

THE REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

2024 Fall Edition

Journal of the Reblooming Iris Society

Vol. 104



Perry Dyer
Dykes Medal 2024
Paul Black, 2017

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Huckleberry Pie

35"/M. Sutton, 2015

Photo: Smokin Heights, South Australia



Cover: Perry Dyer

Photo: Mike Sutton

Rebloomer in California

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Champion Bloodlines

40"/McNeal, 2018

Photo Credit: D. Langton

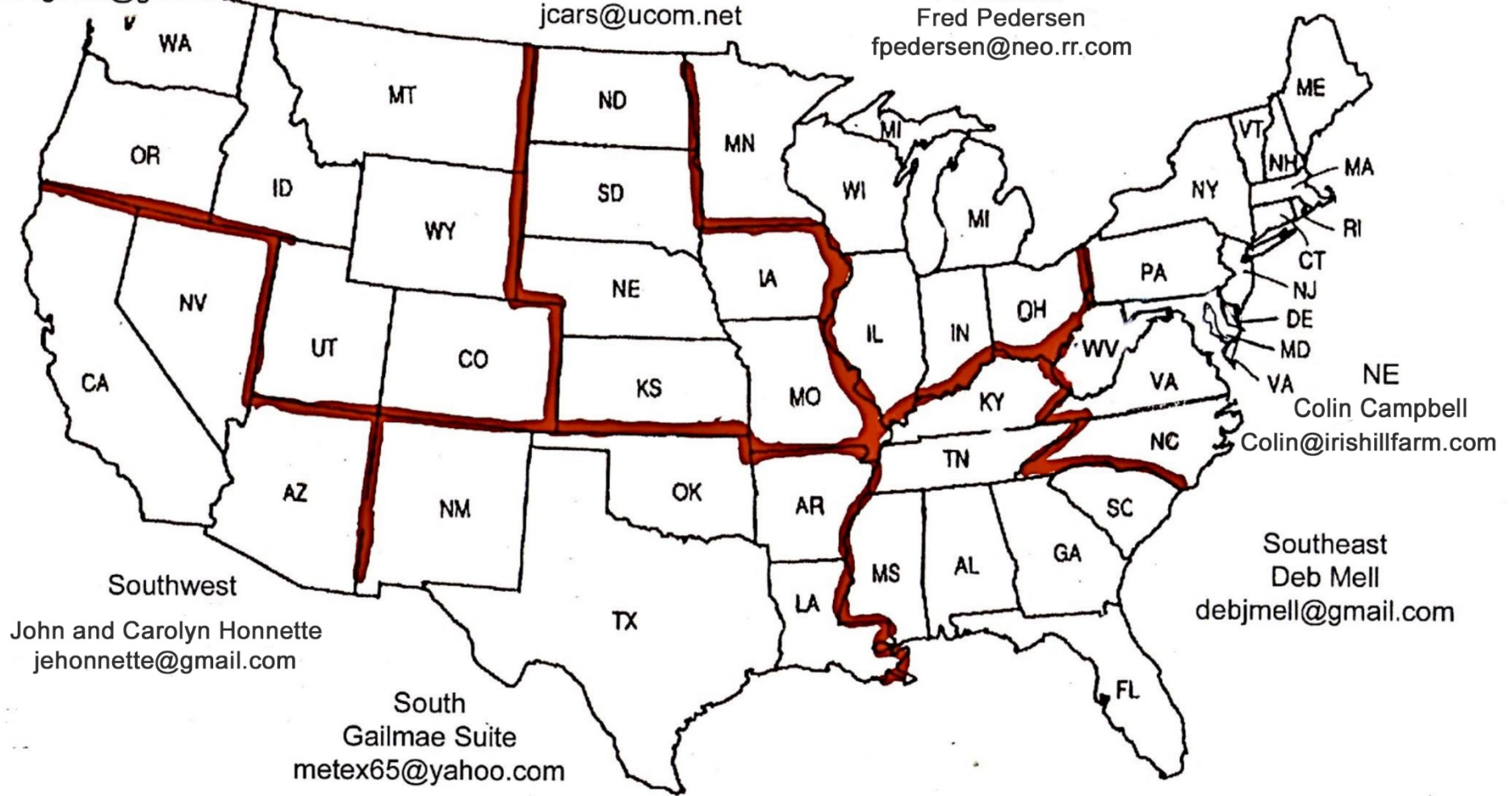
Map of Areas and Area Directors' Names

NW
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eagleridgeiris@gmail.com

Central
Alice Sinclair
jcars@ucom.net

N. Central
Fred Pedersen
fpedersen@neo.rr.com

Canada
Chuck Chapman
Chuck@chapmaniris.com



Area Directors

Northeast

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630 Third St
Aberdeen, MD 21001
pilmore22@gmail.com
410-937-3388

States: Pennsylvania, New York, Washington, D.C., Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland north through Maine
AIS Regions: 3, 4, and Parts of Regions 1 and 2

Southeast

Deb Mell
220 E. Chestnut St.
Puryear, TN 38251
debjmell@gmail.com
731-358-3234

States: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, S. Carolina, Tennessee
AIS Regions: 5, 7, 10, and 24

North Central

Fred Pedersen
9247 Windswept Dr.
Brecksville, Ohio 44141
fpedersen@neo.rr.com
330-714-9102

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

Central

Alice Sinclair
Bx. 394
Cimarron, KS 67835-0394
jcars@ucom.net
620-855-2137

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

South

Gailmae Suite
2634 Ellis St., Lot A-1
Venus, TX 76084-3312
metex65@yohoo.com
817-477-4454

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

Northwest

Delane H. Langton
Eagle Ridge Iris Garden
1008 Eagle Ridge Dr.
Billings, MT 59101
eagleridgeiris@gmail.com
406-398-3567

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

Southwest

John and Carolyn Honnette
50726 Falcon View Rd.
Coarsegold, CA 93614
jeHonnette@gmail.com
559-859-7800

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

Canada

Chuck Chapman
8790 Wellington Rd. 124
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Hello from the Editor!

First, thank YOU for being a member of the Reblooming Iris Society!

YOU make The Recorder possible.

Well, many of us have experienced another sizzle summer. At least, most of the temps in the Phoenix area were under 110°, a dramatic difference of 5°- 9° from last summer. But the number of days over 100 was much longer. Even my dog, who takes almost every opportunity to run out the front of the door, knows better not to because the sidewalk would literally burn his feet a couple feet out. Many dogs around here wear booties. Ok, I have digressed enough.

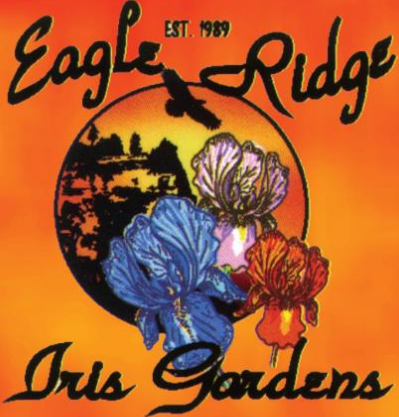
Needless to say, my irises look like toast. I haven't completely trimmed their brown leaves so I have a hint of where the rhizomes are. In the hot zone like Phoenix, we wait until the daily highs are routinely below 100 degrees, but that is getting later and later in the year. Ever the optimist, I hope that all or most of them pop up and rebloom in December and into the new year. The rebloom would begin to occur in early to mid-November but has been pushed forward with the really hot temps.

For those of you who live in cool/cold country, I hope you were able to get all of your new rhizomes and those that needed transplanting into the ground and rooted before a hard freeze.

We greatly appreciate the many years of service to RIS and patience with me that **Dave Banks** has contributed to us. Dave has done so much and filled many different roles, many simultaneously. From webmaster, administrator to our Facebook page, Membership Chair, tutoring me on technology, to assembly and sending out The Recorder. I am sure that I could add more to the list. **So, Dave, a supersized THANK YOU! You have been a true friend to me in both good times and difficult ones throughout the many years.**

Our area directors do a *great job* of sending in reports. But we are expanding coverage from other members who live in other parts of their regions to better represent what is happening in their multi-state region. Thank you to our members who have volunteered to contribute to their area directors' reports. ***If you want to contribute, please email me. The more the merrier!***

Mary Platner
maryplatner@msn.com



Eagleridge EST. 1989
Iris Gardens

5000 plus Varieties
Hardy Montana Zone 4b
Dwarf - Historic - Cayeux
Novelty & Reblooming
Iris

eagleridgeiris.com

Name:		City, State:		Year: 202__		2023 Plant Zone:																
Email:		E (1-10 of the month) / M (11-20) / L (21-31 of the month)																				
All TBs unless noted		Date of Freeze:		July			Aug.			Sept.			Oct.			Nov.			Dec.			
All are rebloomers.			Hybridizer	Year	E	M	L	E	M	L	E	M	L	E	M	L	E	M	L	E	M	L
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Little Stitches

12"/Shadlow, 2016

Photo Credit: Mike Soens

Have you visited us on
Facebook? Please do:

Reblooming Iris Lovers

For your viewing pleasure!

