

# THE REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

Summer 2023

*Journal of the Reblooming Iris Society*

Vol. 101

**John C. Wister Medal 2023**

**Congratulations, Howie!**



**Chihuahuan Desert**

**TB-Re/H. Dash, 2016**

(Reblooms in warm climates, e.g., California.)

# 2023 RIS Leadership

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**Blue Suede Shoes**

39"/Schreiner, 1996

Photo Credit: Evgenia Vlasova  
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**Evgenia Vlasova** (“Jenny Rainbow”) from Prague has graciously allowed us to publish more of her beautiful photography of historic rebloomers. Please remember that all of her images are copyright protected. Her photos are scattered throughout this edition.

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30"/L. Peterson, 1968

Photo Credit: Evgenia Vlasova  
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## Vice-President's Note

### Anita Moran

Many of us are looking forward to cooler weather and a great rebloom season as fall approaches. Rebloom has already started in cooler areas.

We are slowly leaving the sweltering part of the year where our poor irises are exposed to up to 118° F in some areas. After talking to our editor, I am glad to be in the Mid-Atlantic with all its humidity and with temps rarely go above 100°F thankfully.

In the middle of all this heat, many of us are working in our gardens in one capacity or another. We greatly appreciate coming in for a break to relax with the air conditioner on and drinking one or two glasses of water.

As we congratulate ourselves on our gardening efforts while working in the heat, one might hear a crack of lightning and the roar of thunder shaking the house. Some of us are experiencing far too much rain, and others far too little. As most of us repeatedly hear, It's a summer of extremes. If one's beds are on a slope, perhaps consider putting in a very short retaining wall to avoid soil washing away in the future.

With spring and summer bloom season behind us, it is time to switch our thinking to rebloom. In addition to enjoying your reblooming irises, please record when they do so. There is now a fillable PDF available that you can get from your Area Director or use the form in this newsletter. *(Note: Your area director and her email address are on the map near the front of this newsletter.)*

*The form will also be posted to our website to download, [www.rebloomingiris.com](http://www.rebloomingiris.com).*

After you send in your completed rebloom report at the end of the year, it will be published in our annual rebloom issue so others can see what should rebloom for them in the same plant zone.

Have a wonderful and bountiful rebloom season!



**Olympiad**  
38"/Ghio, 1984  
Photo: Evgenia Vlasova/Copyright

## Editor's Note

For many of us, this has been a rather strange year. The folks, who grew rhizomes for a cold climate, had a fantastic rebloom season. Most of the rest of us had no rebloom or minimum rebloom even with "reliable" rebloomers.

My rebloomers didn't show up in the fall and early winter. Although unpredictable as to which variety it will bloom, it usually starts reblooming in late October. This time, one started to bloom in late December. After that, a few started blooming in Jan. through March. I wasn't sure if it was a rebloom or spring bloom.

As time went by, the blooms faded away. After five or six weeks, some of the varieties started to bloom again. I concluded that the late winter blossoms were a very late rebloom.

I live in the Phoenix area with temps over 110 degrees almost every day for the last three months. When it was over 110, it was "only" 107 or 108 degrees. To top this blazing heat, there was literally no rain for that time too. Thank goodness for irrigation! BUT many of the irrigation emitters failed, especially for my few trees. I was gone for four days only to return home to find our two grapefruit trees were severely stressed for lack of water. It happened so fast with the really hot temps. Although I immediately put a relatively slow drip from a hose, they lost a third of their branches. Those two trees now look mutated.

Hopefully, the garden and trees will remember their routine come this October.

