

June July August

THE REBLOOMING IRIS REPORTER

Objectives



To breed an improved assortment of reblooming irises, as to beauty, dependability and usefulness.

To promote a better understanding of their cultural needs.

To extend their geographical range.

To educate the public about such range, regarding varieties currently on the market.

To inspire and encourage beginners in this field of interest.

To spearhead research about rebloomers.

To cooperate with A.I.S. officers and committees in the registration, introduction, honoring, and exhibition of this class of irises.

To supply the AIS Bulletin with articles and quotations deemed of interest to its readers.

To supplement the A.I.S. Bulletin by publishing data of interest chiefly to researchers in this field and to members of AIS Reblooming Iris Robins.

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Varities {
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B
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JULY 1963

No. 4



YOU
ARE
INVITED



GET
OUT
TWEEZERS

Polar Flame

A cool climate rebloomer need not have poor form, muddy color, veined hafts or weak stems. Flame-colored POLAR FLAME has none of these faults. In early fall, when all rebloomers should be judged, it is 20 to 24" tall. It is a proven parent of rebloomers in southern Indiana.

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Published twice a year, January and July, in Staten Island, N.Y., as a non-profit educational project under the direction of the Editor.

Varieties as Parents

by Raymond G. Smith

During the early 1950's I collected large numbers of irises which had variously been reported as reblooming at one time or another. Since these came from all sections of the country, I wanted to test them both as rebloomers and as possible parents. The following descriptions are taken from my files and I list those sorts which have, for one reason or another, proved unsatisfactory for me in one or both respects. While each has been tested for a period of time ranging from three to ten years, it should be remembered that a single testing in one individual garden should not be accepted as conclusive evidence. What proves true for one set of growing conditions will not necessarily be so for another hybridizer working with different conditions of soil, temperature, and rainfall. It is well known, for example, that certain mid-western sorts fail to perform satisfactorily when moved to Florida or California, and the reverse is likewise the case. My garden is in Bloomington, which is in south central Indiana.

In several previous articles I have listed some of the more satisfactory factory parents. It is hoped that the present data will be found equally helpful. In making these comments, I have attempted to report the fact as I have found them and to label speculations as such.

AUTUMN FROST Of medium size, pure white, fair flower. Only once in ten years has it produced seed pods; these were bee pods which were destroyed. Although satisfactory in quality, I have not had any success with either as pod or pollen parent, and suspect it of being a 36-chromosome triploid.

ALMOND BLOSSOM Not a rebloomer in this climate, but should be a satisfactory parent if it reblooms.

AUTUMN DELIGHT A fairly attractive flower on a stalk of good height. Has plenty of pollen. I have not used it because it gives indication of being slightly susceptible to bacterial rot in this climate.

AUTUMN HAZE A large, wide, lavender-blue bi-tone. Nice flare when first opened, but sags badly by the second day. It did not "take" to the pollen I tried. Resembles many AUTUMN KING seedlings.

AUTUMN LEAF A nice reddish bi-tone, extremely hardy and one which begins the season. Fine garden value and worthy of growing. I have never succeeded in setting pods with 48-chromosome pollen parents, but it set several bee pods when moved to a spot adjoining a row of lilliputs. It also set a pod to KERRY PIPER, so I suspect it of having 40-42 chromosomes.

AUTUMN QUEEN A nice pure white dwarf well worth growing. Takes fertilizer well and with adequate water is almost an everbloomer here. Will not set seeds and has no pollen. I know of six seedlings from it with bee pods, none worth keeping. Probably a 44-chromosome hybrid.

BENGAL PRINCESS An old striped yellow sort. Flowers were small here and substance seemed inadequate for use as a parent.

BILLET-DOUX A nice iris which does not rebloom here.

BLACK MAGIC Purchased a number of times in an attempt to differentiate between it and ELEANOR ROOSEVELT. Careful inspection showed greater variability between individual flowers of the same variety than between the

two varieties. Breeding behavior of both is the same. They are sterile. Probably 44's. Both are nice flowers of deep, rich purple but of poor substance. Reliable as rebloomers and perfectly hardy and disease resistant. Both will set a few bee pods, but the seedlings from the few seeds that are viable produce plants too weak to flower.

BLUE MASCOT A dwarf of nice blue color 4-5 inches tall here. Flower a bit large for height. Fair substance. I tried a few unsuccessful crosses with other dwarfs. Never rebloomed here.

BLUE RIVER A fair light blue. Did not rebloom and appeared to be a bit winter-soft here, so no attempt was made to use it.

BLUE VALLEY A nice blue. Not a rebloomer in this climate. A bit tall with a tendency to go over when well grown.

BOUNTIFUL BLUE An extremely floriferous lavender-blue or purple and a reliable rebloomer. Small flowers with only fair form and substance. Extremely hardy and winter-proof. Seems to be completely sterile and, although resembling a diploid, is probably a 44-chromosome "mule".

BRONZINO This one struggled along for a period of 3 to 4 years without a spring bloom. A lush grower and winter-soft in this climate.

BUCKTHORN BROWN Would not bloom here, even in spring. The winter-soft varieties seem to form fall buds which freeze and weaken the plant so much that it does not recover until the next fall when the vicious cycle is repeated.

BUTTERCUP LANE Not a true rebloomer here. Blooms down in the foliage in the fall. Slightly fertile and produces reblooming seedlings, but they lack vigor.

COSETTE A nice small white, flaring, dependable rebloomer. Usually intermediate in season and height. Sterile.

CHINA MAID Winter-susceptible in this climate and several replacements were lost. Does not rebloom here although reported to in warmer climes.