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 Kinard
1649 Madison, 504
Frederick, MO 63645-8303

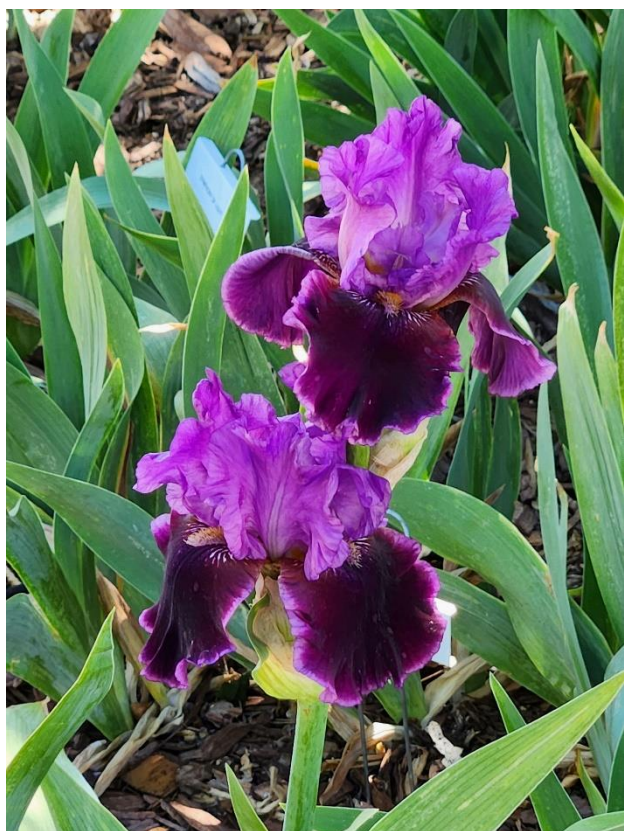
Please print:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Required: _____



Violet Turner

30"/Lauer, 1999

Photo Credit: Ruth Simmons



Autumn Shower

29"/Lockett, 2021

Photo Credit: R. Probst



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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 and frequently if it is in your plant zone.

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 many 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?

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 US and Canada.

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:

The American Iris Society’s Storefront:

<https://www.irises.org/aismembers/ais-storefront/>

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

Flash Drive: \$20 (free shipping)

pdf file sent via email - International only: \$20

[Type here]

Northwest Region: Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming

Northwest Area Director:

Delane H. Langton

eagleridgeiris@gmail.com

As I write this, we are hearing of snow in the forecast next week, of course that will end our rebloom season here in Montana zone 4b. It's right on time as November 1 is about all we get if we are lucky. We are running almost 2" behind on moisture, and we only get 14" in a normal year.

That has cut down the number of rebloomers; we've had 81 to date. Last year we had 162. It's been a very dry summer. We also suffered severe loss of entire clumps of rebloomers. We started out with 768 Rebloom cultivars.

Last winter came October 17 with freezing rain followed by 6 inches of snow. The iris were thriving at that time and way too green, not thinking of shutting down for winter. The winter was mild and open with basically no snow cover followed by a cool wet spring. Those many freeze thaw cycles killed entire clumps.

It's been a very busy fall. I traveled to Region 17 and spoke to them about rebloomers in Tyler Texas. We also enjoyed judges training on Rebloomers by Dell Perry. The very next weekend we went to Fresno California Region 14. It also focused on rebloomers with a show, program by Riley Probst and judges training in garden at Bee Haven Iris Garden by Doug Kanarowski. Fantastic weekends talking about our favorite subject.

On another note, we are ramping up to host the 2025 National Convention of the American Iris Society June 3-7 in Billings Montana. We invite you all to attend, there will be an entire day (Wednesday) dedicated to programs from the different iris sections. Riley Probst will present his program on rebloomers for the RIS.

That evening is the Welcome banquet (Montana buffet) followed by three days of garden tours with in-garden lunches and judges training. The evenings are filled with a silent and live auction, the Geek Dinner and then called off with the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening. For details and registration information please go to **bigskyirisclub.com** **Meet Us In Montana for Iris Under the Big Sky.**

In a separate note, Tammy Clark, who lives in North Logan, UT (2023 Plant Zone), The irises all grew and I think most of them bloomed initially, but I'm not sure if all of them did. It was hot and a bit dry and I didn't water them much because last year they got leaf spot from too much water. I probably didn't water them enough. I am new to irises so probably made mistakes. Maybe next year I will get reblooming.

[Type here]





Iris Under the Big Sky
American Iris Society 2025 Convention
Sponsored by Big Sky Iris Club
Billings, Montana June 3rd-7th

Name	Region
Address	
City, State	Zip
Email	Phone: ()

Additional information on tours and dinners can be found at www.bigskyirisclub.com/2025-ais/

Full Registration June 4 th -7 th , 2025	Optional Tour June 3 rd , 2025	Optional Buffalo BBQ Dinner June 3 rd , 2025
Full Registration includes 3 days of Garden Tours with 3 lunches, Welcome Dinner Buffet, Awards Dinner Buffet, and Section Meetings held on June 4 th .	We're headed to the great frontier! The optional tour includes a visit to Little Bighorn Battlefield (a National Monument) and Pompeys Pillar. Lunch provided at Battlefield Trading Post.	An optional dinner held at the hotel for early arrival guests at 5:30pm in the Hotel Courtyard.

				LATE	LATE	
Option1	Full Registration- Incl. 3 days of garden tours with lunch, Welcome Banquet, Awards Banquet		Registration by April 1, 2025	Registration Amount	Registration by May 1, 2025	Registration Amount
		Full Registration		\$369.00		\$469.00
		Optional Tour Day with Lunch		\$105.00		\$140.00
		Optional Buffalo BBQ Dinner		\$29.00		\$29.00

				LATE	LATE	
Option 2	A La Cart Registration		Registration by April 1, 2025	Registration Amount	Registration by May 1, 2025	Registration Amount
		Garden Tours- <i>(Incl. 3 days, 3 lunches)</i>		\$219.00		\$259.00
		Welcome Banquet		\$75.00		\$75.00
		Awards Banquet		\$75.00		\$75.00
		Optional Tour with Lunch		\$105.00		\$140.00
		Optional Buffalo BBQ Dinner		\$29.00		\$29.00

</					

Sum Your Total Registration Fees:



The AIS sponsored Geek Dinner held on Friday June 6th for \$35.00 per person is not included in the convention registration. Registration for this event will be coordinated through AIS. For questions contact the AIS Treasurer Jill Bonino at AISTreasurer@irises.org.



Convention Location

Billings Hotel & Convention Center
1223 Mallowney Lane Billings, MT 59101

Group Rate of \$146.00 per night with breakfast included.
Reservations may be made by phone 406-248-7151 or
online using group code 14716.

Additional Hotel information located on convention website:

www.bigskyirisclub.com/2025-ais/



Mailing and Payment

Make checks payable to Big Sky Iris Club and mail to:

Linda Frank (Club Treasurer)
1909 Squaw Creek Rd
Huntley, MT 59037
Email: bigskyirisclub@gmail.com

For credit card payments visit:

<https://bigskyirisclub.com/payment/>

SPECIAL NEEDS: Please note, 2 of the 6 garden tours are not ADA accessible. If you need special accommodations for persons with disabilities please contact tdirsgarden@gmail.com with a written request no later than March 1, 2025.

REBLOOM SUMMER OF 2024
Riley Probst, Fleur De Lis Garden
Modesto, CA 2023 Plant Zone 9b



Blueberry Tart
11", Chapman, 2002

Every season is different every year as it pertains to rebloom. 2024 is certainly no exception. Spring rebloom started off pretty normal. The first iris to rebloom this year on 5-5 BLUEBERRY TART, C. Chapman 2003 SDB and it continued until May 17th. Then on 5-13 FALL LINE M. Sutton 2009 IB rebloomed. It had already had a long spring bloom from 2-28 through 4-5. Also, on 5-13 MURPHY'S LAW B. Jones 2004 SDB started reblooming. It continued reblooming through May 28th. Then on May 22nd ANNIE OAKLEY G. Sutton 2012 SDB started reblooming and continued reblooming through May 28th.