Cheers,

Mary Platner

Cell: 480-540-6824

### **Shipshape**

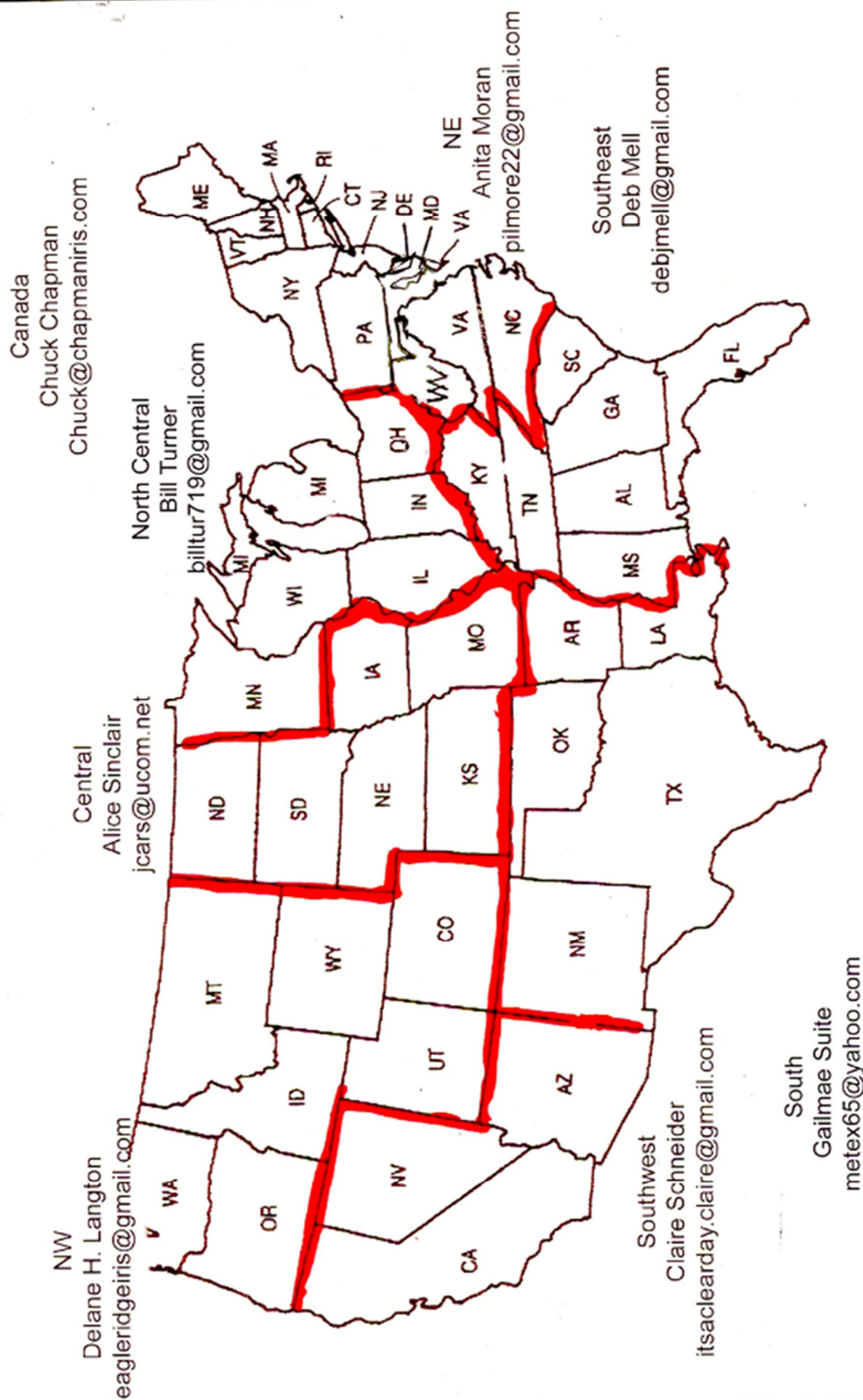
**Dykes Medal 1974**

38"/Babson, 1969

Photo: Evgenia Vlasova/Copyright 2023



## Map of Areas and Their Directors







**Stellar Lights**

38"/Aitken, 1986

Photo: Evgeniya Vlasova, copyright 2023

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Please. . .

Much appreciated!

## 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  
Rose Kinnard  
1649 Madison, #504  
Fredericktown, MO 63645-8303

Please print:

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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**Please E-mail complete report to your area director see Page 5**



## Northwest Area Director's Report

### Delane Langton

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

After a normal winter here in Billings, Montana, we had a fantastic bloom where probably 95% bloomed. We've had above normal precipitation and are still 4-inch ahead of normal. Keep in mind we only get 14-inches of rain in a normal year in our Montana plant zone 4b.

Our rebloom started a bit earlier this year when Autumn Jester bloomed June 19<sup>th</sup>. Usually this happens just after July 4<sup>th</sup>. July was dry, and so far August is just a bit better. Temperatures have been very normal with just two days of 101°.

We already had 53 varieties (early Aug.) rebloom and hope to exceed our record of 106 last year. This is despite our not being able to keep extra water on our rebloomers thru July and August. But rebloom remains strong.

Lots of the rebloom is coming from two long new rows of recently added rebloomers. I think the best advice for more rebloom is to divide the clump every two years as many rebloomers are growing twice as fast than the spring-only irises.



**Colette Thurille**  
34"/Jean Cayeux, 1990  
Photo Credit: Evgeniya Vlasova  
Copyright 2023

## Northeastern Area Director's Report

### Anita Moran

Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Well, it's closing in on August but so far no rebloom has been reported. I sent the new fillable PDF to all the RIS members in my region in hopes of increasing the response of rebloom re-

ports in the North East US and the Mid-Atlantic.

Many people are digging, planting, weeding or all of the above trying to keep up with the demands of Mother Nature and our various iris responsibility. I dug for my local affiliate sale, the irises I am sending to Montana for the 2025 National Convention, and for the Dwarf Iris Society Sale. I like many, have weeds the size of skyscrapers and am working to clean them up.

For rebloom I had one so far this year. Seedling 11JLrI04 blooms very early in the spring unlike her other reblooming siblings. The first week in June she decided two rebloom siblings. Not a particular great iris with yellow and a pale incomplete red spot, but I will keep it for now because of it stalks of 4+ buds which open in sequence and

except for the lowest and they are away from the stalk. Only future crosses will determine if it becomes compost.

I cannot wait to get reports from others in the NE region and pass on the news of what is reblooming here.

#### Photo Credits:

Golden Panther - Anita Moran

Vintage Charm – Carolyn Honnette



**SDLG 11JLrI04**

Anita Moran



**Golden Panther**

**Dykes Medal 2009**

**Wister Medal 2006**



**Vintage Charm**

32"/Schreiner, 2018

# Plant Zones in Canada and the United States

**Mary Platner**

When I first began growing iris, I didn't know there was such a thing as "plant zones." Luckily for me, ignorance was ok because I live in the Phoenix area where most irises grow if they can survive the heat. Freeze is not an issue.