CRIB MAC Although in limited commerce, this iris seems never to have been registered. Its name indicates that it may somehow be related to **IB MAC**. It is an off-white, winter-tender, apparently sterile "mule" of unknown origin.

CRYSORO A very rich yellow of fair form and substance. This is an excellent, vigorous, winter-hardy plant possessed of the most desirable qualities of the old intermediate sterile hybrids of which it is a fine example.

CUSTARD A good sized, nice, yellow-ground plicata with narrow hafts but extremely wide sepals. Lost the first time it was acquired but a later acquisition did well. Reblooms infrequently. Probably fertile.

DORCAS HUTCHESON A beautiful rich, deep purple flower of attractive, though old, form and pansy-like texture. Usually a dwarf rather than an intermediate as grown here. It is sterile but does set a few bee pods. I have grown a few seedlings but all were dwarfed and never bloomed.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT See **BLACK MAGIC**.

ENCORE A taller, straighter, more lavender **AUTUMN KING**. Increases slowly because periodically it blooms most heavily. Grows slowly. Has pollen, but the few times I tried it were unsuccessful.

EQUINOX A brilliant diploid-like blue-purple with a loud haft. A reliable early rebloomer, usually beginning in August here. Fair form and substance, but tiny. Sets bee pods but many are balloons and I have never been able to get a "take" with either diploid or tetraploid pollen. Fine plant.

ETHEL PECKHAM An early vintage purple-red. Fertile, but of early form and poor substance. Can be made to rebloom if re-set, fertilized and watered.

FAIR ENOUGH Too winter-soft for this climate. Died.

FALL BEAUTY Just another blue-lavender. Have not used.

FALL FRILLS A fairly new pink. Nice flower. Too winter-soft and too late for this climate, but should do well where the weather is more moderate.

FALL SURPRISE Another fairly new introduction that is too late for central Indiana.

FALL VELVET Discarded in favor of **FALL VELVET IMPROVED**, which is just a bit better in every respect.

FAR SOUTH This one I still grow. A nice clean medium yellow of flaring form and small size. Must be completely sterile as it has never set either a balloon or a bee pod. A reliable rebloomer, hardy and foolproof. Probably a 44-chromosome intermediate.

FLAME KISS A fairly new iris, but too late for this climate.

FROST QUEEN Same as **WHITE AUTUMN QUEEN**. Another hardy, reliable, vigorous rebloomer. An intermediate and sterile. I have grown a half-dozen seedlings from several hundred seeds out of bee pods. It produces tiny little white dwarf rebloomers of poor quality and tissue-paper substance.

GERSDORFF-SASS HYBRID Not a reliable rebloomer here. Hardy and vigorous but completely sterile here. A smaller edition of **CAN CAN** in color. I did grow one seedling from a bee pod, but the seedling failed to mature.

GLADSONG A nice yellow plicata of fair form and substance. Fertile, but too late to rebloom here, and discarded in favor of some similar but unnamed seedlings.

GLOWPORT Lost. Either winter-soft or disease prone. I have no record of its fertility.

GOLDEN CATARACT One of the few old intermediates which I was unsuccessful in establishing here. Purchased and lost four consecutive years, although I have a record of its growing and reblooming in this vicinity. Probably a sterile 44, although it is listed in the Check List as the parent of at least one rebloomer.

GOLDEN HARVEST An extremely floriferous golden yellow and a reliable, hardy rebloomer. Will not set seeds although its bee pods will germinate more than most intermediates, perhaps reaching 3 to 5% of the seeds. I have raised 10-15 seedlings from it, a few of which rebloomed. Unfortunately they were small, strappy, muddy little things fit only for discard.

GRACCHUS A diploid. Light yellow with fully reticulated falls. Wonderful branching. Too late to rebloom here.

GREEN HOPE A completely hardy, vigorous and reliable fall bloomer. Fertile both ways, though the stalks need staking when podded. The yellow color is slightly muddy, and the falls are disappointingly long, which

fault it transmits to its progeny.

GUIDING STAR A beautiful clean rich yellow in a fine large flower on a sagging stalk. Reblooms and has a tendency to bloom itself out. Winter tender here with even the increases showing injury.

HALLOWEEN NIGHT An extremely tall, small flowered yellow with heavy haft marking. Perfectly hardy and vigorous but a bit late here as it reblooms about November 1. Fertile.

HARVEST BLUE A reliable rebloomer, strong and hardy, with nice flaring form. Lacks intensity of color and the substance is only fair. Fertile.

IVORY ELF A dwarf with probably 32-40 chromosomes. Nice lemon bi-tone.

JANE KREY A fine plant. A reddish-purple self, poor substance and floppy in the wind. Probably fertile but not tested.

JEAN SIRET One of the earliest and most dependable dwarf rebloomers. Hardy, floriferous and disease resistant. Parts are narrow and falls reflexed. Yellow, with purple streaked falls.

JOSEPH'S MANTLE Winter-kills in this climate.

KANSAS INGLESIDE A sterile 44-chromosome intermediate.

LADY MOON Winter-kills in this climate.

LINDORA Although reported to have rebloomed elsewhere, gave no indications of possessing any reblooming tendency here. A fine quality yellow and white, very floriferous with stalks that require staking.

LIEUTENANT DE CHAVAGNAC This little chamaeiris-like variety gets my vote for being the ugliest antique still in commerce. Narrow, pinched, reflexed, awkward, muddy-- it possesses them all. Very hardy, completely dependable, blooming the middle of April and repeating about the middle of June here. It is the parent of several rebloomers but I have never had the courage to use it. (It blooms in the fall too, in many places.ED)

LOIS CRAIG Too soft for this climate.