Annie Oakley
10", Geo. Sutton, 2012

2024 was so much hotter than 2023. In June, 2023 we had no days over 100F and the high for the month was 92F. In June, 2024 we had 6 days over 100F and the high for the month was 104F. In July, 2023 we had 7 days over 100F and the high for the month was 106F. But, in July, 2023 we had 21 days over 100F and the high for the month was 110F. This included a 13 consecutive day stretch from July 1st through July 13th when every day was between 100F and 110F.

In August, 2023 we had five days above 100F and the high for the month was 102F. In August, 2024 we had 8 days above 100F and the high for the month was 105F. In September, 2023 we had no days over 100F and the high for the month was 95F. In September, 2024 we had 7 days over 100 and the high for the month was 104F.



Annie Oakley
10", Geo. Sutton, 2012

So, for the 4-month period of May through September, 2024 we had 42 days over 100F and the high was two days at 110F. This compares to the same period in 2023 when we had 12 days over 100F and the high was 106F. Needless to say with these temperatures we did not get much rebloom this summer. I even wonder what the effect of this excessive heat this summer will have on our fall and winter rebloom. We did have three irises rebloom during this time period. On June 12th I caught the last bloom on

the stalk of MAD ABOUT SAFFRON N. Price 2017 TB. It had been reblooming for a week or so and I had missed it. Then on 8-29 Dan Cereghino Seedling 17-4-1 rebloomed. Today, 9-27 Dan Careghio DOUBLE SHOT G. Sutton 2000 first opened. It is also making a second stalk. That is it here for Summer Rebloom!



Double Shot
36", Geo. Sutton, 2000



Seedling 17-4-1
Dan Cereghio



Fall Decor
23", G. Sutton/M. Sutton, 2016



Murphy's Law
14", B. Jones, 2004

Fall Bloom at Bee Haven Iris Gardens

John and Carolyn Honnette
Coarsegold, CA

Who doesn't love the fall season with its bold colors and cooler temperatures? But best of all, we enjoy it when our rebloomers come alive, when everything else is toast. And I do mean toast! This summer was hotter than usual which stressed our remount cultivars tremendously. Fortunately, we still have a few that are so hardy that they bloom no matter what.

We live at about 3,400 feet elevation in the Sierras just south of Yosemite National Park in zone 8. Our temperatures are usually about ten degrees cooler than the central valley of California. We do get some snow in the winter, but the irises seem to thrive here. We are surrounded by oaks, manzanitas, dogwoods and pine trees so finding full sun is often challenging. Rainfall is scant to non-existent during our summer months so we rely on irrigation. We fertilize three times per year with a slow-release low nitrogen formula and prevent weeds with a pre-emergent. Our soil is decomposed granite, so we amend it with planting mix and mushroom compost. Fortunately, we have very few pests and the wildlife do not bother our irises much. Gopher patrol, however, is almost daily. They have other things in the forest that taste better than our irises.

Last September, our fall bloom was lush. But this year it was pretty skimpy, probably due to the heat wave in late June and early July. Here are this season's beauties. Golden Immortal is a sweet yellow self and Lady Essex is a white plicata with delicate lavender edges. Double Time is a bold purple-white plicata and My Friend Johnathan is a deep red self. Mango Parfait is a lovely light orange self and Immortality is a pure white with light green lines on the shoulders. Autumn Circus, Corn Dance and Lilac Stitchery also added their sweet scent. Highway to Heaven and Hi Ho Silver also bloomed in the spring and again in mid-August. Over and Over is another white plicata. It seems the plicata genes have some hardiness that perhaps the others don't. Neapolitan Delight, one of our newest additions, surprised us as it bloomed in its five-gallon pot within three months of potting! We didn't know it was a rebloomer! Perhaps it thought it was spring.

We on the west coast, AIS Region 14, invite you to celebrate with us at the Fall Regional in Fresno, CA at the Redeemer Lutheran Church on October 11th through the 13th with judges training on Sunday at our house, Bee Haven Gardens. Hope we see you there! Happy gardening!



Double Time
30"/Hager, 1984



Neapolitan Delight
37"/T. Johnson,



Golden Immortal
37"/Geo. Sutton, 1997

Region 14 Fall Rebloomer Show in Fresno, CA on Oct. 11 – 12



Queen's Table with Jane Tibbs, Delane Langton,
John Honnette & Carolyn Honnette.



Spring Bliss won the Best and the Best of Show in Oct. 2011 at the Region 14 meeting in Redding, CA, exhibited by Jim Cummins.

Queen's Table with Spring Bliss exhibited by Carolyn Honnette. This is the third consecutive year that Carolyn has won the Probst Reblooming Trophy Best in Show at the Region 14 Fall Meeting. Carolyn won the Silver Medal with 10 Blue Ribbons. Jane Tibbs won the Bronze Medal with 1 Blue

Ribbon. There were 38 total entries by 6 exhibitors.



All photos by Riley Probst

Sept 16, 2024

Claire Schneider

Ramona, California

USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 9B

Average low temperatures 25 to 30 degrees

My report of bloom and rebloom of irises is very incomplete this year. I was absent from my garden the last week of April, the first 3.5 weeks in May, the last week in June, and first week in July. My husband said he had never seen so many iris blooming as he did in May while I was absent. The best I can deliver is a list of the irises that I know rebloomed sometime between January 1 and August 31, 2024.

E = first 10 days of the month, M = middle 10 days, L = last 10 days

Cultivar	Class	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
All Smiles	TB	EM			M				
Broken Border	BB				E		M		
Broken Link	BB		ML				M	L	
Buckwheat	TB				ML		M		
Clouds Adrift	TB				M		M		
Concertina	IB		ML	M	E		E	M	
Crimson King	IB	EM	E	EML			M	L	
Godsend	TB				M		E		
Harvest Butterfly	TB		E	ML					
Hi	IB		ML	E	M	L			
Hula Dancer	TB	L	ML						
I. unguicularis	Species	EML	EML	L					
Joseph's Mantle	TB	L	ML		M				
Lichen	TB	EML	L					ML	
Lilting	TB	L	EL	M	M			L	
Line Drive	IB			ML	E		M		
Living on the Edge	IB	M			M				
Low Ho Silver	IB	ML	EML	M	E		M		E
Lucky Doris	TB	EML	M		M				
Mesmerizer	TB		M		EM		M		
Mulligan	IB	EML			E	L			

One More Night	TB				L		L		
Palm Springs	IB				L		M		
Peggy Sue	TB				L		E		
Perry Dyer	AB		ML	EML			L		
Pinkness	TB			L	ML				
Rust Never Sleeps	IB	L	L				E	L	
Ryumon	SPEC-X						EM	M	
Sixteen Candles	IB	EM		M	E		M		
Tsukiyono	SPEC-X					L		M	M
Waiting for October	BB					L		M	
Cultivar	Class	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug

Weatherwise, 2024 has been an unusual year for my gardens in Ramona. From January to August, 2024, we have had 15 inches of rain, most of it in January, February and March, which is typical. The average precipitation here is about 16 inches per year. It is the temperatures that have been so unusual, very hot this year. We had a week in June, two weeks in July, one week in August, and two weeks in September of temperatures over 100 degrees. On September 6 the temperature in my shade house was 115°. It is hot in Ramona during the summer, but not this hot nor for this long. Usually, the temperatures in June and July average in the 80s with some 90s. Normally, August, September, and October are the months with temperatures in the 100s, not June and July.

Ramona is located in the middle of San Diego County, California, about 40 miles from the coast. The Anza Borrego Desert is located another 40 miles east of Ramona. Their really hot summer temperatures usually generate a westwardly flow of cool air from the ocean which reaches Ramona almost every day between 2 and 5 pm. During this 2024 summer, those afternoon breezes arrived late and were not very cool. It wasn't just me sweating, the irises were too! This summer was unusually hot.

Such heat since June makes it tricky to water and fertilize the irises. We don't want to promote root rot. On the other hand, my Japanese and SPEC-X irises didn't seem to mind the heat. They bloomed and a couple of the SPEC-X irises even rebloomed!

As I write this report today, September 16, the weather report says to expect 0.1 inch of rain tonight. That isn't much, but it does indicate cooler weather for the next week or so. This will give me time to plant and replant rhizomes before the next bout of heat arrives. As I said, generally, it is September and October that will have temperatures in the 100s. Fingers crossed that those high temperatures hold off until October and there will be a few irises that "choose" to rebloom!!