I ultimately figured out that I lived in plant zone 9b. But then I discovered that Southern California was also 9b. Boy, was I confused! I then investigated how plant zones were determined. The US Department of Agriculture uses the lowest temperature to calculate the plant zones, which is so simplistic, far too much so!

Temps in San Diego and LA are extremely different than in Phoenix. This has been a year of extremes. Phoenix temperatures for the entire month of July were over 110° with 14 days over 115°! My irises, which were planted near the sidewalk, have suffered even more since the sidewalk temperature is around 180°. I stupidly ran bare-foot to my car, which was parked just outside my garage, only to suffer a slight burn on my soles. That was a lesson quickly learned!

As the editor of this publication, I wanted to connect with Canada. I quickly discovered that the Canadian system of plant zones is very different than ours and much more sophisticated.



**Fiesta Time**

35"/Schreiner, 1986

Photo Credit: Evgenia Vlasova, Copyright 2023



This website, <https://earthundaunted.com/the-differences-between-us-and-canadian-plant-hardiness-zones/>, clearly details how Canada and the United States calculate plant zones and how they differ. The information is well presented so I am not going to paraphrase it. And “yes,” the US has plant zones 9a, 9b, and 10, all of which Canada doesn’t have. Quotation marks aren’t included.

## **The Difference Between US and Canadian Plant Hardiness Zones**

**Erin Alladin**

Jan. 30, 2022

The United States and Canada each use plant hardiness zones that are similarly labelled with numbers and letters, but the two systems are not the same and they cannot be used interchangeably. The Canadian plant hardiness zones, which range from 0a to 9a, are determined by a variety of climatic conditions, including rainfall, frost-free periods, maximum snow depth, and more. The American zones published by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) range from 0a to 13b and are based on the average lowest temperatures experienced in a region each year. . .

### **What are plant hardiness zones?**

Plant hardiness zones are geographic areas that are divided based on their climate conditions for the purpose of easily identifying which plants will thrive there. For example, an apple tree that is hardy to zone 3a can be expected to survive an average winter in zones *as low as* (but also higher than) 3a.

In regions where heat is the limiting factor rather than cold, heat zone maps are a useful alternate tool.



**Prince of Earl**

32"/Moore, 1989

Photo Credit: C. Honnette

## Canada's Plant Hardiness Zones

Canada's plant hardiness map is maintained by National Resources Canada. First developed in the 1960s for trees and shrubs, it has been updated several times and now combines a range of climatic information for a sophisticated measure of climate suitability for plants in general. The seven variables used to calculate a Canadian plant hardiness zone are:

- For the coldest month of the year, the monthly average of the daily minimum temperatures.
- For the warmest month of the year, the monthly average of the daily maximum temperatures
- The average frost-free period (that is, the number of days for which temperatures stay above 0°C)
- The amount of rainfall from June to November
- "Winter factor," a calculation concerned with temperature and precipitation in January
- Maximum snow depth
- Maximum wind gust in 30 years

## Plant Hardiness Zones in the United States

The USDA system of plant hardiness zones is based on extreme minimum temperature. That is, it is based on the lowest temperature each region experiences in an average winter. The straightforward scale climbs by 10°F per number, with the letters a and b representing 5° subdivisions within that increment. For example, the coldest winter temperatures experienced in an average year in zone 4a range from -30°F to -25°F, whereas in zone 4b they range from -25°F to -20°F.

### Photo Credits:

Wizard of Hope – C. Chapman

Antsy – Les Bur

Reincarnation – Steve Addison



**Wizard of Hope**  
14"/Chapman, 2001



**Antsy**  
14"/T. Johnson, 2017



**Reincarnation**  
37"/M. Byers, 1989



## What USDA zones are in Canada?

I've taken data for the following chart of temperature conversions from the USDA and Natural Resources Canada websites respectively. In order to show at a glance where the two countries have overlapping climates, I've left blank rows in the Celcius (Canada) or Fahrenheit (United States) column for zones that each government did not deem useful to include for its citizens.

Canadian and USDA zones cannot be meaningfully compared except by specific locations, so I have included examples of Canadian locations. Note that two Canadian cities with the same USDA zone might have different Canadian zones based on other climate factors. I have illustrated that by showing two different locations wherever I could confidently identify them using the maps Natural Resources Canada has made available. (Note: Please see the table at the end of this article.)

## Which is colder, a or b?

In both plant hardiness scales, a is colder than b. Since the numbers begin at 0 for the coldest zone and increase from there, 5a is colder than 5b. In the US system, which uses a simple scale based on ten degrees Fahrenheit per number, the letters each represent five degrees of difference.



**Roney's Encore**  
33"/D. Spoon, 1997



**Re-Enactment**  
35"/Roberts, 2013



**Queen Dorothy**  
30"/E. Hall, 1984

### Photo Credits:

Roney's Encore – Ripple Effect Iris Farm

Re-Enactment – D. Langton

Queen Dorothy – Tina Muller





**Stellar Lights**

38"/Aitken, 1986

Photo Credit: Evgenia Vlasova,  
Copyright 2023

## How do I use plant hardiness zones?

You can often find out your zone by typing your location into Google with the words "plant hardiness zone." If not, you can visit your country's official map at National Resources Canada or the USDA.

