

# THE REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

Summer 2022

*Journal of the Reblooming Iris Society*

Vol. 99



**Champion Bloodlines**  
TB-Re/P. McNeal, 2018



## **2022 Cumulative Checklist of Reblooming Irises**

### **Why should you buy a copy?**

It has been 10 years since the last edition. The 2022 publication includes entries for over 4200 varieties of rebloomers in 360 pages. Lots and lots of info.

The Checklist is "the" source to provide you with information as to whether a variety is a rebloomer.

### **Why is the Checklist "the" source?**

First, many rebloomers are not listed as such in their registration info. This is especially true for more recent introductions.

Second, some commercial iris growers deliberately do not list varieties as rebloomers. This is because some customers, especially those in colder climates, mistakenly think a variety is a rebloomer in their plant zone. Most rebloomers in these cold zones get frozen out before they have a chance to rebloom.

But please note, though, there are rebloomers for cold climates, including those in the top tier of states that border Canada.

Third, some commercial growers do not grow varieties long enough before selling them to determine whether a variety reblooms and then reblooms in subsequent years. Is it a reliable rebloomer?

And finally, most growers do not test for rebloom in other plant zones before marketing these varieties. So how would you know if a variety should rebloom in your plant zone? This book frequently gives plant zone and/or state info where the rebloomer actually reblooms. This information usually comes from our many recorders who report bloom data from across the USA in the Reblooming Iris Society's Recorder.

Before you purchase irises, buy the Checklist to know if a variety is a rebloomer and if it is a rebloomer **in your plant zone.**

**Go to [rebloomingiris.com](http://rebloomingiris.com) to order your Checklist!**

**Bound Book (360 pages; free shipping): \$35**

**Flash Drive: \$15 (free shipping)**

**pdf sent via email - International only: \$15**

**Did you know:** Champion Bloodlines is NOT listed as a rebloomer in its registration info BUT is in the 2022 Checklist.



**Autumn Garnet**  
34"/D. Spoon, 2011



**Fall Empire**  
32"/Geo. Sutton, 2002



**Love Goes On**  
26"/D. Spoon, 2004

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### Photo Credits:

Cover – **Champion Bloodlines** - M. Platner  
Autumn Garnet – Aitken Salmon Creek Iris Garden  
Fall Empire – Sutton Iris Garden  
Love Goes On – G. Spoon



# Reblooming Iris Society

## Officers

### Co-Presidents

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shirleytrio@gmail.com  
209-551-6313

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### Immediate Past President

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*Thank you for being a  
member of RIS.*

## Chairpersons

### Membership

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dfbanks2@gmail.com  
757-561-6186

### Editor

Mary Platner  
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480-540-6824

### Checklist Sales

Mary Platner  
Please go to "Checklist Sales" at  
rebloomingiris.com

### Digital Specialist

Dave Banks  
dfbanks2@gmail.com  
757-561-6186



**Autumn Sunrise**  
34"/G. Spoon, 2007



**Autumn Explosion**  
Wister Award 2019  
33"/Tasco, 2013



**Autumn Shower**  
29"/Lockatell, R. 2019

Photo Credits: Autumn Sunrise – G.Spoon    Autumn Explosion - Platner    Autumn Shower – Probst

## Area Directors

### Northeast

Anita Moran  
pilmore22@gmail.com  
410-937-3388

**States:** Pennsylvania, New York, Washington, D.C.,  
Delaware, Maryland north through Main  
**AIS Regions:** 3, and Parts of Regions 1, 2, and 4

### East

Mike Lockatell  
cmarti8855@verizon.com  
804-330-2916

**States:** Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina  
**AIS Regions:** Part of Region 4

### Southeast

Deb Mell  
debjmell@gmail.com  
731-358-3234

**States:** Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky,  
Mississippi, Puerto Rico, S. Carolina, and Tennessee  
**Regions:** 5, 7, and 24

### North Central

Bill Turner  
billtur719@aol.com  
612-619-6342

**States:** Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio,  
and Wisconsin  
**Regions:** 6, 8, and 9

### Central

Alice Sinclair  
jcars@ucom.net  
620-855-2137

**States:** Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, N. Dakota,  
S. Dakota  
**Regions:** 18 and 21

### South Central

Gailmae Suite  
metex65@yahoo.com  
817-477-4454

**States:** Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma,  
and Texas  
**Regions:** 10, 22 and 17

### Northwest

Delane H. Langton  
eagleridgeiris@gmail.com  
406-398-3567

**States:** Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon,  
Utah, Washington, and Wyoming  
**AIS Regions:** 11, 12, 13, and 20

### Southwest

Riley Probst  
shirleytrio@gmail.com  
209-551-6323

**States:** Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada  
**AIS Regions:** 14 and 15

### Canada

Chuck Chapman  
chuck@chapmaniris.com



### Canada

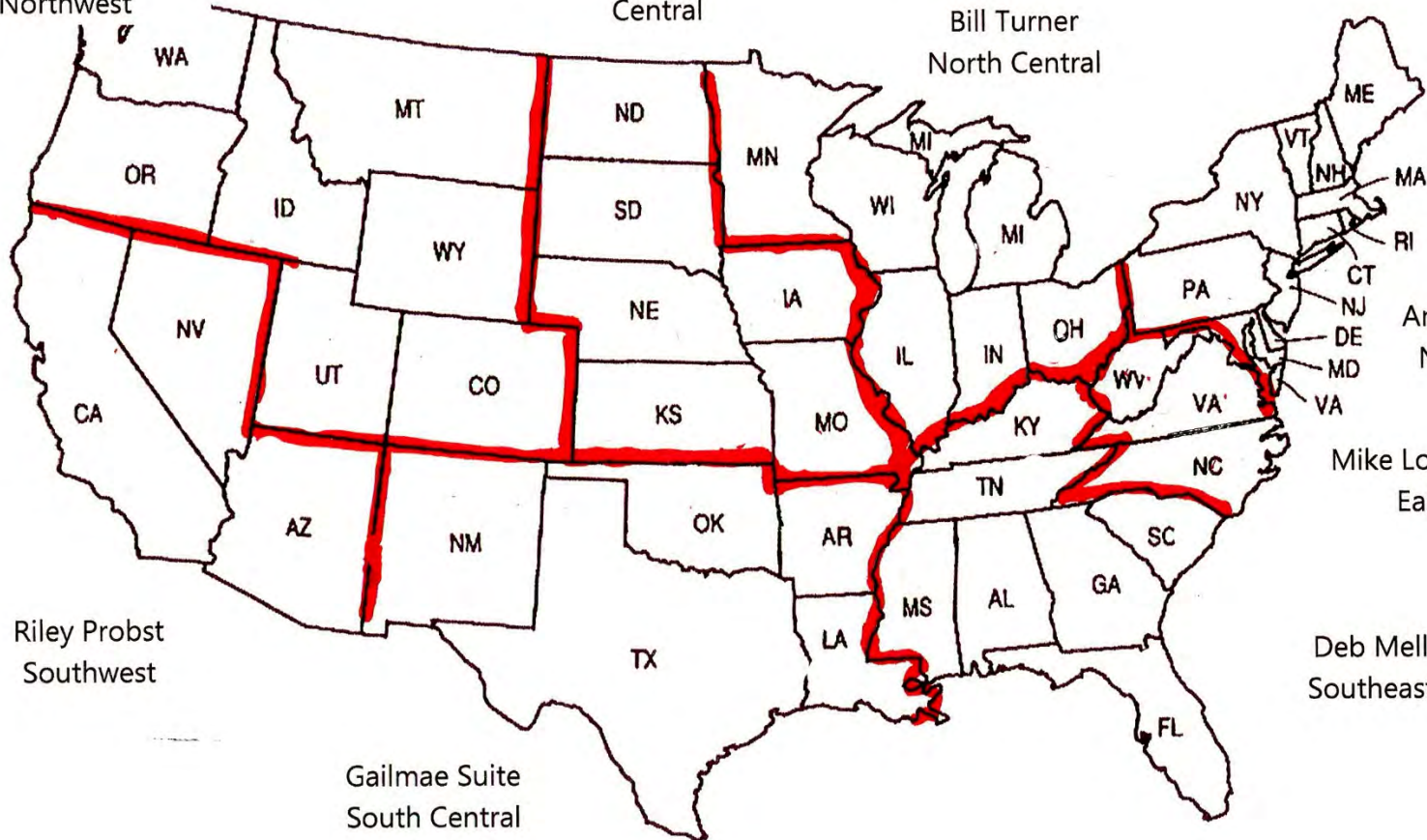
## Map of Areas and Area Directors' Names