Mulligan
20", M. Sutton, 2015



Lucky Doris
36", Lutz, 1982



Waiting for Oct.
27", Lauer, 2003



Rust Never Sleeps
18", Lauer, 2013



One More Night
38", Duncan, 2010



Ryumon
SPEC-X, Shimizu, 2015

All Photos: wiki.irises.org

Northeastern Area Directors Report: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

Colin Campbell, Middletown, VA, USDA Zone 7a

For many parts of Virginia, this summer brought higher than usual temperatures along with drought conditions. In the Shenandoah Valley, where I live, this has been our second year in a row of extreme drought over the summer. Because of this, rebloom has been sparse so far, but a few faithful varieties have managed to bloom anyhow. However, this fall has been marked by torrential downpours and many days of rain, which have done their best to make up for the impacts of the drought. In my garden a few varieties bloomed in June, and now a handful more are opening up their blossoms now that the soil is moist again. A beautiful show stalk of Margaret Wilson Thomas (D. Spoon 2009) just opened up its lovely pearly white blossoms tinged with blue for me.

Conditions this summer were similar for parts of Maryland and North Carolina. Carol Gitter of Pikesville, MD, told me that the erratic weather has taken a toll on her garden. At various points in the year, hail storms, drought conditions, and downpours negatively impacted her irises. This resulted in shorter stalks, decreased bloom time, and the drought parched some of her rhizomes. Nonetheless, rebloomers are resilient, and she has one stalk that has managed to come up this fall.

In Charlotte, NC, Lewis Bozard reported that weather was hotter than average for much of the summer, with many days in the 90's and a few in the low 100's. Like me, he has had fewer rebloomers blooming so far this year than usual, despite cool weather during the last few weeks. Two of his most reliable rebloomers, Clarence (L. Zurbrigg 1991) and Immortality (L. Zurbrigg 1982) have not yet produced any bloom stalks this year. However, he has two clumps of Autumn Circus (B. Hager 1990) which have been reblooming robustly, producing a glorious display in his garden over the past two weeks. The clump of Autumn Circus that he has planted in partial shade produced 2 bloom stalks, while the clump that receives the most sun and moisture has produced 4 bloom stalks. The blooms have been of good size with vivid color in both clumps.

In Hickory, NC, Sarah Sue Miller reported that spring came about two weeks early this year, with a healthy start for her irises. Higher than normal temperatures followed, along with tropical rain conditions. Sarah Sue's garden overlooks a lake, providing some lake effect in the microclimate, which brings milder winters and increased humidity and moisture in the summer. She told me that in a 6-week period in May and early June she measured nearly 15 inches of rainfall. By the end of September, they had exceeded their average rainfall for the entire year. The rebloomers fared well until the excess moisture started causing decay to a few particular beds. Most of the rebloomers were divided and reset this year, disrupting their rebloom. Again and Again (S. Innerst 1999) managed to rebloom before the clump was divided in July, and Total Recall (B. Hager 1992) sent up a beautifully branched stalk that bloomed in late September. Sarah Sue sent a rhizome of Again and Again to a friend in Northern Idaho this July, which bloomed in September less than two months after being planted.

Circling back to Virginia, Lois Rose in Partlow, VA reported that the hot dry summer she had was not good for the rebloomers. With these conditions, she had much less summer rebloom than

usual, but Fall Enterprise (M. Sutton 2007) bloomed in July, its maiden bloom after being planted in her garden two years ago. The faithful Golden Encore (F. Jones 1973) followed in August. Rebloom has picked up this fall in her garden with Hidden Sky (M. Locketell 2021) and a number of other reliable rebloomers gracing the garden, including the SDB's Jack Loving (D. Spoon 2006) and Rosalie Loving (D. Spoon 2003), and their child Together Forever (A. Moran R. 2022) (Anita Moran's cross with the irises Jack Loving and Rosalie Loving as the parents). Mike Locketell's white seedling 21424-9white has bloomed its heart out in Lois Rose's garden since mid-September with at least 7 stalks. There are many more bloom stalks emerging.



Margaret Wilson Thomas
34"/D. Spoon, 2009



Fall Enterprise
37"/M. Sutton, 2007



Together Forever
13"/Moran, R. 2022



Hidden Sky
35"/Locketell, 2021



Jack Loving
12"/D. Spoon, 2006

Photos: Margaret Wilson Thomas – G. Spoon
Fall Enterprise – Sutton Iris Garden
Together Forever – Moran
Hidden Sky – Dancing Dragons Jack Loving – G. Spoon



Loop the Loop
40"/Schreiner, 1975

Southern Report: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

Gailmae Suite

metex65@yahoo.com

Venus, Texas 76084

2023 Plant Zone 8b

Last winter was very mild and rainy for north Texas. The rain continued into spring. Our iris blooming season started earlier than normal in February. For many of us iris growers, we reached our peak bloom in March. Our shows were in April. At that point, our rebloomers decided to make an early appearance and started putting up budstalks and even bloomed in May.

Once our normal Texas heat settled in from late June to July, most had stopped blooming. But as soon as we started having some cool mornings in September, the rebloomers started again. At that time of the year, it's a beautiful site. I even had a few blooming that I took to

all of my iris societies (Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society, Lonestar Iris Society, and Fort Worth Iris and Daylily Society) for plant sales.

Brenda reported from eastern Texas. After moving there two years ago from a desert area, she is still adjusting to 50-inches of rainfall last year and the constant high humidity. A large number of her rhizomes rotted so she is creating new beds that her recently transplanted rhizomes are taken' a shine to.



That's All Folks
Dykes Medal 2013
40"/Maryott by Ghio, 2005

Rebloomers: The Possibilities and the Pitfalls

By Ann Head

The capacity for irises to rebloom first piqued my interest some 25 years ago and has remained a source of fascination ever since. Rebloom can be defined as bloom which occurs outside of the variety's normal spring season. This out of season bloom can occur at any time of year, from immediately following the spring bloom (when it is classed as "repeat" bloom), to summer, autumn and even winter in mild climates. However, autumn is generally the peak time for rebloom.

When irises which bloomed out of season first began to appear in hybridisers' seedling patches, most hybridisers did not welcome them. There was, and in many cases still is, a feeling that rebloomers cause problems for nursery owners, by producing bloom stalks just when orders need to be dug. Thus many of the more well-known iris hybridisers have had a long-term policy of discarding seedlings which rebloomed. This has undoubtedly contributed to the slow progress in expanding both the colour range and flower form of reblooming irises. Studying the history of rose breeding provides a striking contrast, as traditionally, roses bloomed only in spring. Once breeders saw an emerging potential for roses to bloom more than once a year, this was widely pursued as a hybridising goal, until reblooming roses became the accepted norm. While reblooming irises have gradually gained some appreciation in the iris world, I feel they remain under-recognised and thus under-utilised by many home gardeners.

One challenge for both the marketing and the purchasing of reblooming iris varieties is that just because an iris can rebloom doesn't mean it will. Many irises carry a genetic predisposition to rebloom, however this will usually only manifest itself when the conditions are exactly right for that cultivar. Varieties which rebloom happily in one location may not rebloom at all in another. Even when climate and cultural conditions are conducive to rebloom, additional factors such as rhizome maturity are likely to play a part. I have found that the best way to maximise the chances of rebloom occurring in my garden is to purchase irises that are known to rebloom reliably across a wide range of climates. Thus, catalogue descriptions should ideally be considered alongside information from other sources, when seeking to purchase rebloomers for your garden.

The best source of information on reblooming irises that I've found is the Cumulative Checklist of Reblooming Irises, which is published by the Reblooming Iris Society, in the US.¹ The most recent update, published in 2022, contains data on 4,246 iris varieties. These are predominantly bearded varieties, however there is also information on beardless iris varieties that have been known to rebloom, including some Siberians and Louisiana.

The Rebloom Checklist is an alphabetical listing of the registered descriptions of each iris for which rebloom has been reported, and the US state or country, and climate zone where that rebloom has occurred. Australia's iris-growing regions are mostly equivalent to USDA climate zones 8-9. The coldest pockets of eastern Australia are equivalent to USDA zone 7, while Perth and some other coastal areas are comparable to USDA zone 10.² As luck would have it, zones 8-9 are the climate zones in which the greatest number of iris varieties are known to exhibit rebloom. In the US, some of the regional iris societies in zones 8-9, whose members grow a good selection of rebloomers, even hold a fall iris show in addition to a spring show.

¹ Available as a PDF via email from the American Iris Society Storefront at <https://www.irises.org/aismembers/ais-storefront/> ² Source: Plant Hardiness Zones for Australia by Iain Dawson, 1999 <https://www.anbg.gov.au/gardens/research/hort.research/zones.html>

These beautiful photos were taken by Colleen Modra, Melissa and Bailey Schiller of Smokin Heights Iris Farm, Colin and Nerina Kirkman of Roots 'N' Leaves Nursery and Ann Head, the author. All are located in South Australia.