MARINE WAVE A very nice blue dwarf. Probably 44 chromosomes. Did not re bloom here. Did not use.

MARIPOSA MIA The variety which I received and tested under this name was an extremely tall, fertile, well-flowered, hardy, deciduous blue plicata. Why it was ever said to re bloom I can't imagine, as it possessed no traits of a rebloomer.

MARTIE EVEREST This has been used a great deal in my programs and is highly fertile both ways and produces many rebloomers when crossed to them. Transmits lavender to its seedlings. I discarded this in favor of a number of its seedlings.

MELODY LANE Not a rebloomer in this climate. Fertile and the parent of some nice named sorts. Magnificent color! Substance so lacking that I never tried it.

MOETEN I had difficulty establishing this one here, and it gave so much winter trouble that it was eventually discarded.

MOON GLEAM A nice little fellow with probably 40 chromosomes. Did not re bloom here and was not used.

MOON GODDESS A nice flower but the plant seemed to be too soft for this

climate and gave trouble even during the bloom season.

MOUNT TIMP This would be the plant to use if one did not have GIBSON GIRL. In fact, I liked the variety better in several respects. Large, with wide parts, and perfectly hardy and disease resistant here. A nice plicata, but did not re bloom here.

MRS. WALTER LAMB My acquisition was the same as JULY BEAUTY. A small flowered blue blend; extremely floriferous. Tall, slender stems which need staking.

NAPPANEE Colorful and floriferous. Such a heavy bloomer and rebloomer that it bloomed out twice here.

NIGHT PATROL This one I still grow, but not as a rebloomer. It shows absolutely no indications here of possessing any of the required traits. Excellent flaring form, fine substance. No pollen, and sets seeds most reluctantly.

OCTOBER OPERA Old fashioned, tall, small flowered, November rebloomer. Little substance itself, but I had one seedling about as nice as MOUNT TIMP from it which did not re bloom.

OCTOBER SHADOWS One of Dr. G. Percy Brown's fine early parents. Produces a goodly number of reblooming seedlings, but was discarded in favor of the newer sorts.

OLIVE EVA A nice dwarf reddish-brown blend about five inches tall here. Reblooms so early that it could easily be taken as delayed bloom. I have had no luck with it and have been using PAPOOSE instead, which is almost the same color pattern. I suspect OLIVE EVA of having about 42 chromosomes.

OLIVE WHITE An off-white, hardy, reliable old intermediate that appears to have come from the same seed pod as WHITE AUTUMN KING. Completely sterile for me.

PINK LACE A fertile, hardy, early pink introduction of Sass. Small, poor color saturation but wonderful stalk. I have had a number of fine seedlings from it. Too late to re bloom here. Parent of AUGUST GOLD.

PARADISE PINK Wide, fertile, hardy, good grower and I still have a clump of it. If I had to begin flamingo pink lines again, I would probably use it. Fine color, poor substance. Does not re bloom here.

PRIORITY Winter killed here. Not a rebloomer in this climate.

PANSY PURPLE Not registered. Small, diploid-like. For some unknown reason it did not survive here and was not replaced.

RAMESES This old Dykes medal winner did not re bloom here, and although reputed to be the parent of rebloomers, is probably not one itself in this climate.

RED GLEAM Short, brilliant red, badly haft marked. Very hardy, but has not much vigor. Another iris that has been listed as the parent of rebloomers, but not one itself.

RED RAY Reported to be a parent of rebloomers. Lost over the winter here and not replaced.

ROSE PEARL A nice rosy bitone that thrived here for a number of years; heavy bloomer in the spring. Flower large and somewhat lacking in substance. Much too large here for a table iris and, in fact, crowded the

ceiling of the border bearded class. No indications whatever of re-blooming.

ROSIRED Nice color but proved winter-soft here.

ROYAL BAND A nice plicata that budded in the late fall, but was too late ever to bloom. Flower is small but attractive.

RUBEO A fair red that bloomed one spring and was then lost.

RUSSIAN BRONZE A striking variegata with good spring flowers but too late for fall bloom in this climate. Slightly winter-soft here.

SALLY ANN A good yellow. Winter hardy and extremely floriferous after it has become established. Tall, well-branched, rather small flower. Full of buds in the fall, but too late to bloom.

SANGREAL A narrow, poor substanced but rather attractive yellow median. Probably a sterile 44-chromosome hybrid, but it will set bee pods. Extremely dependable rebloomer. I have had reports from hybridizers who claim to get seedlings from it. None here.

SAVAGE Winter killed twice and was not replaced the third time.

SCARLET TIGER Winter-soft-- discarded.

SEA ORCHID An extremely heavy bloomer that could probably sire rebloomers. It bloomed itself out here and was not replaced. Not a rebloomer.

SEPTEMBER SKIES More purple than blue. Poor form and poorer substance. Completely hardy and very dependable early rebloomer. Probably a sterile 44-chromosome intermediate.

SEPTEMBER SPARKLER A fertile, hardy, reliable rebloomer. Good branching and disease resistant. Produces reblooming seedlings but has been superseded by newer varieties.

SOUTHLAND The only intermediate I have ever worked with that was partly fertile. The bees succeed in setting quite a few pods on it, and a few seedlings result. I have had one fair reblooming seedling from several hundred grown over a period of a half-dozen years.