Chuck Chapman  
Canada

Delane H. Langton  
Northwest

Alice Sinclair  
Central

Bill Turner  
North Central



Anita Moran  
Northeast

Mike Lockatell  
East

Deb Mell  
Southeast

Riley Probst  
Southwest

Gailmae Suite  
South Central

## Vice-President's Message

Anita Moran

Hello, all reblooming enthusiasts!

As summer approaches, please begin keeping bloom data on your rebloomers. Encourage your iris society members to do the same. That information not only helps those in your area but across the country. Later send your report to your area director or to the Recorder's editor.

The data form is actually easy to fill out.

Honest! The form is in this Recorder and online at our website, rebloomingiris.com. Please return the completed form to your area director, who is listed in this edition, after your first freeze or at the end of 2022. Your area director will then send all the forms collected to Mary Platner, the Recorder's editor. Everyone's information will be printed in the Winter 2023 Recorder, along with the names of folks who reported the data.

I know you all enjoy the articles appearing in the newsletter, so how about you help us with that? Did you get a new rebloomer from outside your area and it rebloomed for you? Are you hosting a rebloom seedling or new intro for testing, let us know how it is going. How about an iris reblooming when it was unexpected? Mike Lockett was very excited when he learned that his Tall Bearded rebloomer, 'Metro Blue' (Lockett 2017), was reblooming in Maryland in all the gardens it was hosted in. Denise Stewart's 'Blueberry Sweetie' (Stewart 2007) rebloomed the second year it was here in Maryland. My own MDB 'Zheng Elf' (Moran 2020) occasionally reblooms when neither parent reblooms. So please think about writing a small article for the newsletter. It does not have to be a long article. There is a big need for small articles in any newsletter effort.



**Due to technical difficulties, the  
Reblooming Iris Society's Facebook  
page is now**

**Reblooming Iris LOVERS**

**Please visit this page, make  
comments, and post photos.**

**Many thanks!**

Have a wonderful rebloom season and let us all know what reblooms in your area!

Anita

**Double Down**

35"/M. Sutton, 2009

Photo Credit: M. Platner



## Editor's Note

Thank you! You make this publication happen with your ongoing interest and membership.

Much has happened with the RIS organization.

- We have grown from 5 Area Directors to 9 to enhance communication between each director and her/his recorders. Please welcome Chuck Chapman/Canada, Ann Sinclair/Central, and Deb Mell/Southeast. Please look at pp. 1-3 to see each Area Director's territory.
- Our new Facebook page is **Reblooming Iris Lovers** which allows us access to the banner, sidebar for Checklist sales, etc.
- Our fabulous Digital Specialist, Dave Banks, has established a PayPal account for us. This allows you to directly order Checklists and renew your membership or become a member.
- Our website, rebloomingiris.com, is being updated and more photos added.

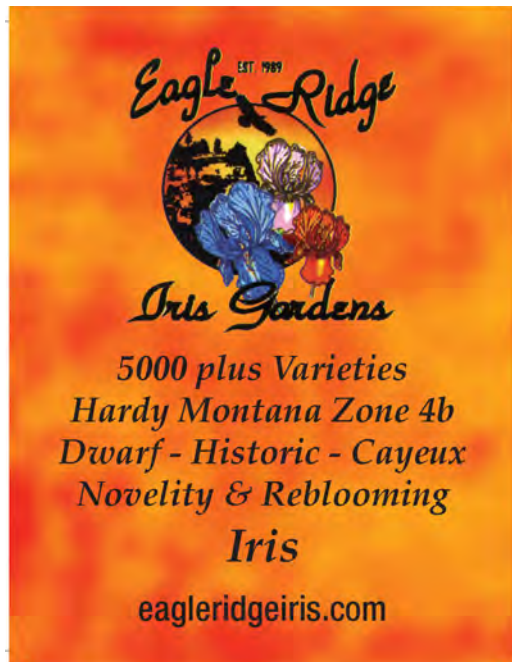
Due to technical difficulties, the Reblooming Iris Society's Facebook page is now

**Reblooming Iris LOVERS**

Please visit this page, make comments, and post photos.

**Many thanks!**

There are now 9 Area Directors. Each Area Director receives the bloom reports from recorders in her territory. These reports are then sent to the editor and published in the Winter editions.



**Help! . . .**Yes, we are always recruiting more recorders so we have more varieties and more locations to report on. *Please consider being a reporter. . .the form is honestly very simple to fill out. Please look on p. to view the form. Don't get frustrated if you have many blooms; report on a few of them. Every bit helps.*

And of course, please send us your photos. They go into our photo bank to be used in future editions. You are given photo credit. High resolution works the best.

Mary Platner  
maryplatner@msn.com  
Cell: 480-540-6824



## Bloom Chart Directions

You can fill out the graph either on the computer or enlarge the file on a horizontal layout and print it to use with pencil or pen.

If you are using a computer, set your margin to 0.7 left / 0.5 for top/ 0.25 for the bottom and right.

An example of how to fill out *both* the Jan.-June and the July-Dec. forms:

Set margins to: 0.7 left / 0.5 for top / 0.25 for the bottom and right margins																							
Name: Mary Platner						City, State: Scottsdale, AZ						Zone: 9b Very HOT!											
p. 1 of 1		2022		E (1-10 of the month) / M (11-20) / L (21-31 of the month)																			
All TBs unless noted		Hybridizer		Year		Jan.			Feb.			March			April			May			June		
All are rebloomers.						E M L			E M L			E M L			E M L			E M L			E M L		
1	Teagan	Sdb	D. Spoon	2009	X	X																	
2	Joy Returns		Shadow	2016		X	X	X	X	X	X												
3	Molokini		M. Sutton	2016		X	X	X															
4																							

### The Jan.-June Form (Optional)

Please record your bloom data for Jan.-June, which provides the complete picture of a variety's bloom for the entire year. If you do this, please list the variety's name with the same number on both the Jan.-June and the July-Dec. form. Transfer the same list of varieties from the Jan.-June chart to the July-Dec. **even if there is no rebloom.**

Example: #1 is "Concertina" on both the Jan.-June AND the July-Dec. even if Concertina does **not** rebloom in the fall. It is important to note "no rebloom."