Autumn Ring

32"/M. Sutton, 2010

Photo: Smokin Heights



Autumn Thunder

37"/Geo. Sutton, 2000

Photo: Colleen Modra



Bahama Blues

Ben Hager Cup 2014

Franklin Cook Cup 2014

21"/M. Sutton, 2010

Photo: Smokin Heights

The coldest US climate zone in which rebloom has been reported is Zone 3, which gets down to minus 40 degrees Celsius in winter. While there are understandably very few irises which will survive and rebloom in such challenging climates, the general rule of thumb is that an iris which will rebloom in a very cold climate, will also rebloom in all climates warmer than that. Thus these "cold-climate" rebloomers are also the irises which are likely to rebloom most reliably in any climate. If you look at the checklist entry for Immortality, for example, it reblooms in most parts of the US, and in climate zones 3-10. Rebloom has also been reported in several parts of Canada, and in England, France, Belgium, Hungary, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

One limitation of the Rebloom Checklist is that there is minimal data on the newest varieties. If a seedling reblooms well in the hybridiser's home garden, the hybridiser may add RE to the official description

when registering it, in which case it will be added to the next edition of the Rebloom Checklist. However, it can take a significant amount of time before a new introduction is widely grown in a range of locations, and people begin to make reports on whether it reblooms in their garden. Only then does it start to become clear if that variety can be considered a reliable rebloomer or not. For some recent varieties, the Rebloom Reliability Chart in the Suttons Iris Gardens catalogue is a useful source of information.³ The Suttons chart assigns a reliability rating to each variety, as well as recording the coldest climate zone for which rebloom has been reported.



Editor's Note: As Ann noted, many hybridizers don't know whether or not *their newly registered varieties are rebloomers* because their new varieties were grown in cold climates. Their newly registered varieties may rebloom in warm climates and later get reported in a later Reblooming Iris Society's annual rebloom report. Also, some hybridizers don't report "rebloom" because folks may think the variety reblooms everywhere.

Molokini

38"/M. Sutton, 2016

Photo: Ann Head

Another Editor's Note: So before purchasing a rebloomer in the US, please check to see if that variety is a rebloomer in your plant zone especially for colder climates if that information is available. Again, as Ann stated, especially for older varieties, this information may be available in the 2022 Cumulative Checklist of Reblooming Irises, with over 4,200 varieties listed, at the online American Iris Society's Store Front. Also, some commercial growers have started to include that information in their varieties' descriptions. Another resource is the Reblooming Iris Society's annual report of the the most reliable rebloomers varieties which rebloom in the persons', who are reporting, gardens.)

For a glimpse of what reblooming varieties can bring to an iris garden, I offer this excerpt from the rebloom report that Richard C. Richards wrote for the Reblooming Iris Society in 1996. In the article, he described his experience with rebloom across two gardens, located 100 miles apart in Southern California.

For the past four years or more, I have had bloom in either garden every day of the year. In the rain, I have bedraggled bloom. In the extreme heat, I may have cooked bloom, but I have bloom. I accomplish year-round bloom utilizing approximately 150 named varieties, most selected for their off-season-bloom reputation. It can be done with fewer varieties, I'm sure.



Double Shot

36"/Geo. Sutton, 2000

Photo: Colleen Modra

³ Download available from <https://www.suttoniris.com/pages/our-print-catalog> The Rebloom Reliability Chart appeared on page 35-36 of the 2022 catalogue.on page 35-36 of the 2022 catalogue.

While the amount of rebloom I have had in my own garden is not as impressive as that of Richard C. Richards, by searching out the most reliable rebloomers I could find for sale in Australia, and breeding from them, I have had tall bearded irises bloom in every month of the year.

I have compiled a list of some of the more reliable rebloomer which are or have been available in Australia, plus a few recently imported varieties, for which the data so far available seems promising. Commercial sources include Roots'n'Leaves and Smokin' Heights nurseries in South Australia. The older varieties on this list may now be difficult to source. **For US readers, please note that there is a much wider selection of reliable rebloomers available to you, as this list was compiled for an Australian audience.**

<p>Tall Bearded: Blue/violet: Rosalie Figge Yosemite Star Clarence Mariposa Skies Autumn Thunder</p> <p>Older varieties: Feed Back, Suky, Anxious, Holy Night</p> <p>Other colours: m) Double Platinum (pink) Huckleberry Pie (blue-violet standards, maroon falls) Edged Out (violet with brown rim) Focused Energy (orange with maroon edge on falls) Interstellar (yellow standards, white falls with violet band) Iron Eagle (lavender-grey with yellow midrib) Molokini (brown standards, violet falls with brown rim) Ruby Fusion (yellow with wide red band on falls)</p> <p>Older varieties: Champagne Elegance (white standards, apricot falls), Cantina (red-violet), Soap Opera (greenish-tan standards, blue-violet falls)</p> <p>Border Bearded: Older variety: October Splendor (pink)</p> <p>Intermediate Bearded: Bahama Blues (pink with blue beards) Midsummer Night's Dream (purple)</p> <p>Older varieties: Low Ho Silver (white), Honey Glazed (cream standards, amber falls)</p>	<p>Tall Bearded: White/cream: Bride's Blush Mesmerizer</p> <p>Older varieties: Immortality, Total Recall , Bonus Mama, Forever Yours, St. Petersburg, Winterland, Brother Carl, Renown</p> <p>White with plicata markings: Double Shot Autumn Circus Bountiful Harvest</p> <p>Older varieties: Earl of Essex, Duke of Earl, Matrix</p> <p>Yellow: Golden Immortal Honey Scoop Doubleday Pure As Gold</p> <p>Older varieties: Harvest of Memories, Summer Olympics, Corn Harvest</p> <p>Dwarf Bearded: Ahwahnee Princess (pink with blue beards) Cache of Gold (yellow) Blueberry Tart (blue standards, red-tan falls) Tu Tu Turquoise (blue) Forever Blue (blue) What Again (blue standards, yellow falls)</p> <p>Older varieties: Auroralita (yellow with lavender plicata markings), Hot (yellow standards and red-brown falls)</p>
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Some years ago, when I was more actively involved with irises, I collected data on iris rebloom occurring in Australia. In 2004-2005, I collated reports of rebloom from 7 South Australian gardens (2 of which were then commercial gardens). Those 7 gardens reported bloom from a total of 141 different varieties. The varieties which rebloomed in 3 or more gardens were: Autumn Circus, Autumn Echo, Bonus Mama, Bountiful Harvest, Coral Chalice, Double Shot, Feed Back, Light Beam, Pagan Dance, Rosalie Figge, Scented Bubbles and Victoria Falls. While I would class some of these as sporadic rather than reliable rebloomers, they are all known to have rebloomed in colder climates.

The full list of which varieties rebloomed, and how reliably or frequently they rebloomed in those gardens appeared in the Vol 66. Fall/Winter 2005 issue of the Rebloom Recorder, with additional notes in the Vol. 67 Spring 2006 issue. These issues are now freely available on the Reblooming Iris Society website.⁴

While selection of the right varieties is the most important first step towards seeing rebloom in your home garden, providing the right cultural conditions can also help. Rebloomers like to have as much light as possible, so will appreciate the sunniest spot in your garden. Some gardeners have also reported that close proximity to street lights can help to trigger rebloom. Extra fertiliser may be beneficial, while regular watering throughout summer can also help to limit dormancy and thus encourage rebloom.



Blueberry Tart
11"/Chapman, 2002
Photo: Smokin Heights

In searching for newer varieties which have a good chance of reblooming, or which can be used in breeding the rebloomers of the future, one thing has become obvious: we need more data. I encourage everyone to report the rebloom which occurs in their garden to their regional RIS director, especially any rebloom observed on cultivars introduced in the last 20 years. It is only through collecting information – and using that information when planning hybridising crosses, that we can improve the form, range of colours, and reliability of the rebloomers available to us.

As the size of the average home gardens shrinks, gardeners look to maximise the amount of year-round colour they can achieve in that space. It is vital to develop good quality irises which bloom for more than 2 weeks a year if we are to ensure that irises continue to be widely grown well into the future.

⁴ <https://rebloomingiris.com/wordpress/reblooming-iris-recorder-1972-present/>



Ruby Fusion
 37"/M. Sutton, 2020
 Photo: Roots 'N' Leaves



Double Platinum
Franklin Cook Cup 2012
 36"/Ghio, 2016
 Photo: Smokin Heights

Editor's Note: After my getting Ann Head's article, I asked her about Australia's iris conventions and awards.