When plant companies sell perennial or biennial plants—anything that needs to survive at least one winter—they include information about what zone that plant is hardy to. If you are in zone 5b, you can grow plants that are hardy to zone 5b, or to any number smaller than that. That's because a plant that can survive a zone 2a winter, for example, can definitely survive yours in warmer zone 5b.

Often, growers in cold climates grow plants as annuals (plants that only live one year) when they are not hardy enough to survive the winter. As long as the plant matures enough for you to enjoy it within one growing season, you can still plant it for the summer and either move it indoors for winter or let it die and replace it the next year.

## Sources

National Resources Canada. "Plant Hardiness of Canada." Accessed on January 30, 2022 at <http://planthardiness.gc.ca/>  
United States Department of Agriculture. "USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map." Accessed on January 30, 2022 at <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/Plantmaps>. "Ontario Plant Hardiness Zone." Accessed on January 30, 2022 at <https://www.plantmaps.com/interactive-ontario-plant-zone-hardiness-map.php>

USDA Zone	Extreme Min. Temp. °F	Extreme Min. Temp. °C	Sample Canadian Locations in That USDA Zone	Location's Canadian Zone
0	NA	<-51.1	Extreme North, Island	0a
1a	-60 to -55	-51.1 to 48.3	Alert, Nunavut	0a
1b	-55 to -50	-48.3 to -45.5	Gjoa Haven, Nunavut	0a
2a	-50 to -45	-45.5 to -42.8	Whitehorse, Yukon Cambridge Bay, Nunavut	0b 0a
2b	-45 to -40	-42.7 to -40.0	LaLoche, Saskatchewan Hay River, Northwest Territories	2b 1a
3a	-40 to -35	-39.9 to -37.3	Fort McMurray, Alberta Kuujuaq, Quebec	3a 0a
3b	-35 to -30	-37.2 to -34.5	Edmonton, Alberta Winnipeg, Manitoba	3b 3b
4a	-30 to -25	-34.4 to -31.7	Prince George, British Columbia Calgary, Alberta	4b 4a
4b	-25 to -20	-31.6 to 28.9	Fredericton, New Brunswick Ottawa, Ontario	5a 5b
5a	-20 to -15	-28.8 to -26.2	Corner Brook, Newfoundland Barrie, Ontario	5a 5b
5b	-15 to -10	-26.1 to -23.4	Toronto, Ontario Charlottetown, Prince Edwards Island	6a 5b
6a	-10 to -5	-23.3 to -20.6	Halifax, Nova Scotia London, Ontario	6b 6a
6b	-5 to 0	-20.5 to -17.8	Yarmouth, Nova Scotia Windsor, Ontario	6b 7a
7a	0 to 5	-17.7 to -15.0	Kelowna, British Columbia	6a
7b	5 to 10	-14.9 to -12.3	Penticton, British Columbia	6a
8a	10 to 15	-12.2 to -9.5	Prince Rupert, British Columbia	8a
8b	15 to 20	-9.4 to -6.7	Vancouver, British Columbia	8b
9a	20 to 25	-6.6 to -3.9	Victoria, British Columbia	9a
9b	25 to 30	NA	NA	

## Southwest Area Director's Report

**Claire Schneider**

Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada

It has been a hot summer. According to accuweather.com, the average temperature in July for Grass Valley, CA is 88°. However, this year there were 15 days with temperatures over that average, with one day reaching 99° F.

The average high temperature in July for Prescott, AZ is also 88° F. However, this year, there were 30 days with temperatures above that average and two days recorded at 103° F.

The average high temperature for July in Riverside, CA is 94° F. This year, there were 23 days with temperatures above that average. Four days were recorded at 104° F.

In Phoenix, AZ the average temperature for July is 106° F. In July 2023, EVERY day was above that average. Three days recorded at 119° and four days at 118° F.

In Ramona, CA, my hometown, the average temperature for July is 89° F. In July 2023, there were 26 days over the average temperature, with four days over 100° F.



Arilbred irises in the ground for one year.

*Iris Gramineae*



Median irises in the ground for two or three years. Notice the brown tips on the leaves.

This year, 2023, has been a very hot year. The question is, how much, if any, has the heat hurt the iris rebloom? In my gardens located in central San Diego County, it is the median irises that have been reblooming, 'Crimson King', 'Precious Little Pink', 'Low Ho Silver', and 'Sixteen Candles'. The registered RE irises from Monty Byers have always been reliable rebloomers in my gardens.





Rebloom of  
*Iris graminea*

A big surprise in July was seeing a huge bloom stalk on 'Eerie Encounter', an arilbred iris. It is registered as a rebloomer, but usually the rebloom stalks are smaller than the early spring stalks. The July stalk on 'Eerie Encounter' was huge, six flowers. Another arilbred reblooming in July was 'Hakuna Matata'. So far, 'Lucky Doris' has been the only tall bearded that has rebloomed this year. But it's early.

Most of the rebloom in my garden occurs in autumn and early winter.

This year for the first time, *Iris graminea* rebloomed. And for good measure, as if I wasn't paying attention, it rebloomed twice. Once in May and again in June. Both times, it set seed pods. Its first bloom usually is in February or early March.