### The July-Dec. Form (The Critical Chart)

Please send this chart at the end of the bloom season (this gives us a head start on transferring your info to the charts used in the publication) or the end of Dec. **whichever comes first.**

Please send your data (a scan is ok, too) or handwritten paper copy to maryplatner@msn.com. Feel free to contact me, Cell: 480-540-6824 8217 E Del Camino Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85258

**Thank you very much for recording your bloom data for the RS Recorder!**

Mary Platner

Set margins to: 0.7 left / 0.5 for top / 0.25 for the bottom and right margins																						
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All <b>TBs</b> unless noted		Date of Freeze:			July			Aug.			Sept.			Oct.			Nov.			Dec.		
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# The Reblooming Iris Society Membership

## 3 years for only \$25

### Basically \$8 per year

Receive 2 digital editions of the RIS Recorder each year  
with bloom data from across the US and Canada  
and dozens of colorful photos

The Reblooming Iris Society

### Membership Application or Renewal

We would greatly appreciate your paying with a credit card or PayPal by going to the American Iris Society's website:

<https://www.irises.org/reblooming-iris-society/>

Otherwise, please send this form along with a check made out to "RIS" to

Reblooming Iris Society

Dave Banks

215 Charter House Ln.

Williamsburg, VA 23188

Please print:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Required: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Land Line \_\_\_\_\_

**Digital Membership dues are:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$12 for 1 yr. \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 for 3 years

**Please say, "Hello," to our new Vice-President. . .**

## **Anita Moran**

In my past life, I was an Emergency Veterinary technician and later joined the Army in 1982 and left the service in 1986 as a Sergeant. I then continued as a civilian for the Army as well as a vet technician on the weekends. While working for the Army, I was a technician and worked my way up to being a research manager. Ultimately, I went back to school and became an Environmental Engineer while still working in the Army. I retired in 2016.

In 2003, I saw a picture of "Syrian Princess," an Arilbred, and was smitten with irises. Dr. Don Spoon mentored me when I visited him and his wife, Ginny, at their Winterberry Iris Garden a couple of times each year. With Don's and Ginny's lessons, I learned to hybridize and have continued doing so ever since.

My love of gardening, especially irises, doesn't leave me much time to get into trouble. (But then again, sometimes trouble finds me.) I am currently on my 16<sup>th</sup> year as the Region 4 Newscast Editor as well as the 4<sup>th</sup> year as Assistant RVP to Region 4.

My "iris" vitae include seven years as Region 4 Web Manager and RVP to Region 4. My love affair with Syrian Princess haunted me until I was President of the Aril Society International. I grow everything from Species to Tall Bearded and would love to do more hybridizing of species crosses.

Other passions have crept into my life. I write for both pleasure and work and have a fantasy blog online. I bought a new home which I am currently renovating as well as transplanting my entire collection of irises to the new property. I started learning to bonsai last year and am expanding my knowledge on that every day. The icing on the cake is my teaching others about irises.



**Autumn Twilight**  
33"/G. Brown, 1945



**Fall Empire**  
32"/Geo. Sutton, 2002



**Please welcome our new Secretary. . .**

## **Claire Schneider**

Claire joined the San Diego Iris Society (SDIS) around 2011. She served a couple terms as their vice president in charge of programs, a few terms as president, and was editor of the club newsletter from 2017 until 2020.

In 2016, Claire was elected to the AIS Board of Directors where she has served as recording secretary and since November of 2021, as the AIS secretary.

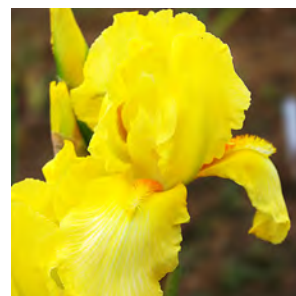
Like many people, Claire started with a couple of tall bearded irises from Home Depot. Over the next few years, she acquired hundreds more tall bearded iris plus dozens of intermediate and border bearded irises. Claire has about 50 Louisiana iris and more than 40 spuria iris. She also grows Pacific Coast iris, MTBs, thirty or more species and species crosses and, of course, arilbreds. In March 2022, Claire made her very first cross pollination attempt using an aril and an arilbred. Lo! There was a seed pod. Her next challenge is to get any of the seeds to sprout.

Claire's garden in San Diego County was one of three gardens on the Region 15 Spring Trek 2022.

**Photo Credits:** Replicator - B. Turner; Returning Fancy - Chapman; Rosalie Figge - R. Shadlow; Early Morning Rayz - R. Probst; Raspberry Frost - M. Platner



**Replicator**  
11", Tasco, 2006



**Returning Fancy**  
23", Chapman, 2020  
Not Registered



**Rosalie Figge**  
39", McKnew, 1993



**Early Morning Rayz**  
36", Toth, 2019



**Raspberry Frost**  
36", Geo. Sutton, 2001

## Extended bloom on Siberians in the Northwest, 2022.

Terry Aitken  
Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden  
Vancouver, WA

Photo Credits: Terry Aiken

My first experience with "extended" bloom on Siberians occurred in 2000. We were involved in an experiment to see if Japanese iris would cross with Siberians. Bloom times were about a month apart for JI's and Sib's, but I just happened to have one Siberian seedling blooming on its own time so it became part of the trial. Later, it got named "REDDY OR NOT". (unknown parentage) The SIB/JI experiment was a dud.

In 2003, we registered an intentional cross (REDDY OR NOT X HELLO YELLOW), now 'BURGUNDY FIREWORKS', which was showing signs of an extended season. This has proven to be our best extended bloom Siberian with virtually constant bloom all summer. (My records don't indicate when it stops)

A cautionary observation. Our weather in the NW may be a major factor. Siberians seem to provide typical bloom when the soil temperature is 60 degrees. Even though we get hot days in summer, our evenings are usually cool – maybe 60 degrees air temperature at night. (Ocean breezes) The extended bloom plants seem to tolerate warmer soil temperatures. A suggestion to growers in other parts of the country would be "Mulch and water heavily" and plant in shadier locations.

Since we see occasional summer bloom on 'HALEAKALA', we crossed that with 'BURGUNDY FIREWORKS'. The end product was 'MOONSTONE MARVEL' (2016), a light blue, which blooms for us constantly until early September. I don't know why it stops then when soils are cooling off? In 2019 we selected (MOONSTONE MARVEL X HALEAKALA), now 'CREAM OF THE CROP', which is



**Cream of the Crop**  
Siberian Rebloomer  
36"/Aitken, 2020



**Burgundy Fireworks**  
Siberian Rebloomer  
38"/Aitken, 2013





**Moonstone Marvel**  
Siberian Rebloomer  
30"/Aitken, 2017



**Haleakala**  
Siberian Rebloomer  
30"/M. Smith, 2006

an incredibly vigorous grower and also blooms until September. The last set of flowers are often about 6" off the ground.

Unrelated to these reblooming sibs, we discovered a strongly variegated Siberian growing in our row of CONCORD CRUSH. In the drive from my place, he has mountain springs (cool) and waters extensively while I do not get extended bloom on that plant. (I need to water more!)

Siberians typically thrive in the northern half of North America where soils are cooler. It would make sense – in southern areas – to plant in locations that give afternoon shade; mulch heavily; and water frequently.

From my perspective, I hear that Caesar's Brother can bloom in southern states so we will try crossing it with my northern "extended" bloom plants. I expect that C. B. can tolerate hot soils.