Interstellar

33"/M. Sutton, 2016

Photo: Ann Head, South Australia

Australian Iris Conventions

As I write this, the 2024 Australian Iris Convention, hosted by the Inland Region Iris Society, will be coming to a close. I was sorry that family health issues prevented me from attending this year. In 2022, my own region hosted, and it was delightful to meet iris growers from the other regions, and put names to faces.

The Iris Society of Australia (ISA) National Convention is a much smaller event than the AIS National Convention, and is usually held once every 3 years (though the pandemic delayed the 2020 convention until 2022). It does include tours of gardens featuring irises, but without plantings of guest irises from other regions. Sometimes there will be evening speakers, and the host region's annual iris show is also a highlight.

You can read more about this year's convention, and the previous one here:

<https://www.irises.org.au/events-shows-national-iris-convention>

Australian Iris Trial Garden Awards System

Most regions of the Iris Society of Australia (ISA) each have their own trial garden, where hybridizers can send seedlings for independent evaluation by judges. In the trial garden setting, seedlings are labelled only with a trial garden numbering system, so that judges can evaluate the irises purely on their merits, free of personal bias (conscious or otherwise) concerning the hybridizer.

These regional trial gardens have a sequential 3-tier award system, High Commendation (HC), Honourable Mention (HM), and the Award of Merit (AM). Irises which win an HM need to be registered to be eligible for an Award of Merit. Irises which win an AM, or achieve the highest points for that class of irises in their regional trial garden become eligible for entry to the Dykes Medal Test Gardens. In limited circumstances, an alternative entry method is available, requiring written recommendations from three judges during the flowering season.

The special trial garden awards in each region are:

NSW Region: the Gordon Loveridge Medal for the highest points awarded to a beardless iris and the Alan Johnson Medal for the highest points awarded to a bearded iris.

Victorian Region: The Merton Calvert Award for the cultivar scoring the highest points, and the Norman Caldwell Award for the cultivar considered to be the best garden iris.

South Australian Region:
The Cole Memorial Award
for the cultivar scoring the
highest points.

Australian Dykes Medal

In 1987, the Iris Societies of Australia and New Zealand, in consultation with the British Iris Society instituted an Australasian Dykes Medal, which in 1995, was replaced by separate Dykes Medals for Australia and New Zealand.

The competition for the Australian Dykes Medal involves 5 dedicated test gardens in 4 regions, with each eligible cultivar entered into all gardens simultaneously. This enables new varieties' performance in a range of different growing conditions to be assessed by a number of experienced iris judges. Cultivars in the Dykes Medal test gardens are grown under their registered name (registration is a condition of entry).

The cultivar receiving the highest average score in the test gardens is awarded the Australian Dykes Medal. Since the Australian Dykes Medal gardens feature both bearded and beardless irises, the Iris Society of Australia (ISA) Medal is awarded annually for the top-scoring iris of a different type to that which has received the Dykes Medal, e.g. if the Dykes Medal winner is a bearded cultivar, then the highest-scoring beardless cultivar receives the ISA Medal, and vice versa.

The Australian Dykes Medal is awarded annually by the British Iris Society, whose founder, William Rickatson Dykes, it is named after. Dykes Medals are also awarded annually in the United Kingdom, North America and New Zealand.

You can view previous winners of the Australian Dykes Medal here:

<https://wiki.irises.org/Main/InfoMedalAustralianDykes>



North Central Area: Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin

NC Area Director: Fred Pedersen, Ohio

fpedersen@neo.rr.com

Throughout much of Indiana and Ohio drought has affected the performance of all irises including reblooming irises. Farmer crops have also been affected by the drought conditions in Ohio this summer.

Michigan wasn't affected by drought as was Ohio and Indiana. Queen Dorothy, Low Ho Silver, Immortality and His Royal Highness were reported reblooming nicely in the western part of Michigan. Here, Immortality reliably blooms every summer but not this summer.



Queen Dorothy

30"/E. Hall, 1984



His Royal Highness

36"/M. Byers, 1989



Little Stitches

12"/Shadlow, 2016

My circumstances this year were different as we moved. We are still putting things away, and I have 50 or so beardless irises to dig and move yet. Our move started the first week in August, really before the reblooming irises got started as in most past years.

This year, Queen Dorothy put up a bloom stalk in mid-July. When I went to dig it up to move it the first week in August, it put up two more bloom stalks. I hated to dig it when it was in bloom. I decided to cut the bloom stalks and bring them indoors. When I finally dug Queen Dorothy up, I found two or three bloom stalks down in its foliage. Queen Dorothy is my only rebloomer this year.

It also rebloomed in the Willott Iris Garden at the Rockefeller Greenhouse on Cleveland's east side. The other reblooming irises in the Willott Iris Garden did not bloom, probably due to the drought conditions.

Next year's report will be more extensive as the time I would normally investigate rebloomers around the Midwest was limited due to our move. Even though it was only five miles away, I have been busy for the past two months. My irises are happy at the new place as they have more space. From my original 1/2 acre to 3.1 acres, I now have enough room for my irises to satisfy my iris obsession for the time being.

Photo Credits:

Queen Dorothy – Wiki

His Royal Highness – Nola's Iris Garden

Little Stitches – R. Shadlow

Another member who lives in Madison, WI, Suzanne Askey (askey@chorus.net) reported that none of her rebloomers bloomed as of mid-September. "The irises all grew and I think most of them bloomed initially, but I'm not sure if all of them did. It was hot and a bit dry and I didn't water them much because last year they got leaf spot from too much water. I probably didn't water them enough. I am new to irises so probably made mistakes. Maybe next year I will get reblooming."

Suzanne later emailed on Oct. 22, I do have one of my rebloomers that is actually getting ready to bloom, and a another that has already rebloomed! The former was very dark purple, almost black. It has never rebloomed before. I don't remember the name of either of them though. The one about to bloom has rebloomed before, about this same time, last year and the year before.

As of 10-28, Mike Soens, who lives in the Madison area, sent a photo of Little Stitches, which is featured on the Membership page. He wrote that the Madison area has had some light frosts but otherwise unseasonably warm.



Blueberry Filly
23"/Kasperek, 2000



Zurich
34"/M. Byers, 1990



Ahwahnee Princess
12"/Geo. Sutton, 2004



Schreiners' Gardens

Photo Credits: Blueberry Filly – Unknown s Zurich – Probst Ahwahnee Princess - Brownfield

Andrea McCready in Stillwater, MN (2023 Plant Zone 5a, askey@chorus.net) wrote:

'Cyanea' (Goos and Koenemann, 1899) is reblooming today in zone 5a.

It bloomed for me on May 12 and now today on October 27.

She attached two photos, one from May 12 and one from today.



May 12, 2024

Cyanea

6"/Goos and Koenenmann, 1899



Oct. 27, 2024

Cyanea

Comanche Acres Iris Garden

Jim Hedgecock

Gower, Missouri Hello, Reblooming Fans,
2023 Plant Zone 6a
jim@comancheacresiris.com

Mary asked me to see if I could write an article for this newsletter. My discussion is about retail iris growers. I have been in business for 44 years. I have watched this society grow for a long time. I have seen the rebloomers grow from obscurity to the society you have now.

As a commercial grower, I have also tried to keep up with how the rebloomers have progressed to a very popular niche in our iris world. I want to grow the most recent introductions that look like they came from the 2000's. I think the society could look to see if a special notation could go into the R&I lists when a new rebloomer is introduced. I thought maybe a simple denotation that would give the iris world, I know this iris reblooms in these zones. Please don't send me e-mails saying there are records already being complied and we don't need to add more to that. I will grow and sell any rebloomer that I can find.

Yes, I know that some of the hybridizers are already trying to get the word out that they have introduced a rebloomer. The problem lies in how I do as a grower get the info on a newer rebloomer introduction. Again, please don't hang me, I know there is the Rebloomer check list that is very helpful in finding out about whether a new intro is a rebloomer. I will be first to admit that I sell older rebloomers like crazy. Most will rebloom and grow rapidly. If you like older formed stalks and flowers, you can find them listed in many retail growers' lists. That means I am pushing and selling irises from the 90's and even further back. It is not a terrible problem, but let's just say the issue still needs more fine tuning. There is one final fact, sometimes a breeder does not know it reblooms until it gets some distribution, and the reports start coming in. I have had this happen twice in my introductions.

Finally, just a few words about emerging bloom stalks during the shipping season. Please make your workers aware of fans that are beginning to emerge in the fans. One of my workers gave me a fan he had just dug for a shipment. As soon as I grabbed the fan, I could feel the stalk coming up, but it had not cleared the leaves yet. You know if you are around irises a lot that a bloom stalk attached to a rhizome, sometimes blooms out. In other words, it blooms and never produces increases. Even if it does bloom when it is shipped, the stalk will be stunted, and it will take as long as 2 years to produce enough increases to bloom again. The answer is just to make your workers aware of these fans and do not ship them.