SULTAN'S ROBE Lacks vigor for reblooming, but produces good progeny, although none has ever rebloomed for me. Wide, reddish blend with dirty hafts.

SUMMER SUN A brilliant yellow flower that should do well in warm climates. Acclimated well after the first couple of years, but too late to rebloom in this climate.

SUNSET SERENADE Lost and not replaced.

SUNSET TAN A tall, vigorous, large light brownish blend. Sets seed easily. Not a rebloomer here.

TECHNICOLOR A good red that carries the reblooming gene complex. Has budded in the fall here, but too late to bloom. Hardy, clean hafted, and will set pods. Nice progeny.

THE CAPITOL A fair flower, but did not survive here.

TIFFANY Excellent flower, hardy, fertile both ways, but does not rebloom here. Discarded in favor of GIBSON GIRL which is much like it and reblooms.

TOURNAMENT QUEEN Soft and subject to winter damage. Does not rebloom.

TWO FOR TEA A cute little pink table iris that will rebloom reliably when well cared for. Doesn't seem to have pollen, but will set seed. A diploid. A bit soft in this climate under my growing conditions.

WHISPERWOOD When crossed with MARTIE EVEREST produced many bright blue reblooming seedlings. Stalk needs staking. Plant is a bit soft here and has to be carefully watched. Does not rebloom here.

WHITE ALONE A nice flower. Tall, and in need of staking here. Winter tender and does not rebloom in my garden.

WHITE AUTUMN KING Thought to be a seedling of AUTUMN KING, and has been reported to be the parent of seedlings. It behaves as an intermediate here. The few "bee" seedlings I have grown were unsatisfactory.

ZULU WARRIOR Soft. Discarded.

Ed.- Dr. Smith is a professor of Speech and Theatre at Indiana University, Bloomington and President of Central States Speech Association. Evidence of his intense interest in the development of improved varieties of reblooming irises may be found in his frequent writings in the American Iris Society's Bulletins. Suggested reading: 'Differences Among Rebloomers' No. 156, 1960 and 'National Reblooming Iris Survey', No. 163, 1961. Back numbers are usually available at small cost from AIS headquarters, 2237 Tower Grove Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. Are you a member? "Eventually, why not now?"

Good News!

Through the thoughtfulness of Eula Shields, Bayfield, Colorado (but formerly of El Paso, Texas, "The Iris City"), came this good news. The El Paso Times for April 13, 1963, wrote glowingly of the Iris Show held in the Chelmont State Bank by the El Paso Iris Society. Of special interest to our group is the fact that an honest-to-goodness Reblooming Iris won for Mrs. John C. Sexton the American Iris Society Rosette Ribbon plus the Luby's Chelmont Cafeteria trophy for being "BEST OF SHOW". The beautiful stalk of FALL PRIMROSE is pictured there with the beaming lady and gleaming silver. She also won a Rosette Ribbon for "Best Seedling of Show", a cross of SNOW GODDESS and LULLABY. FALL PRIMROSE is a clear yellow of good form and substance originated by Doctor G. Percy Brown, Central Village, Mass.

Eula Shields commented, "Perhaps this will put a stop to the claim that rebloomers can't compete with spring bloomers." Congratulations!

Publication Costs

This publication continues to be supported largely by the sale of rhizomes from a clone of the reblooming iris variety, POLAR FLAME, originated by Dr. Raymond G. Smith, Bloomington, Indiana, and donated to our publication group totally for that purpose. The 1963 price is \$4.00, payable direct to Treasurer, Clement B. Reeves, Jr., 724 Broadway, West Cape May, N.J., who has the plants. Ray comments further on its merits, (he likes to be conservative) "I have found it highly variable in color clarity from year to year. This year it is clear yellow. It is a pretty good stud plant. Its seedlings are only average the first year, but grow into fine vigorous plants the second year. It has produced many reblooming seedlings and carries yellow, white, plicata, tangerine bearded pink and brown blends.-- Healthy as anything I've grown"

Spying at Bloomington

by Lloyd Zurbrigg

When the author began to hybridize irises some fifteen years ago, he had as one of three main objectives the production of remontants, so that the beauty of the flower might not be confined to a short period in the spring. In spite of an underlying conviction that the production of high-quality flowers that would bloom twice in the year was possible, the short Canadian summer and the disparity between the meagerness of most of the remontant blooms and the luxury of the once-blooming varieties finally led him to abandon this goal.

Upon moving to Bloomington to take post-graduate studies in the School of Music of Indiana University, it was his good fortune to find that Dr. Raymond G. Smith was the other AIS member in the city. Raymond, a professor of speech at the university, was devoted to the cause of remontant irises, and was rather surprised to meet another AIS member with similar, if abated, ideas. Through his generous donation of garden space the writer was able to bring down from Canada the material from his remontant iris breeding, and to continue to grow seedlings. Thus it was that NORTHERN SPY proved that its two remontant parents, WESTERN HILLS and GIBSON GIRL, had not been chosen in vain; the Canadian summer had just been too short!

It was not unusual to find Raymond in his garden in mid-summer studying the iris foliage more carefully than some judges examine inflorescence. One of his neighbors twits him unmercifully over this habit. Yet it has yielded insight into the foliage and rhizome characteristics of remontant irises that seem to this writer unique and primary. He has found that most of the successful remontants have a fan containing eleven leaves. (This article refers to cold climate remontants only.) The plant with at least eleven leaves in each fan will grow faster and better, and will look better in the heat of summer. Another desirable feature is that the leaves should overlap each other tightly at the base. This prevents the accumulation of moisture at the base of the fan, thus discouraging the development of rot. One iris displaying this characteristic is Earl Roberts' MARION HAMILTON. The hypothesis is that an iris possessing this feature will be more valuable to use in a remontant iris breeding program than one which does not possess it.