### Variegated Foliage in Siberians



## Eastern Area Director's Report

Mike Lockatell

Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina

**AIS Region:** Parts of region 4

### Cold Stifles Spring Bloom

Weather is always a wild card in Central Virginia each year. Above normal daytime temperatures surfaced in mid-February. Readings reached 70° F on 2/11 & 2/17 and 68°F on 2/16 & 2/18 driving early foliar growth on iris clumps. Flowering on Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB) rebloom varieties and seedlings was underway in early March. The other shoe would unfortunately would soon fall.

After a Saturday morning visit on March 12<sup>th</sup> by family, a sudden 1"-2" snowfall materialized in early afternoon. Overnight temperatures plunged to 19° F by the following morning. Flower buds on existing bloomstalks aborted and noticeable damage to tender iris foliage was soon detected. Another cold wave appeared in the metro Richmond area with early morning lows on 3/28 & 3/29 reaching 24° F. Damage had been done. Spring bloom in all bearded classes for both rebloom named varieties and bloom seedlings suffered.

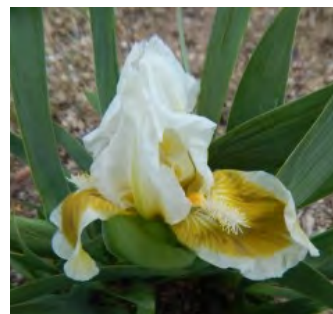
Flower quality and bud count was awful. Many named varieties and seedlings produced NO flowering this past spring. Little pollen was found on viable flowers to attempt cross pollinations. Many planned combinations will have to wait until more favorable conditions in 2023.

Despite the carnage, there are always a few pleasant surprises. A **SDB Re Rosalie Loving** (D. Spoon, 2003) seedling, **Lockatell SDB Seedling No.#21467** had an interesting pattern and set a few seed pods. **Lockatell TB Seedling No.# 21235A** was finally planted a year ago on a hunch. It was a good grower in my BP Market (North Chesterfield, VA) display bed; the bi-color bloomed on two tall bloomstalks. **TB Jurassic Park** (Lauer,

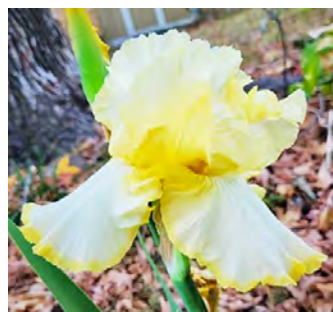
Photo Credit: Total Recall – Les Burgard



**Seedling 21235A**



**Seedling 21467**



**Total Recall**  
34"/Hager, 1992



1995) and **TB Sky King Returns** (Lauer, 2003) are in the pedigree and have rebloom genetics. This seedling developed two late June bloomstalks. Let's hope for a few more this fall.

SDB rebloom seedlings saw additional flowering in late May into early June for the second consecutive year. Is it delayed flowering or rebloom? Named varieties with June bloom at BP Market were **IB Re Constant Companion** (Marsh, 1995), **TB Total Recall** (Hager, 1992) and **TB Re Pink Attraction** (E. Hall, 1988).

The dog days of summer have arrived in Central Virginia. Heat and high humidity will drive weed growth and disease. We await cooler temperatures in September and perhaps abundant fall rebloom on both named varieties and promising seedlings.  
Garden



**Sky King Returns**  
39"/Lauer, 2003

Photo Credit: Blue J Iris



**Jurassic Park**  
33"/Lauer, 1995  
Photo Credit: Sergio, RUSSIA

## Central Area Director's Report

Ann Sinclair

Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, N. Dakota, and S. Dakota

**AIS Regions:** 18 and 21



**Keep Going**  
26"/Black, 2017

As the Director of the Central Division of the RIS, I will be welcoming the fall reports of your 2022 reblooming irises in your gardens. It will be interesting to learn of remontant irises from North and South Dakotas, Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa, and Kansas. From reading the winter publication of the "Recorder," it is easy to see that many growers and hybridizers in every district are avid fans of the fall iris shows!

Like many of you, your weather has been quite "un-normal" and erratic the past few months - warm one day, frigid the next, here in the southwest corner of Kansas. The lack of any beneficial moisture during the winter months was detrimental

to the irises' growth. Along with other areas, we are in a drought with spotty rains; temps 100 or more don't help. I have about 500 irises, with a mixture of reblooming ones mixed in with those that don't bloom again. It is a challenge to keep them all watered, especially in the winter months while waiting for the next possible snow that doesn't come.

Our normal fall blooming usually occurs in October, often after freeze weather has moved in. It is a challenge to

protect those emerging stalks, covering the entire clump or just the stalk. Finding workable

materials to do that is difficult. I have cut out the rhizome with a late bloom, put it in a pot of dirt and brought it into the house to continue developing. In the spring, I replanted the rhizome, usually starting a new clump. Do any of you have late bloomers to salvage? It will help others for you to share your techniques.



**Double Overtime**  
24"/Tasco, 2005



**Read My Mind**  
34"/T. Johnson, 2021

I look forward to receiving your fall reports! Until this fall....

Photo Credits: Keep Going – M. Platner

Double Overtime and Read My Mind – R. Probst

**Editor's Note:** The Winter 2022 Recorder and this one both featured articles about growing rebloomers in the Okanagan Valley. This article describes the area.

## **The Landscape in the Okanagan Valley Canada**

Richard Hebda

President British Columbia Iris Society



The southern Interior of British Columbia (BC), specifically the Okanagan valley is a paradise for iris growers. Southern BC, inland of the mass of the Coast and Cascade Mountains, consists of deep glacial north-south valleys separated by upland plateaus. Most of the people and towns are in the valley bottoms, particularly living near very large and long valley bottom lakes. This has been fruit country for more than century and developed into award-winning wine country in the past four decades. It attracts many summer tourists to its wonderful sandy beaches, fruit stands and wineries. The Canadian Okanagan is an extension of the Okanogan of Washington State to the south.

The landscape has moderate to steep valley sides, descending to terraces, locally called benches and ending in flat valley bottoms with gently rolling terrain surrounding the warm lakes. The natural vegetation includes semidesert sage brush, and cactus communities in the driest and hottest valley bottom sites ranging to dry grasslands and open Ponderosa pine forest on the lower slopes. Mid and upper slopes support various to open to closed conifer forests.

During a BC Iris Society tour in 2019 we saw wonderful iris displays such as those of Penny Santosham and Lesia Lalonde in Penticton. Amazingly, iris rhizomes that gardeners tossed over the fence had taken root and were established along roadsides and on road banks. These renegades are a clear demonstration that irises love the Okanagan.

Bearded Iris success in the region is directly tied to the dry climate. The southern part of the region is considered Canada's desert though it is not nearly as hot as US southwest deserts. Summers are relatively short (though not for Canadians) warm and dry. Winters are generally freezing, snowy and particularly cloudy in the valleys. July and August highs reach 29C (84F) on average and lows about 15C (59F). However hot days in the mid 30C (upper 80F) range are common, some sites reaching 40C (104F) or higher on rare occasions. The winters are relatively mild by Canadian standards with the mean daily high temperature reaching about 0C (32F) and the low down to -4C (25F). however really cold nights can dip below -20C (-4F).

Penticton's climate is dry having on average about 400 mm (15.8") of annual precipitation. February and March are dry and June is the wettest month followed by dry sunny days during the rest of the summer. Importantly when it comes to diseases, leaf spot and rhizome rot, a problem in the coast of BC, the relative humidity is low for much of the growing season. The driest season lasts for three and half months from the beginning of July to mid October.