**Crimson King**  
IB-Re/Barr+Sons, 1893

How has the heat affected the health of the iris plants? I try to be careful about watering and fertilizing the iris during the summer. All watering is done in the early morning or after sunset. My irises are irrigated using black pipe with 1-to-10 gallon per minute emitters set every 12 to 16 inches. The irrigation in each garden is controlled by a mechanical timer which I set by hand. This way, I can choose the length of time to water, the time of day, and on which days. In all heat, I set most of the black pipelines to run 60 minutes every three or four days. The point here, with all the heat and careful attention to the watering, I haven't seen much rot in the rhizomes. Most of the leaves have brown tips, but that is probably more to do with the calcium-rich well water than the heat.

As I am writing this, Hurricane Hilary is scheduled to arrive at my property in 12 hours. It will be interesting to see if the predicted six inches of rain will prompt a reblooming frenzy. Or if the 50 mph winds topple everything, making rebloom just a wish.



**Precious Little Pink**  
15 "/Byers by Dickey,

Photo Credits:

*Iris graminea* – Claire Schneider  
Crimson King – Francine Cheswick  
Precious Little Pink - Blue J Iris

## **Southern Area Director's Report**

### **Gailmae C. Suite**

Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

For the north central Texas area, our reblooming season doesn't start until late June or early July. In my own garden, my first rebloomers usually start to put up budstalks in September. This year they seem to have gotten an early start.

I began receiving bloom reports in May. Then I decided I needed to take a closer look at my own garden and discovered two rebloomers with budstalks on them. So far, I have good rebloomer reports from all three iris societies that I attend each month. These include the Lonestar Iris Society, the Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society, and the Fort Worth Iris Society.

With the 100+ degree temperatures, many plants have slowed down, but I am looking forward to seeing how many rebloomers there are in our area once the temperatures start to cool down in late September or early October.



**Lady Emma  
And Double Your Fun**



**Corn Harvest**  
30"/Wyatt, 1977



**Interstellar**  
33"/Mike Sutton, 2016



**Radagast's Loving Rabbit**  
12"/Moran, 2022

#### **Photo Credits:**

Lady Emma and . . . - Delane Langton

Corn Harvest – Carolyn Honnette

Interstellar – Mike Sutton

Radagast's Loving Rabbit – Anita Moran

## **Southeastern Area Report**

**Director: Deb Mell**, debjmell@gmail.com

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

The SE area was hit hard by late frosts in spring, 2023. Many shrubs didn't survive, as they were already leafed out and blooming. Iris survived surprisingly well but spring bloom resulted in stunted and slender bloom stalks. June was much hotter earlier than normal, while July has been wet.

I had no reports of rebloom other than my own, with the exception of Linda Mann in East Tennessee who had a seedling with maiden bloom in June out of sequence (no spring bloom). Donita McDonald in Georgia reported no rebloom. Scott Hall in SE Tennessee dug all his iris before they could rebloom.



**Golden Immortal**  
30"/G. Sutton, 2000

Bolder Boulder (Magee 1999) started off my summer rebloom in West Tennessee after just a three-week break from the spring bloom, starting May 28 and blooming until June 15. The next to rebloom was Return To Sender (Ghio 2000), from June 17 to July 21. A TB seedling (Pure As Gold x Mariposa Skies) started rebloom June 21 and ended July 3. This seedling had good spring bloom and also had rebloom last fall. Four of its siblings have shown fall rebloom. Golden Immortal (G. Sutton) rebloomed from June 24 to July 23. Another seedling, this one an SDB from an Autumn Jester bee pod, put up two rebloom stalks from July 18-28. This is the second seedling from this cross to have rebloom. The final TB to start rebloom this summer is Oxmoor Hills (Ennenga 2003), starting to rebloom on July 25 and continuing at this writing. I don't expect more rebloom, with the exception of the possibility of fall bloom on seedlings, since I dug my rebloom bed last week, leaving Oxmoor Hills because it had stalks.



**Bolder Boulder**  
30"/Magee, 2000



**Eramosa Pepper**  
8"/Chapman, 2020

Photo Credits:  
Bolder Boulder – Tina Muller  
Golden Immortal – Deb Mell  
Eramosa Pepper – Chuck Chapman



**Don Spoon**  
**1939 – 2023**



**Editor's Note:** Don passed away in his sleep on August 12, 2023. His ashes will be mixed with the soil he so loved. Don was one of the great hybridizers and introduced many rebloomers. He was awarded the American Iris Society's Hybridizer Award in 2019. This medal "is awarded to persons who have produced new iris varieties of exceptional merit deserving of special recognition." Don introduced Daughter of Stars, a rebloomer, in 2001 and was awarded the Wister Medal (tall bearded irises) in 2007. His garden,

Winterberry Iris Garden in Northern Virginia, and many other commercial gardens offer a wide array of Don's varieties.

**Don, My Mentor and Friend**

**By Anita Moran**

On an unusually cold morning, I stepped off a bus to be greeted by a happy man holding a pitchfork walking stick and guiding us to a wanderlust of irises planted on the Blandy Experimental Farm. That was my introduction to Don Spoon.

From the first time I visited Winterberry Iris Garden in Northern Virginia at the 2003 AIS National Convention, I was drawn to how simple Don Spoon made hybridizing irises sound. I made my first crosses that year.