God Bless all who are in this crazy iris world. Be sure to tell anyone in the society when you get rebloomer and especially if you have never seen that variety rebloom.

Jim Hedgecock



Dark Crystal

12"/M. Byers, 1988

Photo Credit: Les Burgard

Southeast Area Director's Report: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee

Deborah Mell

The Southeast Area has been in a long hot drought, that was just broken by the remnants of Hurricane Helene. Because of the extended dry spell and extreme temperatures there was very little rebloom this summer. My garden in west Tennessee received supplemental water in June, then once each in July and August. Tall bearded 'Recurring Delight' (Larry Lauer 1998) gave me my only summer rebloom this year, starting July 28 and blooming for a week and a half. TB 'Earl of Essex' (Zurbrigg 1979) opened September 19 and is still blooming. TB 'Rosalie Figge' (Jane McKnew 1991) has had a stalk up for the past week but has not opened as of this writing.



Recurring Delight
35"/Lauer, 1998



Earl of Essex
35"/Zurbrigg, 1980



Ray Jones
13"/D. Spoon, 2011



Eric Simpson
12"/D. Spoon, 2011

Other growers in the Southeast Area have had similar reports, with drought and hot temperatures to blame. Linda Mann in east Tennessee reported that she did not give special care or supplemental water and her only rebloom was by four seedlings in August and September, none worthy of introduction. Scott Hall in the Memphis area reported that he dug most of his beds to make way for new rhizomes, but has had two SDB's rebloom. SDB 'Ray Jones' (Don Spoon 2011) opened August 13, and SDB 'Eric Simpson' (Don Spoon 2011) started mid- September and is still blooming. Scott brought a beautiful stalk for a table centerpiece to the Region 7 fall meeting this past weekend. Thank you, Scott! Stacey Cawthon from middle Tennessee blamed the hot temperatures and drought on zero summer rebloom, but now that the temperature is cooler, she has stalks on TB Rosalie Figge.

Photo Credits: Ray Jones and Eric Simpson – S. Hall

Recurring Delite and Earl of Essex – D. Mell



Bandwidth

36"/M. Sutton, 2010

ridges are weeded all year to prevent grass and weeds from gobbling up nutrients and dropping masses of seed just waiting to germinate! Healthy soils need to rest just as we humans of the animal kingdom require rest.

When it is time for late summer-to-early fall replanting, the rested soil ridges are ready for re-conditioning, aeration and adding fertilizer as recommended by soil testing. Keeping it simple is important here. I am no longer a youngster. Eight surgeries in 2 years has been a serious “wake-up” call for this old man! To enjoy gardening, you need to be brutally honest with yourself and make certain that your garden has not become a life of frustration.

Gardening should be therapy. Too many reflect upon a lifetime of gardening as voluntary torture. Inserting your hands into soil and smelling the sweet fragrance of earthworms and feeling healthy microbes in loose, aerated soil particles raises one's levels of pleasure and reward. When gardening has become a burden and an overwhelming responsibility, you need to re-evaluate your plans. Pleasure is difficult to find in a hobby out of control.

At my age, re-evaluation of my life plan is a constant reality. At the end of the day, a happy gardener will feel comfort and pleasure in harmony with the healthy exhaustion of a job well done. Too many mortals who garden become indentured servants to what was once a delight! Balance is imperative if you want to be a “happy” gardener. If you are not happy, the joy of the effort will evaporate.

Photo Credits: Bandwidth – Addison

News from Rockytop Gardens

Phil Williams

Eagleville, Tennessee

2023 Plant Zone 7b

We have had less than half an inch of moisture here in the past five weeks. The promise of rain at this time is based upon the residue from the horrific tropical storms in Florida. Thank goodness for drip irrigation!!

We plant our bearded irises on 15” to 18” high ridges. In a typical wet winter, they will settle to about 12”. Thanks to drip irrigation, today the subsoil here is consistently moist ... even in the heat of summer. We rotate our plantings so that the soil can have a full 12 months of rest before rejuvenation that precedes planting. It is vitally important that these “resting”



Blue Suede Shoes

39"/Schreiners, 1996

Blue Suede Shoes – D. Mell



Kind Candance
34"/D. Spoon, 2012



Star Challenger
42"/D. Spoon 2006



Love Returns
36"/Bryan Spoon, 2015



Alessandra's Gift
36"/Bryan Spoon, 2011



Starring Encore
35"/D. Spoon, 2008



Violet Scent
35"/D. Spoon, 2013



Fireball Candy
34"/D. Spoon, 2014



Alabanza
30"/Bryan Spoon, 2013



Liquid Amber
34"/Ginny Spoon, 2003

A Refresher Note About Our Canadian Partners

Important: The British Columbia Iris Society (BCIS) is separate from the Canadian West Iris Society (CWIS).

CWIS is a group of iris lovers who are primarily located in **CENTRAL** Canada, the Prairies and the North. Its southern boundary is the US/Canadian border. This part of Canada has winters below freezing and summer temperatures up to 100 F.

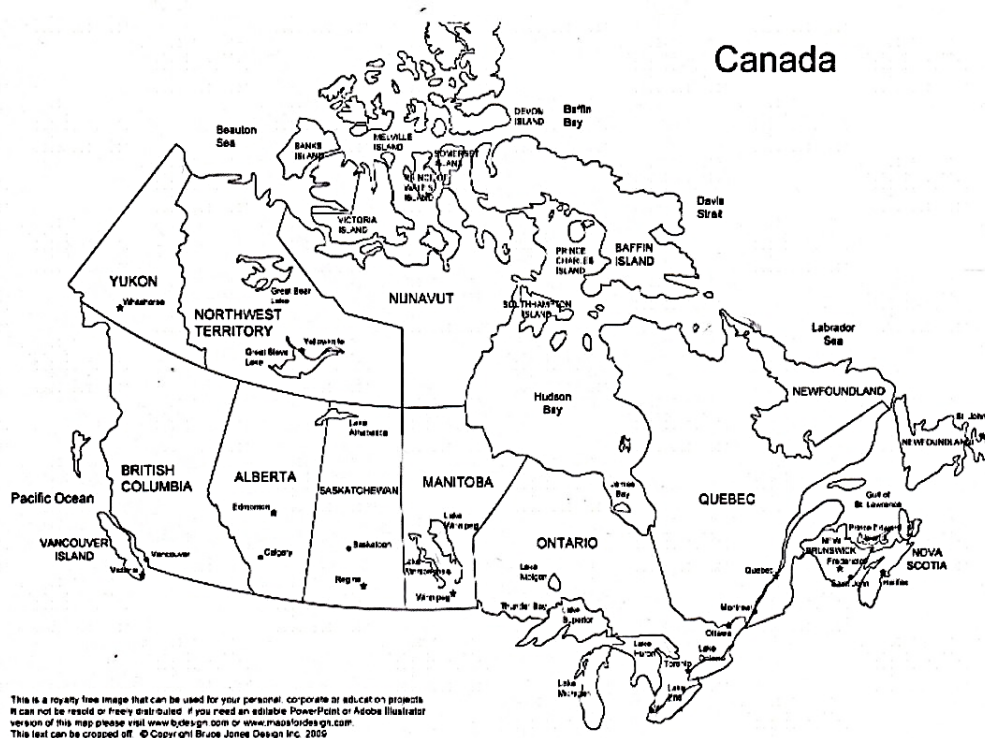
"The Canadian Prairies is a region in Central Canada and includes plant zones 2 and 3. It includes the Canadian portion of the Great Plains and the Prairie Provinces, namely Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. These provinces are partially covered by grasslands, plains, and lowlands, mostly in the southern regions." (Wikipedia)

The Can-West Iris Society's webpage explains, "The Can-West Iris Society (CWIS) is an online group dedicated to the promotion of iris in cold climates. Our mandate is to promote interest in growing iris in cold climates, to encourage iris hybridizing and to recognize hybridizing achievements. We endeavor to provide the information needed to successfully grow different types of irises in the cold zones through educational opportunities, and a Facebook page!"

As noted earlier, the British Columbia Iris Society (BCIS) is not part of CWIS. As Canada's most western province, it has many different growing conditions/zones – everything from Pacific Coast Rainforest to the semi deserts of the southern interior. The coastal areas are generally mild year-round with high winter precipitation.

Much of coastal BC has low summer rainfall. The eastside of Vancouver Island can go nearly two months sometimes even more without significant rainfall. Around Vancouver and up the coast a bit, the climate is like that of Seattle and Portland.