Caption: A small part of Lesia and Gerry Lalonde's magnificent iris garden Penticton, British Columbia. The dry hills and open forest in background reflect the ideal moderate low humidity climate Of Canada's iris paradise. Photo Richard Hebda, May 2019.

Bottom line, the moderately mild and dry climate of the southern interior of British Columbia promotes healthy, mostly disease-free growth. Coupled with good feeding and care the result is a wonderful season of rebloom.



**Kristen Faith**  
35"/D. Spoon, 2007



**Rotunda**  
38"/Byers, 1991



**Oregon Firestorm**  
37"/Schreiners, 2021

Photo Credits: Kristen Faith – D. Langton    Rotunda and Oregon Firestorm – S. Addison



## Canada

### Sage Hill Farm and Gardens Penticton



Bill Dumont  
British Columbia Iris Society  
Board Member

Stunning views, brilliant irises and amiable hosts greeted BC Iris Society and local resident visitors at Sage Hill Farm and Gardens. Named after the gentle sage-covered hills on the property, it perches above the old Kettle Valley railbed and affords an idyllic setting for growing irises.

Relative newcomers to growing irises, Lesia and Gerry Lalonde have devoted several large beds to masses of irises near their house. Lesia began accumulating irises about 10 years ago but got serious about growing them only in the last five years. Through



*Lesia Lalonde with her Tall Bearded irises “Monmartre” and “Wine Dynasty” in the foreground*

purchases and several large donations from respected senior iris growers, the Lalondes have amassed an amazing array of all sorts from Standard Dwarfs to Tall Bearded (TB) and Siberians.

Tall bearded varieties from historic forms to modern ones put on a colourful display in several well-packed beds. Thoroughly weeded and well covered with bark mulch it seemed that not a flower was out of place or past. "Augustine's" (TB) peachy pink welcomed visitors from the bed nearest the entrance as did "Petticoat Shuffle" (TB). This area is called Penny's Bed derived from plants donated by BCIS director Penny Santosham when she moved from the wilds of Farleigh Lake into Penticton town.

Further along in a bed under a Russian olive tree pink and red-violet "Wench" (TB) showed off superbly. "Blueberry Bliss" (TB) dominated with its stunning and enormous mid blue flowers. Nearby the remarkably popular and streaky Royal Purple "Batik"



***Gerry and Lesia Lalonde with Ted Baker (Past president BCIS) on the right "Coral Caper" (Miniature Tall Bearded) puts on a great show at Gerry Lalonde's feet***

(Border Bearded) was in full show among many others. The upper end of this long and colourful bed is called Ted's Bed because it has many irises purchased from BCIS Past President Ted Baker's farm on Saltspring Island. At the opposite end is a mass of heritage irises brought to Lesia by heritage expert Jacquie McDonald. Among them I was transfixed by the stunning show of Adobe Rose (TB), peachy cream and rosy desert red; it gently warmed this part of the bed.

Other display areas ascend the gentle slope and steep bank to the house. Historic purple and white "Wabash" (TB) stole the show for many visitors and was with "Petticoat Shuffle" the most popular of all the irises in a write-in poll. "Maid of Orange" (Border Bearded) and the frilly "Montmartre" (TB) were the other two varieties that made the top three places.

Gerry and Lesia have renovated a bank rising steeply to the level of the house with many new irises among them including several Siberians and companion plants. In a year or two this area will also be full of brilliant colour. They plan to add more irises along and around their driveway as their next project. I can only imagine what a kaleidoscope of colour there will be in a few years on our next Okanagan tour. It's wonderful to see a newer garden developing so well and rising to replace those of our elder iris statesmen who have reduced their holdings. Let's hope even more folks get into the iris business. Lesia and Gerry's favourite irises for now include Dangerous Mood (TB), Wine Dynasty (TB), Maid of Orange and Mulled Wine (TB).



**Elderberry Pie**  
38"/M. Sutton, 2016



**July Yellow**  
30"/Chadwick+Warner  
2001



**Milk In My Coffee**  
36"/Blyth, 2015

**Photo Credits:** Elderberry Pie – R. Probst  
July Yellow – R. Shadlow  
Milk In My Coffee – M. Platner



## Southwest Guest Area Director

Claire Sinclair

Arizona, Southern California, Hawaii, and Nevada

**AIS Regions:** 14 and 15

This has been as challenging spring in the southwest. There was a week of above average temperatures in March (10 to 15 degrees above average) and another week of above average temperatures in April. *Ceanothus*, a native shrub of the southwest, usually blooms once a year in December or January. You might have seen it, shrubs

all covered with those

pretty, petite blue

flowers. This year, the *Ceanothus* bloomed twice in the San Diego area, once in December and again in April. Maybe they were confused by the two heat waves, thinking there were two springs. San Diego County received about half its normal rainfall this year. How did these temperatures and lack of precipitation affect the iris?



**Again and Again**  
36"/Ennerst, 1999

gardens were planted with tall bearded iris and spuria. We were disappointed that only about half of the iris clumps had flower stalks. We saw the same thing at the AIS national convention in Las Cruces in April of 2022, a dearth of flowers. Lack of rain and sharply fluctuating temperatures have reduced the bloom. We are hopeful, but aren't sure what we will see in terms of rebloom.

Photo Credits: Ann Marie Adams – R. Probst

Again and Again – E. Epperly

Sunshine on My Shoulders – S. Addison



**Ann Marie Adams**  
35"/Grumbine, 2008



**Sunshine on  
My Shoulders**  
34"/M. Sutton, 2008



## Northwest Region Director's Report

Delane H. Langton and Jane Tibbs

Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming

**AIS Regions:** 11, 12, 13, and 20



**Blackbird Stars**  
37"/H. Nichols, 2020



**Ruth Holbrook**  
36"/D. Spoon, 2014



**Renown**  
36"/Zurbrigg, 1992

My, what a strange iris season so far. Of course, they are all different. Winter came early in October for us, then the snow melted, and it was a mild, open winter with no snow cover at all...not good for iris! In January, we did garden cleanup in a t-shirt. In February, winter returned to Montana with a vengeance. Snow and COLD! Ultimately, with so many freeze/thaw cycles, it was hard on the iris, and we lost plenty. I noticed nice clumps of rebloomers that had been here three years plus that did not survive. The whole clump was rotten.

Our spring bloom season has been cool, wet, and late. We noticed that 60% of the iris chose to not bloom this year. We had lots of nights in the 28–32-degree range. I did have some luck hybridizing for cold zone rebloom. Lots of pods, so now we wait for them to mature. It's such a slow process. We have seedlings from 2018 and on, that we are watching for rebloom this fall. We have most of our rebloomers in a specific area so we can give them the extra water weekly after their first bloom. It worked quite well last year as we had 68 varieties rebloom in our Montana, zone 4b. We are hoping to better than that this year. This drives home the point to have your rebloom report handy and jot down your rebloom as they happen. We need the information to sort out rebloom by zone, as it is very frequently inquired about. "What reblooms in my zone?"