The breeder of remontants will always be faced with the difficulty that the first frosts will cut down his seedlings when some of them are trying to bloom. Any advance warning that one of them has the tendency will be most valuable. Therefore Raymond's observance that the bloom-stalk is preceded by a twisty leaf, along with a general spreading away from the centre by the fan, ought to be thankfully hailed as extremely valuable. It may be that the swelling of the bud causes the twist in the new leaf. Now seedlings bearing the tendency can be spotted even though the season does not enable them to produce a bloom-stalk.

It is often possible to detect the swelling bud at the base of the fan. In some seedlings from remontant breeding, the swelling appears and becomes quite prominent, yet the bloom-stalk does not develop. Raymond has a seedling to which he gave the garden name VIGORO because of its tremendous growing power. This seedling came from a chance pod on MARTIE EVEREST obtained in mid-summer when no other iris was in bloom. Presumably, therefore, it is from MARTIE EVEREST selfed, though it is larger in every way than that variety. Some seedlings from it show the characteristic noted above, of bud formation that is not followed by flowers.

There appears to be another factor that enables the bud to leave the rhizome and become a stalk. It may even be a characteristic of the fan that is involved. In the variety GIBSON GIRL there is little apparent swelling of the bud prior to the break-through of the stalk, so that it seems to have an ease in reblooming. Such an iris might well be introduced into the lines should the former characteristics of "inhibited" buds appear.

It was the writer's pleasure to be able to visit Bloomington this May and see the latest crop of seedlings at Dr. Smith's garden. Frost had unfortunately decimated the crop at the Wishing Well Gardens of Wayne McConnell, who is a recent convert to remontancy. Wayne is growing many of Raymond's crosses as well as a few of his own, and this fall we ought to see many new things there. Raymond's garden exhibited more variety of form than in any season heretofore, along with a greater spectrum of color. One quite commendable white with tangerine beard came, believe it or not, from BLUE SURPRISE. There was a perfectly clear yellow of medium size without a single haft mark, and apparently a previous one had been even superior to it. One plicata series was marked by an unusually large number of buds per stem, and a recessive lemon from this series has been numbered.

AUGUST GOLD and its unregistered sister AUTUMN AUREOLE were flourishing, as was POLAR FLAME, but Raymond's best iris to date is probably the recently-registered RETURN ENGAGEMENT. This shapely iris is a fancy plicata from PINK CAMEO X AUTUMN FLAME. One of two remontants from dozens raised from this cross, this happily-named iris should prove a happy break for all iris-growers interested in twice-blooming plants.

Remontant irises will be judged on their summer or fall blooming. Thus in assessing their spring bloom, one must expect to step backward in time some ten or twenty years. The few exceptions, and the interest of some hybridizers, give promise that the gap in quality between conventional irises and the cold-climate remontants will soon be much narrower than at present.

Ed.- Doctor Zurbrigg is now a professor of music at Radford College, Radford, Virginia. He has transferred his iris hybridizing activities to his new home at that address. Such zeal as he has assures progress.

Subscription Payments

Since this little publication carries no advertising and has not a great income from rhizome sales, it is essential, if we are to keep producing improvements in printed matter of educational nature, that the list of subscribers be increased. That lowers cost per copy. For facts to be presented, we depend upon robin writers, correspondence with our staff of consultants and with agricultural colleges. Letters from subscribers and voluntary garden testers are also most welcome.

A considerable number of subscriptions expire with this issue. We do not like to part company with these friendly and helpful people. A sure way to avoid this is to pay your dollar (the subscription price) to the Editor promptly and without billing. A red mark beside the address on the 'Reporter' envelope indicates that payment is due, if it is not on the way and our records are correct.

Edwin Rundlett, Editor
1 Fairview Avenue
Staten Island 14, N.Y.

A Test Garden for Unintroduced Seedlings

by Clement B. Reeves, Jr.

From reading letters in *Reblooming Iris Robins*, I am impressed with a great need that has not been met by any public garden or by any of the five official Test Gardens of the American Iris Society. The reason for this lack is that public gardens are subject to vandalism, and that the existing Test Gardens either are poorly located for our class of irises, or do not provide essential summer care. As an ardent specialist in the breeding of rebloomers, and being a farmer whose planting is beyond reach of vandals, as well as being the trusted treasurer of the group of irisarians sponsoring the 'Reblooming Iris Reporter', it seems to me that within reasonable limits I could meet that need in the climate of southern New Jersey.

Dr. Randolph, in a recent article in the *Empire State Iris Society Newsletter*, wrote "The need for test gardens derives from three very fundamental facts of plant life. First, cultural conditions of soil and climate throughout the United States are very diverse. Second, varieties differ greatly in their adaptability to these differences in growing conditions, which are inherited in the same manner as are differences in the more obvious traits such as form and color. Third, the only means of determining adaptability of varieties to local conditions is by means of performance tests. Parentages are not a reliable guide since seedling progenies may be segregating for tenderness, for susceptibility to various diseases and to many other traits to affect the suitability of varieties to perform satisfactorily in a particular region. Sister seedlings often perform very differently in the same garden, and exhibit segregation of various characteristics influencing their performance as satisfactory garden varieties."