My travel plans usually included Winterberry Garden as a destination. Don and Ginny welcomed me nearly every year. Many times when I arrived, Don would be hybridizing and allowed me to ask him so many questions which he answered patiently. Questions like: Why make that cross? Why are close crosses important?

To give Don a break from my questions or to give my brain a rest, not sure which, Ginny took me on a tour of the gardens and taught me how to differentiate between seedlings. It took a while for me to be confident enough that my "Voldy's Mink" was indeed worth introduction in 2012.



**Daughter of Stars**  
**Wister Medal 2007**  
TB/D. Spoon, 2001



**Don at work on his rock retaining wall.**

With both Don's and Ginny's help, I was pleased with the dwarfs I was producing. I remember both Don and Ginny speculating about the best way to get a brown iris, a color that I loved. Don told me that crossing a yellow against a good purple was the key to getting the brown iris. So I took Voldy's Mink's sibling (a yellow and red spotted seedling) and crossed it with Panther (Smith 2004) which resulted in Ginny's Chocolate. Tall Bearded crosses continued to escape me which was the reason I limited myself on what Tall Bearded that I crossed.

Don frequently said there was always a cross waiting to happen, that I just had to find the parents. One year while I was unable to travel, I made tall bearded crosses, following what Don had taught me. I picked the best in my

garden to make crosses and remembered Don's advice that outcrosses were as important as close crosses. Winterberry (D. Spoon, 2007), Haunted Heart (Keppel, 2010), Tobacco Chew (Burseen, 2008), and Daughter Of Stars (D. Spoon 2001) were some of my favorite Tall Bearded irises to make crosses with.

I suddenly realized that I was beginning to understand what Don was saying. Don gave his time, talents, and knowledge to many others. This generous, knowledgeable man invited everyone to come to his garden. While they visited, he passed his vast knowledge to those willing to listen.

The loss of Don Spoon is a loss to the iris world. I understand this, but for me and many others, he was a father, a mentor, and a friend. There is a hole that can never be filled though I know he is in a better place. I will forever dream about those walks through Don's garden and his advice about seedlings. I will miss his funny antics as he rushed from one place to the next. Mostly I will miss talking with my friend knowing there will never be enough time.



**Fireball Candy**

34"/D. Spoon, 2014

Photo credits: Ginny Spoon  
Fireball Candy – M. Platner





**Forever Blue**  
12"/C. Chapman, 1997



**Eternal Summer**  
20"/C. Chapman, 2012



**Forever Royal**  
16"/C. Chapman, 2014

## Canada Report

**Director: Chuck Chapman, [chuck@chapmaniris.com](mailto:chuck@chapmaniris.com)**

So far, the garden season has been interesting in my agricultural zone 4a garden in southern Ontario. Re-bloom started June 13th with Eramosa Peeper, a true MDB from Forever Blue X species I. pumilla. This was shortly followed by several others: Forever Blue and Forever Royal and several weeks later by Returning Fancy and Eternal Summer.

TB peak bloom for me was about June 13th. It was very nice to see such an early start to the rebloom season.

As of late July, rebloom reports from the Canadian Prairies are already coming in. This central area along the US/Canadian border has several active iris communities.

June was very dry and hot. We had about a week and a half with temperatures in the mid-30's C (90's F). July temperatures have backed off with regular rain during a time when we usually are very dry.

Already getting rebloom reports from Canadian Prairies, where there are several active iris communities.



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Photo Credits: C. Chapman





**Vintage Charm**  
32"/Schreiner, 2018



**On Deck**  
33"/Schreiner, 2017

## Central Area Director's Report Alice Sinclair

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

Hello, to all of you in areas of the Reblooming Iris Society. As fall approaches, we may be paying more attention to the reblooming irises than usual. In the southwest area of Kansas, our weather patterns are difficult to report, as it seems there isn't any reliable pattern. Our lengthy drought was temporarily interrupted by welcome rains in most areas, thankfully. The entire large area, as many of you know, is green everywhere, replacing what has been brown. However, along with desirable greens is the explosion of weeds, which must be dealt with again and again. Perhaps this isn't the case where you live.

Becoming old doesn't mean that a person can't learn new things. A few weeks ago, Schreiner's sent an email article on the care of reblooming irises. I have known that more summer watering is needed for them to have better chances of blooming again, but I didn't realize that they should be divided more frequently than other irises – every 2 to 3 years instead of 3 to 5 years for spring only blooming varieties. Their reasoning is that the plant will start converting its energy into multiplying instead of blooming again. Also, fertilizing after spring bloom is recommended. Probably most or all of you have followed these guides. Maybe that's why I have less fall colors, since I haven't been that diligent in these steps!

Schreiners listed some of their best rebloomers: On Deck, Rock Star, Total Recall, Vintage Charm, Get Back, Sugar Blues, Oregon Firestorm, and others. These surely are newer than the ones I have. My favorite one is

"Cantina," (Byers '90) that I ordered in 2017 from Sutton's, which has even bloomed in July! More reliable are older, such as: Double Shot, Corn Harvest, Millionaire, Again and Again, etc.

I have found that Sutton's focuses on reblooming irises more than other hybridizers.

Here's hoping that you all have wonderful blooming irises this fall! Central Area people, send your rebloom reports to me. Thanks!