The BCIS was established in 2006 and belongs to the American Iris Society Region 13. It produces several newsletters each year, offers garden tours, group purchasing, has a comprehensive website and an Annual General Meeting each spring. BCIS will host Region 13's meeting again in 2025.



Canada

Canadian Area Director: Chuck Chapman

irischapman@aim.com

This year I had limited rebloom on registered iris. Last fall I lost a lot of plants from soft rot and more in the winter. All of my SDB heaved over the winter, but after replanting them, they proceeded to grow although much later than usual.

Weather was moderate this year with more rain than usual over the summer. A very hot spell in early June was followed by more moderate weather. The first heavy frost was Oct 12th, which shut down the rebloom that was happening at that time

These are the iris that rebloomed for me this year, some several times:

Trending Blue
Eramosa Peeper
Summer Fantasy
Eternal Summer
Canadian Rerun
Northward Ho
Fast Forward
Autumn Tryst

Numerous seedlings rebloomed this year. One is being considered for introduction. 14-503-1, a reliable pink with mauve lines.

A number of seedlings from Canadian Rerun, that were a lot of plicatas and Canadian Rerun look a likes. A couple of very nice ones that will require further evaluation.



Summer Fantasy

36"/G.P. Brown, 1965



Eternal Summer

SPEC-X/Chapman, 2012



Canadian Rerun

32"/Chapman, 2020

Photos: the wiki.irises.org

Aurora Borealis Iris Garden

Terry Laurin and Kate Brewitt

Our garden, which is north of Toronto, is in Canadian zone 5b (USDA zone 4b approx.). During September and October temperatures fluctuated between unseasonably warm and unseasonably cold, putting our reblooming iris through their paces.

The earliest reblooming iris was IB 'Precious Little Pink' (Byers by Dickey, 1995). It rebloomed in early August then again in late September. A rebloomer you can count on.

MTB 'Lady Emma' (Frank Jones, 1986), also a reliable rebloomer, developed its usual dozen plus bloom stalks starting mid-October. These will last until early November.

After growing this iris for almost 20 years, 'Immortality' (Zurbrigg, 1982) rebloomed for us for the first time. The nicest part was that each of the two bloom stalks that grew had eight buds, so the iris rebloomed in the garden for over 3 weeks...until we brought it indoors to save it from the frost.

TB 'Summer Whitewings' (G. Percy Brown, 1960) is another rebloomer that was developing a bloom stalk when frost was forecasted in mid-October. The stalk was brought indoors where it bloomed two weeks later.

SDB 'Purple Joy' (Spoon, 2007) bloomed during the last week of October. There are still bloom stalks developing so when frost is forecasted overnight the plant is covered with a large pot to protect it. Another way we protect the rebloom buds is to water the entire plant before nightfall, covering it with a coat of water. MDB 'Hilda's Gift' (Spoon, 2002) is showing bud color so one of these methods will be used so hopefully it will bloom in November.

Frost isn't the only enemy of our reblooming irises in the autumn. There are also critters that roam our garden at night. TB 'Mango Parfait' (Spoon, 2009) was developing a beautiful bloom stalk when the flower bud 'disappeared'. Probably an evening snack for a hungry animal. Fortunately, it is developing another stalk.

And our hybridizing efforts have produced some rebloomers. We have two seedlings that rebloomed on October 30. As this is only their second year, it is too early to determine their size, so they are under observation.

All Photos: the Wiki



Precious Little Pink

15"/Byer by Dickey, 1995



Lady Emma

24"/F. Jones, 1986



Summer Whitewings

30"/CP Brown, 1961

2024 Can-West Iris Society Rebloom Report

BJ Jackson, Brandon Manitoba

The following cultivars were reported by CWIS members and friends from across Canada for the 2024 season. Given the long season, I had anticipated more across the prairie provinces. In total, there are five SDBs, three IBs, four TBs and a single Siberian on this year's list. Once again the hybridizer responsible for most is Chuck Chapman with seven, J. Terry Aitken with two and one each from five others.

SDB Autumn Jester (Chapman, R. 2000), MB/SK

SDB Blueberry Tart (Chuck Chapman, R. 2002), SK/BC/AB

SDB Forever Blue, (Chuck Chapman, R. 1996) BC

SDB Forever Royal (Chuck Chapman, R. 2014), SK

SDB Jillaroo (Allan Ensminger, R. 1983), MB/AB

SDB Straight Flush (Chuck Chapman, 2021 introduced but not registered), SK

IB Double Your Fun (J. Terry Aitken, R. 2000), BC

IB Fast Forward (J. Terry Aitken, R. 2002), BC

IB Returning Fancy (Chuck Chapman, 2020, introduced but not registered), ON

TB Again and again (Sterling Innerst, R. 1999), AB

TB Canadian Rerun (Chuck Chapman, 2020 introduced but not registered), ON

TB Cantina (Monty Byers, R. 1989), AB

TB EnglishCottage, (Lloyd Zurbrigg, R. 1976), SK/BC

Sib Encore Performance (Robert Hollingworth, R. 2010), MB



Straight Flush

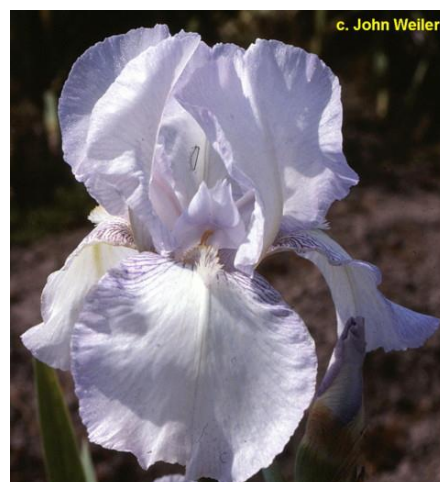
14"/Chapman, I. 2021



Jillaroo
14"/Ensminger, 1984



Returning Fancy
23"/Chapman, I. 2020



English Cottage
34"/Zurbrigg, 1976



Hilda's Gift
6"/D. Spoon, 2009



Purple Joy
14"/D. Spoon, 2009

All Photos: The Wiki

Central Area: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota

Central Area Director: Alice Sinclair

jcars@ucom.net

2023 Plant Zone 5a

This report of the Central Area of irises is based only on this southwest corner of the lowest state of western Kansas. The earlier season of summer's irises was reacting much like neglected growth, even when tended with proper care. Summer sunshine has been unusually hot, making it discouraging to expect many blossoms from most plots. However, I was able to gather some scattered varieties of blooms from various beds.

No rebloomers showed up as in normal times, even when the later summer heat was more tolerable. Sharing such a discouraging report wouldn't be encouraging to any beginners, but seasons vary and can change as we know. Next spring, I will be just as excited as previous years to see those stalks emerge, expecting abundant bloom.



Mulch

Jim Hedgecock

It is hard to believe that the cold climate states will be fertilizing and getting ready for the winter next month. This brings up the first issue I want to discuss with you. One of the frequent questions I am asked is when should I dig and replant my iris beds. The proper time for replanting is anytime up to about 6 weeks before your first frosts. Midwest and cold climate states should be finished planting by mid-September. We plant later than that, but we also mulch these plants with straw. It is put on with the first frosts and removed when the temps reach 50 degrees in the spring. If you can find oat straw, you won't have to deal with volunteer wheat next spring. I use both, but most of the time we have to use wheat straw and we clean out a number of wheat plants in the spring. I know some of you are asking what about other mulches? Some of you use pine needles. This is a good mulch, but you must remove it promptly in the spring. Pine needles begin breaking down quickly after winter and they do change the pH of the soil. I don't like heavy mulches like wood chips or any heavy mulch. Straw is not heavy and if you don't get it off early in the spring, it won't smother your plants.



Amazing With Grace

34"/Roberts, 2013



Bernice's Legacy

32"/B. Miller by Richards, 2000



Forever Gold

35"/Geo. Sutton, 1997

All Photos: C. Honnette

REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY 2024 YEAR END TREASURER REPORT

Treasurer	Les Burgard
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DEPOSITS

Dates	Amounts	Details
07/03/2024	\$6300.23	Opening Deposit from Old Account to New Chase Account
07/17/2024	\$1515.96	Membership Chair Account Closeout Balance Transfer
07/17/2024	\$25.00	AIS Paypal Membership Dues
09/09/2024	\$149.00	AIS Paypal Membership Dues

EXPENSES

Category	Dates	Details	Amount
N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00

TOTALS

Details	Amount
Deposits	\$7990.19
Expenses	\$0.00
Balance after Expenses	\$7990.19

Les Burgard

Signature

10/02/2024

Date