In self-defense some rules of limitation must be established that are binding upon me and upon the owners of iris plants to be tested for reliable rebloom. For my part, I agree to grow for a period of two years without charge, the stock supplied by the hybridizer, employing the same methods used for my own seedlings. Their use in hybridizing will not be allowed, nor will divisions or pollen be supplied to anybody. At the end of the test period all stock, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon before digging time, will be returned to the owners. The planting plot will be mapped so that if labels are accidentally lost or become illegible, the identity of plants will be known. Labels will bear my key numbers only, so that visitors will not know who owns the plants. I will report to the owners on performance after the two-year trial. Responsibility for losses from causes beyond my control cannot be assumed. All gardens have some of these.

Only the better seedlings should be sent - those being considered for introduction, and which have bloomed both spring and fall in one calendar year. Those that do not do this are not in truth rebloomers. This term is a synonym of remontant, in our usage. Further, lest I receive more plants than I can properly cultivate and maintain, I must insist that no shipments be made before an exchange of letters shows that bed space is available. Every interstate shipment must bear proper inspection tags indicating freedom from pests and diseases, as required by federal and state laws and invariably complied with by nurserymen. If you do not have such inspection service, maybe a nurseryman friend would ship for you. *** Address: 724 Broadway, West Cape May, N.J. Growing season 225 days. Mean August precipitation 5.88 in. Annual 46.44 Mean minimum, January, 30 deg. 28 Mean maximum, July, 82 degrees

Reports by Lloyd Austin's Testers

News of the passing of a famous irisarian to the *Eternal Garden* travels fast. A fitting eulogy appeared in *A.I.S. Bulletin* Number 169. Robin letters and catalogs have spread word of the February 7th death of Lloyd Austin, proprietor of *Rainbow Hybridizing Gardens*, Placerville, Calif. It was due to an apparent heart seizure.

Aside from his own relatives and his employees, the impact of this untimely death is sure to be felt more by our group than by most others, since Lloyd was one of the few people who had the courage to pioneer in new fields of iris endeavor while most others flocked together in a common quest for bigger and more colorful tall bearded irises. We, of course, are primarily interested in reblooming or remontant irises; their publicity and research, though aril iris enthusiasts all owe him thanks.

Yes "research". Lloyd was a skilled scientist with college training and much professional experience in horticulture and genetics. He was the first director of the *Institute of Forest Genetics* in Placerville. Involved as he was in large scale production and sale of irises, there was constant inner stress between his love of pure research and the need to make ends meet. Evidence of this scientific urge is seen in price concessions to many of his best customers if they would agree to fill in and return to him carefully made report forms showing performance of reblooming irises in various climates. He realized that not all west coast originations will rebloom or even grow well in more severe conditions of climate. Mrs. Austin believed that he intended to publish the facts thus learned. Death intervened.

Now, thanks to her understanding and foresight, these reports, as fast as they come in, are being turned over to the editor of "The *Reblooming Iris Reporter*" for benefit of subscribers. He has made up additional forms for extending the good work. If anxious to become a public benefactor by making detailed observations yourself, ask for blanks and instructions. One year of reporting is not enough to properly rate an iris variety since the influence of the climate of the point of origin affects the time of the succeeding blooming.

Every time an iris variety is mentioned as a rebloomer or a remontant, a place name should be appended. This is because this class of iris is extremely sensitive to differences in climate and environment; soil, rainfall, sunlight, cold, heat, etc.

This issue of the 'Reporter' is dominated by these Austin Testers' reports. Not all were useable. The best of them were on the forms he provided. Attempts to report without them usually led to omitting data that is essential. Too many think that we are seeking merely fall bloomers. This is definitely NOT OUR GOAL. Rather, we hope to find - for each of the many types of climate, varieties which will reliably bloom spring-and-fall, or spring-summer-and-fall; with spring verging into winter in the warmer climes.

The future of the *Rainbow Hybridizing Gardens* is in doubt. Gladys Austin shared her husband's enthusiasms, but says she will not extend the testing program, though the need remains. The new forms, made up by your Editor, are slightly simpler than those Lloyd provided, though covering the same ground. Really the close attention to growth characteristics in the home garden is fascinating, no matter what your specialty is.

were so late.

3. The third drawback is that my customers want the big frilly iris; they buy when they are in bloom in spring, for July delivery. At this time the rebloomers are not in bloom, hence I have no sale for them. Most of my customers come to see my iris garden at its peak bloom and make their selections.

I do not water my iris during the summer and at the present time we are about ten inches under normal rainfall and need rain badly. My neighbors have water problems too."

Ed.- The color problem need not continue to be true. All that is needed is for more breeders of good taste to work diligently and intelligently. Both spring and fall bloom cannot be had unless the irises can be kept developing through summer either by rainfall or by supplying water. It is true that the peak of bloom for the rebloomers in spring comes a bit earlier than for regular tall bearded, but in most climates there is a big overlap. However, the flocking of buyers and of judges at peak for the tall, is a perennial problem for irisarians everywhere. The most hardy, and often the very best, varieties come later than the peak, so go unsold, unwanted and unsung. Education is the answer. Japanese and Siberian irises are neglected for the same reason, though superior to standard "frilly" tall bearded in several respects. Get busy on this problem. It is too much for yours truly.

Among the numerous members of reblooming iris robins the most common complaint is that too many so-called rebloomers do not produce their fall blooms until so late in the fall that they are destroyed by cold weather before they can be enjoyed. There seem to be two causes for this. The first was voiced by our Arkansas correspondent above: that of failure to provide proper growing conditions in summer; water, good soil, plenty of sunlight, freedom from retardation by pests, disease and weeds.

