minimum of seven buds. Cultivars with up to 14 buds are known. The tetraploid cultivars derived from *I. aphylla* and diploid cultivars from *I. astrachanica* can have the basal branch typical of these species.

Characteristics (5 points)

Stalks slender and flexible, not stiff. *I. aphylla* derived varieties have stalks naturally straighter than *I. variegata* derived. Branches not close but not out so as to look awkward.

Foliage -- 10 points

No more than 2/3 height of stalk at bloom time, with leaves no wider than 1" at base. Dark green to blue green in color. Purple base foliage desirable. Health and vigor indicated by increase and appearance.

Distinctiveness - 10 points

Distinctiveness can result from improvement of any desirable quality of the plant when compared to other similar varieties within the class. Improvements in color range and flower form rate high.

Judging Seedlings

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