Photo Credits: Blackbird Stars – R. Probst    Ruth Holbrook – M. Platner    Renown – D. Langton

## Chemicals

Jim Hedgecock  
Comanche Acres Iris Garden  
Gower, Missouri  
Plant Zone 5

### Grass Control

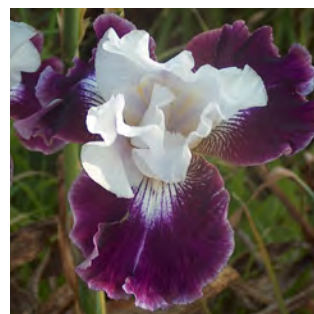
Grass is always a big problem. I recommend Fusilade DX for grass in irises. This spray can be applied over the top of your irises. It should be applied before the grass gets over 6 inches tall. We use a mix of 2 ounces into a 2½-gallon sprayer. This spray will not burn down the grass immediately. I saw perfect kill in two to three weeks. This chemical is considered a farm chemical and maybe a little harder to find unless you go online. You will not get a good kill if you wait until the grass has gone to seed or reached tall heights. Also, add about 2 ounces or so of spreader sticker to the mix to make the spray stick to the leaves. Be sure that rain is not forecast for at least 8 hours after spraying.

### Weed Control

Weeds are the thing to control in most gardens. I have been using Stinger for an over-the-top weed spray. We mix it 2 tablespoons into a 2-gallon sprayer. Also, use a spreader sticker just like you did with the Fusilade spray. Two or three ounces of spreader sticker is a good amount to use. If you don't want to buy a spreader sticker, a couple of ounces of dish soap will work just as well. It will take two or three weeks for a good burndown, but it worked well for me. Just as in the Fusilade spray application, if you wait until the weeds are much over 8 inches tall, the kill will not be as good. Stinger is also a farm chemical, and you probably won't find it in your local hardware or garden center.



**Early Morning Rayz**  
36"/Toth, R. 2016



**Carry On**  
36"/ Lauer, 2010



**Broken Border**  
36"/ Lauer, 2010

### Comments about Preen

I am going to go out on a limb here and tell you about Preen. I know that many of you are using it on your irises. I also know that you say it works well. You may not know that it builds up in your soil as you use it year after year. I know of iris people who used it several years in a row, and their beds would no longer grow irises. Every good grower in the US that sells irises will tell you not to use Preen on irises.



**Autumn Sunburst**  
38"/Aitken, 2010



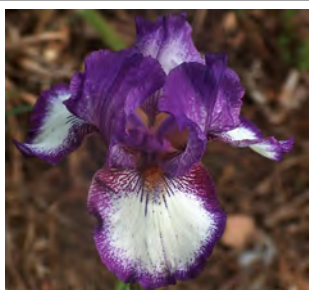
**Fall Decor**  
23"/ Geo. Sutton, deceased,  
by M. Sutton, 2016

### Handing Farm-Grade Sprays

Finally, I want to mention a few more things about these sprays. You might see some yellowing on the tips of some of the iris fans after spraying. This will probably be on individual varieties. Some will be just fine, and others may show the yellowing. I have not had any losses of which I am aware. Also, these are farm chemicals. Wear protective clothes like long sleeve shirts and certainly a good mask. Shower after using the spray. Also, I would not let my domestic animals out to run in the sprayed sections until the next day. Lastly, if you have rampant weeds and grass, it may take two years of spring spraying to get a good handle on the problem.

### Fertilizer

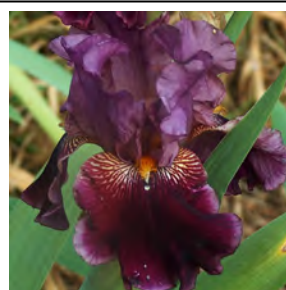
It is now time for you to be applying your spring fertilizer to your irises. We sell a light nitrogen blend of 6-24-24. A couple of other good mixes might be 5-10-10 and 6-12-12. Never use a high number blend like 20-10-10 or even 50-10-10. High nitrogen fertilizers will cause rot in your irises. We will honor our current fertilizer prices for one more week because of this newsletter. As we explained in the last newsletter our fertilizer supplier and the post office have had major rate increases, and we will have to raise our prices after next week. Order fertilizer and save today at [https://comancheacresiris.com/fertilizer\\_and\\_sprays](https://comancheacresiris.com/fertilizer_and_sprays).



**Autumn Joy**  
13"/Chapman, 2000



**Autumn Sunburst**  
38"/Aitken, 2014



**Autumn Wine**  
25"/Christopherson, 2003

**Photo Credits:** All photos by R. Probst



## Northeast Area Director's Report

Anita Moran

Pennsylvania; New York; Washington, D.C.; Delaware, Maryland north through Maine

**Regions:** 3, and parts of Regions 1, 2, and 4



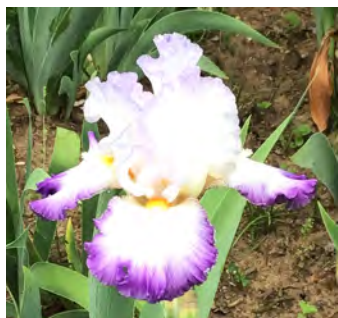
**Coconut Ruffles**

36"/L. Mann, 2018



**Molokini**

38"/M. Sutton, 2016



**Care to Dance**

36"/L. Mann, 2018

Hello, reblooming enthusiast! I am your area coordinator if you live in the part of AIS Region 1 which includes Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island; parts of AIS Region 2 including New York; Region 3 and Maryland, part of Region 4.

If you live in the Northeast Area, please contact me, [pilmore22@gmail.com](mailto:pilmore22@gmail.com), to request a data sheet or to send your rebloom report. The data form is also included in this edition as well as at [rebloomingiris.com](http://rebloomingiris.com).

The NE area is one of the most important areas for reporting bloom data for rebloomers. The northern rebloom report helps others with similar climates know what reblooms in their plant zone, too. There is nothing more disappointing than buying a rebloomer that never reblooms for you because your climate is too cold. In addition, please record your rebloomers which do NOT rebloom so others know which varieties are not suited for cold country.

By reporting rebloom in the northern areas, hybridizers can move to add these cold hardy rebloomers to their hybridizing plans.

I bet you never thought the information you provide could be so important! Your data will be published in the Winter 2023 Recorder as a source of information for all members. Each reporter will be given credit along with the report.

Please collect data from non-members, too, and add it to your report.

If you have any questions, please contact me with the **subject line "Rebloom."** Have a great fall **and send me that data!**

Photo Credits: Coconut Ruffles – D. Langton  
Molokini – M. Platner  
Care to Dance – S. Addison

## South Central Area Director's Report

Gailmae Suite

States: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

**AIS Regions:** 10, 17, and 22

North Central Texas had a very windy and chilly spring, so our blooming season started later than normal. Two of my iris societies, Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society (Cleburne, TX) and Lonestar Iris Society (Hico, TX), were able to have their shows, but not as many blooms were available to display.

In June our average temperatures are from 93 to 95, but already it's been closer to 99 to 105. We're in a severe drought so it's very important more than ever to water our reblooming irises at least once a week. I usually start watering around 5 AM and try to be done by 9 so the water has a chance to soak in before the heat of the day settles in.

Our local area has a long reblooming season, June to January, so it's very important to care for our reblooming irises all summer long.



**Fireball Candy**  
34"/D. Spoon, 2014



**Back Again**  
36"/D. Spoon, 2020



**Mammoth Orange**  
38"/M. Sutton, 2017



**Shocking Secret**  
37"/T. Johnson, 2022

Photo Credits:  
Fireball Candy – M. Platner  
Back Again – D. Langton  
Mammoth Orange –  
R. Probst  
Shocking Secret – R. Probst





**Constant Companion**  
18"/C. Marsh, 1995

Due to technical difficulties, the  
Reblooming Iris Society's Facebook  
page is now

**Reblooming Iris LOVERS**  
Please visit this page, make comments,  
and post photos.

**Many thanks!**

**Did you know.** . .if you want to see the details of a bloom, just enlarge the page. The photo will also increase in size. Some of you are more tech savvy and have software to unlock the pdf, including the photos in an edition.