Photo Credits:  
Vintage Charm – Carolyn Honnette  
On Deck – Larry Lauer  
Rock Star – Nola's Iris Garden



**Rock Star**  
30"/Byers, 1991

## Hybridizing for Rebloom: Part One – Generation One First Bloom

Anita Moran



**Above the Rim**

34"/Mike Sutton, 2011

For the most part, I am a median hybridizer with an occasional tall bearded crossing in the mix. That was before 2020 and the lockdown struck. This will be a three-part series of the results of purposeful rebloom crosses. The reasons for the crosses were to improve the form of reblooming tall bearded iris.

Mike Sutton has brought many wonderfully formed rebloomers to the market which inspired me to try. Two favorites are 'Above the Rim' (M. Sutton, 2011) and the 2019 Dykes Medal Winner 'Bottle Rocket' (M. Sutton, 2010), before these wonderful irises was 'Daughter of Stars' (D. Spoon, 2001). I was hoping to keep away from more white, yellow, and purple irises while improving the form.

I wanted to bring in other bloodlines to work with since I was stuck at home and able to make tall bearded crosses. I chose two of the most reliable rebloomers for me, 'Autumn Sunrise' (G. Spoon, 2007) and 'Mango Parfait' (D. Spoon, 2009). Although they had acceptable form, they were both reliable rebloomers here in USDA zone 6-7 and able to withstand the damaging freeze/thaw cycles of the Mid-Atlantic.



**Mango Parfait**

33"/D. Spoon, 2009



**SDLG 20MPas02**

Anita Moran



**SDLG 20ASbt03**

Anita Moran

My first cross was to cross to each other and reverse the cross to maximize the rebloom potential. I then wanted to do crosses using some of my favorite non-reblooming irises. These irises included 'Break Tradition' (T. Johnson, 2018), 'Desert Moth' (K. Keppel, 2012), 'Don't Doubt Dalton' (T. Burseen, 2015), 'High Desert' (K. Keppel, 2015), and 'Smack Attack' (H. Stout, 2019). These irises gave me a broad gene pool and none had rebloom in the first three generations.

Photo Credits:

Above the Rim – Sutton Iris Garden

Mango Parfait – Anita Moran

Seedlings—Anita Moran





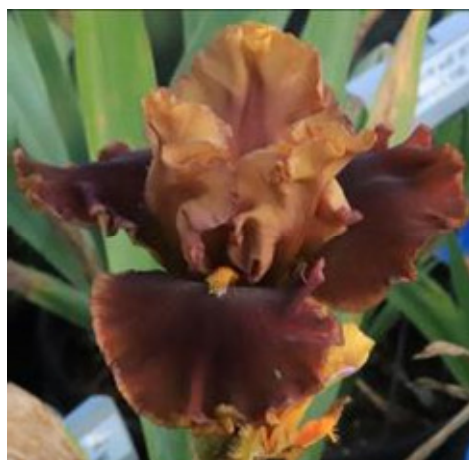
**Autumn Sunrise**  
34"/G. Spoon, 2007

The 'Autumn Sunrise' X 'Mango Parfait' cross produced average seedlings similar to both parents. The reverse cross also produced average seedlings, but one seedling (20MPas02) stood out with various shades of pink, very good form and interior edging. This seedling's first bloom stalk was an improved bud count of 9-10 buds. Two of each cross were destroyed because of poor performance. The cross with 'Autumn Sunrise' X 'Break Tradition' produced two very nice seedlings one a raspberry with a zonal pattern (20ASbt03) and eight buds on its maiden bloom. The second seedling (20ASbt01) unfortunately was a neglecta (a color class in which both the standards and falls are the same color, but the standards are of a lighter hue) but with a very nice form and stalk. These were the only two crosses where the reblooming parent was the pod parent. For the remaining crosses only 'Autumn Sunrise' was used and only as a pollen parent.

The widest variation of seedlings was the cross of 'Desert Moth' X 'Autumn Sunrise'. The first seedling to bloom in this cross (20DMas01) was a peach like the seedling 20MPas02, the with light violet shoulders and a thick orange beard. The seedling 20DMas02 was similar but the colors were softer and the form cleaner. A color change happened with the third seedling (20DMas03) in that it was a light pink with rose flush and multicolored beard. This seedling's falls were dog ears and for me detracted from the overall form. The fourth seedling (20DMas04) was a bitoned mahogany nice thick orange beard and nice flaring falls



**Desert Moth**  
TB/Keppel, 2012



**Smack Attack**  
TB/Stout, 2019



**High Desert**  
TB/Keppel, 2015

Photo Credits: Anita Moran



Seedlings five and six were both neglectas with fairly nice form, enough to keep for future crosses. The seventh seedling (20DMas07) was a bitoned tan with a dark rose flush in the interior. The soft coloring along with the form and stalk for me made this the standout seedling of the group.



**SDLG 20DDDas02**  
Anita Moran

The cross of 'Don't Doubt Dalton' X 'Autumn Sunrise' produced two completely different seedlings. The first a bitone mahogany had a wonderful form, deep coloring, velvet texturing an orange beard and beautiful stalk. The second seedling was a bright yellow with a nice form a rose flush giving the appearance of a bright yellow edge. Although a beautiful form, the overall size of the flower was at the lower range of what a tall bearded iris should measure.