The other cause is one about which there exists considerable difference of opinion, though the writer feels strongly about it. Our tall bearded are of mixed ancestry, some ancestors having developed in mild climates allowed winter blooming and growth all winter without disastrous rot to follow. Other ancestors had to survive cold winters, so had a dormant period in that season, some being truly deciduous, as, for instance, the species, *Iris aphylla*. For the production of rebloom by the latter sort, very rapid development from spring to fall blooming periods is necessary. For the former sort, the warm climate ones that can bloom all winter at home, a longer growing season is needed. So to this writer it appears that the length of the growing season - from the last killing freeze in late winter or spring, to the first killing freeze (not frost) in fall, is the key to selecting proper varieties for our gardens. Opinions of other thinkers are sought. You all know where to write.

The reblooming trait is not like a disease, an iris being said to have it or not to have it. Rather, every time a person says or writes that an iris variety is a rebloomer or remontant (synonyms) he should mention also a place name lest he tell a lie. Lady Mohr is a rebloomer in parts of Southern California, but east of the Rockies it is not. So, also with a long list of others. I have a list of over 300 varieties said to rebloom in El Paso, Texas, but if that list were used by buyers in Ohio or New York, much loss and bitterness would result. People in England are likewise embittered by arm-long lists of so-called rebloomers but few of which will "re". A climate yardstick is needed in all cases, and to date, the length of growing season seems the best. The Weather Bureau of the U.S. Dept. of Commerce uses this too.

Climate Data

For climate data there is no better source of information than the Weather Bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The figures given below came chiefly from "Climates of the States", climatology series No. 60, available from the U.S. Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. Not all towns or cities in which the Austin tester's resided had weather reporting stations, but invariably, except in the case of the Canada reporter, some town not very distant had data. This was used, understanding that full accuracy suffered. General information must suffice. We realize, too, that in mountainous areas climates differ greatly within short distances of each other; different sides of the same valley; nearness to large bodies of water; shelter from winds. Even on the same farm or in the same garden different spots affect the time of blooming greatly. Each gardener must learn how to best make use of local factors to get maximum blooming periods.

The first column, marked G.S. gives the mean number of days between the last killing freeze of spring and the first one of fall. The second column, marked J. Min. tells the mean or average lowest daily temperature for January. The 3rd is the maximum for July. The 4th is the mean annual temperature. The fifth is the mean precipitation for August. The last column gives annual rainfall, averaged over the years, including snowfall, of course. The counties are where the testers live. THINK.

State	County	G.S.	Jan. Min.	July Max.	Ann. Temp.	Aug. Precip.	Ann.
ALA.	Etowah	217	34.0	90.0	62.8	4.60	54.95
ARK.	Pulaski	244	32.4	89.1	62.4	3.15	47.38
CALIF.	Los Angeles	290	39.9	87.3	62.8	.02	13.88
"	Fresno	303	35.9	100.1	63.0	.00	9.31
"	Humboldt	325	40.8	60.6	52.3	.11	36.15
COLO.	Boulder	140	12.0	88.0	48.8	.85	11.66
IND.	Whitley	179	19.5	87.0	49.9	3.26	35.65
KANS.	Sedgwick	210	22.6	92.3	57.0	3.23	30.70
MINN.	Redwood	153	4.0	88.0	45.9	2.93	23.45
New Mex.	Eddy	220	28.0	92.0	60.0	1.47	12.34
N. Car.	Guilford	206	40.6	78.0	59.3	5.06	47.17
Ohio	Ashland	145	20.0	84.0	52.0	3.11	35.43
Okla.	Oklahoma	223	27.2	93.3	60.4	2.50	30.22
Penna.	Lebanon	179	21.0	87.0	52.3	4.44	44.24
S.C.	Laurens	219	35.0	90.8	62.7	3.93	45.04
TENN.	Shelby	237	32.9	91.1	62.14	2.53	46.61
TEXAS.	Marion	233	36.0	94.0	66.1	2.81	45.64
TEXAS.	Tarrant	251	35.6	95.2	66.0	1.88	33.69
VA.	Fairfax	200	35.0	77.0	56.0	4.34	36.58

The reason for giving the mean August precipitation is that this is the time of the year when moisture must be had if early fall blooms are wanted, and in most of the U.S. this is so, if fall blooming is to be satisfying. Where there are hot desert winds in September, residents prefer late fall or winter blooms to early fall blooms. Thus a different race of rebloomers is created by hybridizers in such places, a type that does bloom in late fall and winter. The question comes up often as to whether it is wise to cross these late, slow developing ones with the early blooming ones to improve flower quality. Research is needed on this point. Those who sell irises seek varieties dependable in all climates where standard tall bearded thrive. Those who buy irises care not a bit about how irises perform in distant places. It is how they perform in his own garden that matters. Education is the answer. Ignorance is not bliss. It is costly.

A New Slide Project

Via Open Letter

Dear fellow devotees of the reblooming irises:

Through the pages of 'The Reblooming Iris Reporter', this message is being sent to all who may have photographic skills along with their horticultural talents.

The reblooming iris category is not, presently, very well represented in most general slide collections, and, insofar as is known, there is no specialized collection of slides which is completely devoted to the accurate portrayal of this group.

Many of the rebloomers do not, as yet, compete favorably with the finest tall bearded non-rebloomers as to size, beauty, and other desirable traits, but they do repeat their blooming period during the same growing season, and thus fill a definite need. Furthermore, they are rapidly being improved, and we must, therefore, show the good irisarians of all areas, what is now available, and give them a preview of what can be expected of the rebloomers of the near future, doing this through the use of clear, accurate color slides.