**Heavenly Vision**  
36"/Schreiner, 1996

Photo Credits: Constant Companion – Debra Hamilton

Heavenly Vision – D. Langton



## Southeast Area Director's Report

Deb Mell

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, S. Carolina, and Tennessee

**AIS Regions:** 5, 7, and 24



**Golden Immortal**  
36"/Geo. Sutton, 1997

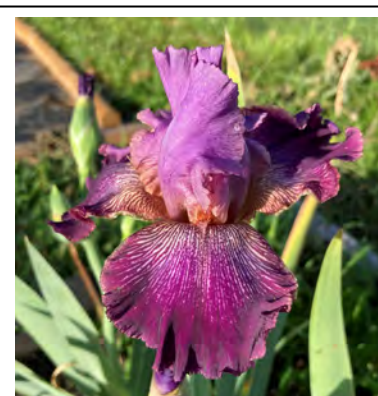
those seedlings, a Border Bearded, has been a consistent rebloomer, with maiden bloom in July 2019, then rebloom in October. Every year since then seedling 1704SK1907R has bloomed in April, July, and October, with the exception that this year's rebloom started June 16. The TB Golden Immortal's (G. Sutton, 1996) has just opened with blooms on Oxmoor Hills (Ennenga 2003) about to open (July 9, 2022).



**Feed Back**  
36"/Hager, 1983

The Southeast area had a very cool spring that led to late bloom, not peaking until mid-May. This was followed by torrents of rain bringing up the specter of fungal diseases. We were saved by the June sun and light breezes. Unfortunately, this has turned into a searing heat wave. In West Tennessee I am watering every other day. The good side of the heat after so much rain is that we are getting early rebloom. Two of us have June rebloom to report, including myself in Puryear, Tennessee (zone 7a) and Donita McDonald in Flowery Branch, Georgia (zone 7b/8a).

My grandson, Skyler Kervin, crossed Eternal Bliss with Dark Drama in 2017. One of



**Skyler's Seedling**

Donita McDonald reports June rebloom on TB Feed Back (Hager, 1983) and TB Many Happy Returns (Hager, 1987).

Hall of Germantown, Tennessee, zone 7B, reports that he had a lot of rebloom last fall and winter, with SDB Eric Simpson (D. Spoon 2011), SDB Tourist Trap (Black, 2017), and SDB Blue Hues (D. Spoon, 2010) blooming until the January 4, 2022 deep freeze.

I appreciate those who are recording bloom data for rebloomers this fall in this area.

Photo Credits: Golden Immortal and Skylar's Seedling – Deb Mell  
Feed Back – Rosemary Mead Trompeter

## North Central Area Director's Report

Bill Turner

Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, N. Dakota, and S. Dakota

**AIS Regions:** 18 and 21

Thinking about this year so far, I started out hoping the main growing season would be better than the intense heat and drought experienced last year. I live near Minneapolis, zone 4a. As I write (June 2022) this, we are building up to the intense heat of last year (more will arrive soon). but with a positive caveat of regular rains.

I have 15 known varieties of Reblooming Irises; so far 8 have bloomed, all of them being SDBs and MDBs. The Reblooming TBs are not even budding yet, which is disappointing as my other TBs have already bloomed. They are being fertilized and watered. If I don't see blooms from those TBs, I will have to move them to another location.

The Iris Society of Minnesota had its Early Show on May 28 and its Late Show was on June 11. There was a very large variety of Tall Bearded Irises being shown at both. I have not yet visited Northeast Minneapolis Municipal Iris Gardens, which has a lot of rebloomers, nor the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. These are the two largest gardens in the Minneapolis metro area to see what is blooming.



**Good Morning  
Beautiful**  
36"/Stanton, 2012



**Anxious**  
35"/Hager, 1992



**Afternoon Delight**  
36"/Ernst, 1985



**Autumn Circus**  
34"/Hager, 1990

Photo Credits: Good Morning Beautiful – M. Platner  
Afternoon Delight – Addison

Anxious – R. Probst  
Autumn Circus – G. Bacon

## Growing Iris Along the Gulf Coast

One of our members expressed frustration with growing any bearded irises along the Gulf Coast. The big issue was the combination of heat and high humidity. Since I live in Scottdale where it is very dry and very hot, I couldn't offer any suggestions.

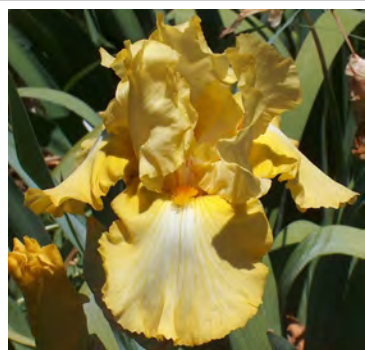
I asked for readers' suggestions on our Facebook page for the Reblooming Iris Society. Here is the assortment of comments that were posted.

### Virginia Spoon

When we were in Arizona we planted the bearded irises under the light shade of mesquite trees and they did well, but then there wasn't a lot of humidity either.



**Violet Miracle**  
40", Zurbrigg, 1979



**Corn Dance**  
36"/D. Spoon, 2008



**Immortality**  
30", Zurbrigg, 1982

**Betsy Pauzauskie's** reply to **Virginia Spoon**: I saw your post and must say Thank You for the selection of iris you sent in the Fall of 2021. I've had blooms on each variety, some at the end of 2021 and more in 2022! They are BEAUTIFUL! **Mary Soens Platner**, we live an hour and a half from the Gulf and an hour or so from Louisiana in Jasper, TX. I amended our soil with LOTS of compost and adjusted our normally quite acidic soil in the special iris bed we created prior to making the order. I sloped our big bed & fertilized too.

**Linda Mann**: some of the older ones - Immortality, Harvest of Memories, Violet Miracle...

**Virginia Spoon**: I have also heard that white gravel or rocks as a mulch work to keep the irises cool in hot areas.

**Debbie Fetner's** reply to **Virginia Spoon**: Not in Texas. Our temperatures are in the high 90's and low 100's over several months. Rocks retain heat like concrete and bricks do. Rocks are used as mulch here for desert plants .

**Debbie Fetner**: I'm in Central Texas and have no problem with them. I have seen posts on Iris Addicts Anonymous where folks in the coastal areas have a hard time growing bearded Iris. Louisiana's , iris dietes, and perhaps spurias would be my suggestion to try instead of bearded ones. Check with the local a society.



**The Garden Club of Houston has a small section on irises.**  
**<https://www.gchouston.org/product-category/bulbs-plants/iris/>**

**John Nicholas:** I would tackle the moisture first. There are some things to be done to mitigate the moisture. Extremely well drained soil. I would also shape the soil, to slope significantly away from the clump. We are taught to plant on a mound. Make the mound 5 - 10 inches high, not two or 3 inches. Keep them clean and check regularly for any rot. Smaller clumps would be easier and if you get soft rot in one, you don't risk as many. If the moisture is not humidity, but rain, you may consider putting in some type of draining system. Simple PEX tubing, or watering system tubing, to quickly remove the rain fall.