**SDLG 20HDDas01**  
Anita Moran

The cross of 'High Desert' X 'Autumn Sunrise' also produced a widely differing seedling. The first (20HDDas01) was a beautiful variegata with bright yellow over deep mahogany. The falls were not as broad as I would like but they were acceptable. The second seedling to bloom (20HDDas02) was a beautifully neglecta with stunning form. This first bloom stalk had only seven buds but its sibling had more so I am hoping in later years it will develop more buds. A very late sibling bloomed with large ruffling with a satiny violet sheen.


The last cross for rebloom I made was 'Smack Attack' X 'Autumn Sunrise'. Seedling 20SAas02 was pale pink with a light rose flush heavy substance, broad falls slightly less than semi-flared. The second to bloom was 20SAas03 which was a deep rose pink bitone with broad falls and tight standards.



**SDLG 20SAas02**  
Anita Moran

Of the seedlings not mentioned, they were either culled, did not bloom, or were damaged from late freezes, violent storms, or my groundhog which so far has eluded all the traps they have put out to capture the beast. The next article will note any rebloom that occurs with these crosses and any improvements in form and stalks.

Photo Credits: Anita Moran



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## JUDGING REBLOOMING IRISES

Walter A. Moores

Reblooming irises fall into three distinct categories according to climate - cold, mild, and hot - with perfection closely associated with the type of climate. The reblooming season is staggered by climatic conditions

and by the caprices of the weather, except with those cultivars that send up secondary stalks soon after the initial spring blooming period.



**Brazilian Art**  
32"/Keppel, 2009

Not all reblooming irises fare equally in the various climatic zones. What reblooms in one climate may sulk in another. Conversely, cold climate reblooming irises may be 'timed' to bloom at an inappropriate time in the hot, arid parts of the country, thus affecting the form, branching, and height of these irises.

With a few exceptions, present-day cold climate irises are ten or more years away from perfection in comparison to their once-blooming counterparts. Mild and hot climate reblooming irises more nearly approach perfection, with west coast types being equal or near equal to their spring blooming peers.

In garden or exhibition judging of reblooming irises, the judge should be mindful of what is perfection for the variety, as is the case with judging once-blooming irises. Knowing the climatic differences and the influences of the weather as regards the reblooming irises, the judge can assess reblooming irises by using the knowledge gained in judging once-blooming varieties.



**Coconut Ruffles Returns**  
36"/L. Mann, 2018



**Dark Crystal**  
12"/M. Byers, 1988

Sage Advice: American Iris Society IRIS, April 1982, pp. 24

Note: More articles with reblooming data in this edition

Photo Credits:

Brazilian Art – Cynthia Brush

Coconut Ruffles Returns – Linda Mann

Dark Crystal – Les Bur

## Jim Hedgecock

Comanche Arces

Gower, Missouri, Zone 5b

### Borers

Now is the time to be looking for iris borers in your irises. Borers are possible in most states, from Kansas to the eastern states. Infestations will generally begin as tiny pinholes in the center and surrounding leaves. There may be weeping from these tiny holes. Also, as the borer starts eating the leaves, the center leaf will often begin turning yellow. If you don't have a lot of irises and you catch it early, you can cut the leaves off to the top of the rhizome and look for the borer and kill it. If you cut the leaves off and there is a small hole going down in the top of the rhizome, the borer is already inside the rhizome. All you can do at that point is dig it up and soak the rhizome in a bleach solution. That will generally kill it. The bleach mix should be 1 part bleach to 10 parts water. Soak the rhizomes for 30 Minutes. Do not soak the rhizomes for more than 30 minutes.



**Crackling Burgundy**  
35"/Schreiner, 1981



**Buckwheat**  
36"/Byers, 1986



**Confetti**  
TB/Schreiner, 1948

The easier way to treat for borers is to spray. Fertilome makes a spray named Tree and Shrub Borer spray. This will kill borers, although it is not listed on the bottle for irises. We sell it on the website. If you use this spray, you must apply it as soon as the temps reach 50 degrees on a regular basis. In the warmer parts of the south, this may be getting too late for this year. The spray is applied once a week for three weeks. Borers hatch in waves, so one spraying will not generally wipe them out. The mix for the spray is 2 tablespoons to the gallon. Also, use a spreader sticker at a couple of tablespoons per gallon. If you don't have a spreader sticker, a couple of tablespoons of dish soap will work just fine. Spreader sticker makes the spray stick to the plants. Try not to spray if rain is forecast in less than 8 hours. Do not ever spray for borers after the plants have started blooming.

Photo Credits:

Confetti – Mary Platner

Buckwheat – Tona Vahlberg

Crackling Burgundy- Dejoux, sud-ouest France





**Global Crossing**  
36"/Van Liere, 2011  
Photo: M, Platner



**Jurassic Park**  
Wister Medal 2002  
36"/Lauer, 1995  
Photo: Sergio, RUSSIA



**Blatant**  
36"/Byers, 1990  
Photo: Mickie Cobb



**Edge of the World**  
32"/M. Sutton, 2011  
Photo: D. Thorton



**Fast Forward**  
24"/Aitken, 2002  
Photo: Gailmae Suite



**Seedling 2017-D10**  
G. Spoon



**Concertia**  
27"/G. Schreiner, 2000  
Photo: S. Addison



## 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 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.**

**To order your Checklist, go to:**

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