

Tall Bearded (TB) In Garden Evaluation (Chapter 7)

Garden Judging of Introduced and Seedling TB Iris

1. Plant			30
	a. Foliage	10	
	b. Durability/perennial qualities	15	
	c. Floriferousness	5	
2. Stalk			35
	a. Proportion	5	
	b. Strength	10	
	c. Branching	5	
	d. Bud Count & Bloom Sequence	15	
3. Flower			25
	a. Color	5	
	b. Form	10	
	c. Substance & Durability	10	
4. Distinctiveness			10
TOTAL			100

TB Section Award – Wister Medal

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

Bearded iris taller than 27.5-inch stalk with at least two branches plus the terminal.
Minimum of 7 buds. Should produce between 3 and 5 increases per rhizome per year

Plant -- 30 points

Foliage (10 points)

No plant is worthy of consideration if its foliage is floppy, narrow, or sparse. Each leaf should be crisp, erect, and of sufficient width. The foliage should not display excessive discoloration or leaf spot if neighboring varieties appear vibrant and healthy.

Durability (15 points)

Plant should display vigor and good health.

Floriferousness (5 points)

A variety must remain in bloom over two weeks to receive credit for floriferousness. Ratio of stalks to the number of fans must be at least 25%.

Stalk --35 points

Proportion (5 points)

The stalk must hold the flowers well above the foliage but must not suspend them awkwardly at excessive heights.

Strength (10 points)

Unless there has been severe weather, the stalk should remain fully upright

Branching (5 points)

Branching displays the individual flowers, holding each one so that it does not interfere with another. Modified candelabrum type branching is usually best in

the garden. Stalk must have at least two branches plus the terminal, arranged on the upper two-thirds of the stalk.

Bud count and bloom sequence (15 points)

Must remain in bloom over two weeks. Total bud count is never fewer than seven. Bloom sequence as important as bud count. Ideally, the terminal socket at the tip of the stalk and of each branch should contain at least three buds that will produce full sized flowers in an extended time sequence.

Flower – 25 points

Color (5 points)

Flower must be free from any colors which strike a discordant note. They should produce a bright and pleasing appearance as opposed to the dull and drab. New color, if pleasing, is an asset.

Form (10 points)

Variability in form is acceptable as long as the standards and falls meet minimum requirements, producing flowers of good balance and proportion. Standards may be erect, domed, open, closed, touching or overlapping. Strong midribs are vital to form. Falls should be large enough in relation to the standards for good proportion. Variability of shape is inevitable, appearing as rounded, oval, or triangular but never pinched. Falls can be flaring or hanging, but never tucked. Flaring falls are preferred.

Substance and durability (10 points)

How long the flower can maintain its color and symmetry of form. Tall bearded flowers of today should withstand all variations of weather except the extremes. Substance aids in retention of color.

Texture (no points)

Is a surface characteristic of the petals that is difficult to evaluate. It plays a significant part in perception of color by the judge. Any texture (whether leathery, satiny, silky, velvety, or waxy) is acceptable if it is visually pleasing.

Fragrance (no points)

Subjective; perception varies from judge to judge

Distinctiveness -- 10 points

An award-winning iris is immediately recognized in the garden. An iris may have every asset previously discussed, but if it lacks attractiveness, it will be of little value in the garden. Distinctiveness accounts for only 10 points and awards should not be given to a variety simply because of its individuality. Observe the plant at a distance of 4 to 5 yards (3.7 to 4.6 meters) to determine if all parts combine to present a well-proportioned plant with superior landscape value.

Judging seedlings

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