The Heat, Shade Works. Yes, our Iris need full Sun, but there heat that up fast and much higher than just heat. 100\* day and direct sun light shining on the plant can heat the water to 120 -130° Put up some temporary sun shades after bloom



**Harvest of Memories**  
38", Zurbrigg, 1985



**Bottle of Bliss**  
22"/ Blight, 2012

season, or even bloom season if the temps are approaching 95+, on sunny days. Worry about mid to late afternoon sun. I would try some cloth between a couple of simple stakes. One may cover a couple of clumps. You can take them down at sundown.

**Les Bur:** Heat and wet don't make for happy Iris. Here in OKLAHOMA we are having the same issue. With climate change it now rains at the wrong time of year and that's when its 90 out and the Iris get heat rot.

**Lisa Wilson:** Heat is not your problem. I'm in the Mojave Desert and I grow Iris. Sounds like moisture is your problem. Maybe try above ground gardening or pots w sand and soil that drains well.

**Les Bur's** reply to **Lisa Wilson:** it's the heat and the moisture combo

**Photo Credits:** Immortality – Addison  
Violet Fancy – Marguerite Brown  
Corn Dance – R. Probst  
Harvest of Memories – Schreiner's Iris Garden  
Bottle of Bliss – Kitty Loberg

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**Photo Credits:** Immortality – Addison  
Violet Fancy – Marguerite Brown  
Corn Dance – R. Probst  
Harvest of Memories – Schreiner's Iris Garden  
Bottle of Bliss – Kitty Loberg

I started reading old issues of the Reblooming Iris Society's Recorder. Initially the RIS publication was "The Reporter" of which there were seven issues. The publication changed its name to "Recorder" in 1972. This article was in the Recorder, v. 2, August 1972. The author, Raymond G. Smith, was RIS' Northern Director and was also a hybridizer with a commercial garden in Bloomington, IN.

Mary Platner, Editor

PREVENTING REBLOOM  
*Raymond G. Smith*

Any good grower of reblooming irises has learned many of the common ways of preventing irises from reblooming. They are exactly the ways that are frequently used to prevent regular irises from blooming, namely growing too long in the same soil, over-crowding, under-fertilizing, under-watering, under-cultivating, under-weeding, and competition with other plants. All these methods are widely known and widely practiced. But in an age that emphasizes minorities of all sorts, it seems appropriate to list some of the more exotic and therefore lesser understood and less widely practiced ways. If you are disturbed by splashes of color upsetting the nice even golds and browns of autumn, and long for the good old days when bloomstalks didn't appear when they weren't supposed to, then you may desire to adopt some of the following surefire gardening methods.

One of the best ways of preventing rebloom is to set seeds on every bloomstalk. Even letting bloomstalks and bee pods remain uncut may help a great deal. I really don't know why this is -- it really can't be sustenance requirements, for a single feeder root appears to be adequate to mature a pod of seeds. I have long suspected that it is because the maturing pod triggers an enzyme that inhibits flower bud formation. But it works with many varieties. Try it and you will like it!

Another effective method is over-fertilizing. Many people have discovered that too much nitrogen can persuade the plant to produce lush fans, susceptible to soft rot, but not everyone realizes that too much of the so-called safe fertilizers such as super phosphate can stunt plants and make them respond poorly. Fertilizing too soon after transplanting, before the roots have developed sufficiently to function well is often effective. Too much trace minerals often helps, perhaps because some minerals in over abundance lock up others in the soil. But whatever the reason, you can often succeed in preventing rebloom by over-feeding.

Another good method is over-watering. This is especially fine if you transplant in extremely hot weather, for you can often make the entire top and sometimes even the whole rhizome disappear. This has proven 100% effective in preventing rebloom. Actually irises, even rebloomers, don't seem to require nearly as much water as many



persons believe, and a heavy mulch will save water, save work, and frequently save the rhizome. It is interesting to speculate upon why lush-growing water-logged plants are as much more disease-prone. Perhaps it is because the enzymes that provide the plant with its natural disease barriers are much more diluted and consequently much less effective in this condition.

Transplanting itself can frequently serve to prevent rebloom. Certain varieties simply don't like to be transplanted. It takes them a couple of years to reestablish. Other sorts are stimulated by the transplanting process, and will send up dwarfish stalks and flowers within a couple of weeks of resetting and long before a good root system has been established. So careful transplanting can frequently solve your problems of too much bloom.

Another somewhat exotic method is that of carefully exposing the tops of all sizeable rhizomes in a clump. The sun apparently ripens exposed rhizomes and stimulates flower bud formation. Thus all rhizomes will bloom and the plant will bloom itself out.

The reverse method of rhizome exposure, and fully as effective, is that of mulching too deeply and too close to the rhizomes. Whenever a rhizome is covered, especially by compacted mulch or soil, it spends its energy in rising to the surface. It sends up a slender rootstalk up which the old rhizome climbs until it regains its proper level. Under these conditions it has neither time nor energy to expend in the nonsense of blooming.

There are certain varieties which, especially in dry weather, can become infested with borer and not succumb to rot. The pink larva hollows out a home in the rhizome; the fan, except for appearing rather dry and somewhat stunted, seems no worse for the experience. But the rhizome doesn't bloom.



Selecting the best time for transplanting is frequently a problem. Most rhizomes will live, regardless of the time of transplanting, but rebloomers prefer to be transplanted almost at the time that the last flower appears. If transplanting is done too late, fall bloom is not much inferior, but the plant does not get well established and spring bloom frequently suffers. Of course it is possible to transplant too early as well. If one cuts off the increases before the rhizomes

have a chance to become sufficiently sizeable to have a full complement of roots, the growth rate is substantially retarded. There just doesn't seem to be enough rhizome surface to provide new root buds.

One way that growers specializing in spring bloomers have found to hold back the rebloomers is to let the surface of their garden soil become compacted by the feet of many visitors. Perhaps it is the gardening of the soil. Perhaps it is the loss of moisture through rain runoff. Perhaps it is the loss of subsoil moisture by capillary action and evaporation. Perhaps it is the lack of aeration and its consequent effect on the growth of aerobic bacteria that supply sustenance to iris feeder roots. Most likely it is a combination of all of these. But whatever the cause, compacted garden soil effectively prevents rebloom.

Of course the reverse can also be very effective. Over cultivation resulting in too much soil turnover -- too much exposure to the sun, especially in dry weather can do the job for you. If you destroy too many feeder roots, the plant seems to go into shock resulting in the drying of the fans, beginning at the center, a sort of pseudo-scorch. If you leave such plants alone, they frequently snap out of it the next year and begin sending up tiny fans that thrive and appear to be none the worse for the experience, but you will have effectively killed a couple of years of bloom.

These, then, are some of the lesser known ways of coping with undesirable rebloom on irises. Perhaps a caveat is in order, for what works in my soil, climate, and growing conditions may not work in yours. Each person has to discover his unique ways of dealing with his special set of problems. My soil is hard, sticky clay, deposited over unglaciated beds of limestone. It is low in humus and low in sand. There is practically no winter snow cover in this section of Region 6 on the USDA Zone Hardiness Map (#814). Our winter temperatures frequently reach zero to 10 degrees and this means much freezing, thawing and heaving. My beds are on ground higher than the surrounding county area, but drainage is good. They have no protection from buildings, trees, or hills. We have an average of 180 frost-free growing days. So what works here may not work for you. But anyway, best of luck to you in preventing, or at least minimizing that nasty old rebloom!