Edwin has asked me to act as slides chairman and custodian of the slide library which we hope to accumulate. From our own gardens we have taken many "close-up" photographs in full color, during this past bloom season, so that we are now able to supply quite a number of fine slides, which we are happy to donate to this cause, knowing that our small "specialty group" does not, as yet, have funds to undertake this project unless our good members, and friends, are willing to give voluntary help.

If you are one of the fortunate "skilled ones" who do have nice clear slides of rebloomers, please contact David J. Flesh, Slides Chairman and Custodian, representing the 'Reblooming Iris Reporter', and working with the Reblooming Iris Robin Members, for the purpose of quickly assembling, indexing and arranging a set of representative slides as needed, for reblooming iris projects such as garden club education.

The 'Reblooming Iris Reporter' will have to charge a nominal fee in order to perpetuate this slide library, secure replacements, cover mailing costs and insurance, and add new things to keep the slide library actively up-to-date.

We must begin by asking for gift slides of named and proven rebloomers, as we have no other way to start, but this new project will ultimately benefit all who have an interest in rebloomers, and will help to advance the progress of this category.

Speaking for Edwin, our Editor, as well as for all of the staff and membership, I extend our thanks and ask for your cooperation. All donations will be promptly acknowledged and donors' names listed in subsequent issues of the 'Reporter', with a future announcement to be published, when the first set is available for distribution. Let's all pitch in and make this a success.

Sincerely, your good friend,

(Signed) David J. Flesh.

Box 491, Jefferson, Texas

Culture Matters

Observations of Robin Writers

The arrival of the great amount of variety performance data from Mrs. Lloyd Austin, based upon reports of Lloyd's customers, resulted in the postponement of the publishing of much useful information from our robin letter writers. It is impossible to include in the few pages that our finances will permit, more than brief excerpts from a selected few. Patience is requested. Two things should help much in preparation of the next issue: the use of standardized report charts, and the system of turning in old robin letters to the Robin Director instead of the usual courtesy cards. We hope that Austin testers will continue to report.

Yes, culture does matter greatly, since poor culture results in later fall bloom, or in the complete skipping of fall bloom. Particularly important is the matter of moisture in summer, either natural or supplied. You will see by the climate data elsewhere in this issue that in southern and central California irrigation must be depended upon almost totally for moisture. But the water is available. Failure to use it properly means lack of bloom or stunted plants. West of the Mississippi River, especially as one nears the Rockies, both rainfall and irrigation water are limiting factors. Rainfall increases as one travels eastward from the Mississippi, so demands for summer care are less. Yet troubles with disease increase where rainfall is heavy in warm weather, so gardeners in humid areas have extra problems there.

Soils vary greatly in fertility across the nation; and in acidity. In general, arid country soils tend to be alkaline, and humid country soils are usually acid. Therefore advice from any particular part of the country must be accepted with caution and altered to suit local conditions. Usually advice of the nearest County Agricultural Agent is best in matters of fertilizing soils, but such individual should not be expected to be a specialist in iris breeding or in iris maladies. The following observations of robin writers are offered for what they are worth. Though permission to quote was granted, some are sensitive about such things, so names will be avoided, but geographical locations are given, as climate matters much.

Time of dividing reblooming irises seems a matter of much concern. A lady in Grayson County, northern Texas likes to plant as soon after spring bloom as possible and instructs shippers to ship before mid-July. If arrival cannot be had by August 1st, she cancels the order. She puts baskets or other light shade over new plantings and, when possible, mulches between rows. According to her observations, irises, hems, mums, cannas, daisies and other plants that mulch themselves in summer, do better with additional mulch.

A grower in Marion County, northeastern Texas wrote that he too, likes planting right after spring blooming season. He adds that when buying new irises he wants delivery early or very late. He is hurt by delivery in hot weather of summer; wants them early enough to mature in his garden, or else so late that they will have matured in the garden of the shipper.

In more arid Montgomery County, Kansas, where summers are very hot, a writer gets best results by setting out irises in September and October. They bloom in spring even with such late planting. Though summer watering increases danger of rot, she practices it and gets bigger plants and blooms than neighbors who do not.

Where a marine climate exists, the winters have fewer sharp drops in temperature, and less winter damage results. Our Treasurer, whose garden is in Cape May County, N.J., writes that he believes an iris has to be well established to rebloom, and found that the ones moved in the fall perform best. But inland climates in cold country require either exceptionally good snow cover or some well ventilated artificial winter mulch to prevent heaving and serious loss when rhizomes are planted in fall. Generally gardeners in such locations prefer planting soon after spring bloom. But there is trouble getting them then since commercial growers, if stock is scarce, like to wait until increase from the old rhizomes are large enough to sell. This might not be until August in the northern tier of states. And August is the time blooms are initiated for the bloom of the succeeding spring. Digging at bloomstalk initiation time can be very upsetting, as far as blooming is concerned.

Speaking of the above danger of winter damage to irises by sharp drops in temperature, a lady writing from a high elevation in New Mexico wrote, "The temperature that damages iris I've found varies. If it is a big, sudden drop, 32 degrees kills the bloomstalks. If it goes down, down, down, a little each night, I've had irises keep blooming when it was even as low as 26 degrees. I guess they become conditioned to the gradual drop and plant growth might stop, but still have enough vitality for the bloomstalk to produce."

In preventing sharp drops and rapid rises in temperature in iris tissues Dr. G.P. Brown (a gold mine in iris lore) tells of great help from snow cover on iris beds. Snow prevents heaving of rhizomes and injury by excessive cold. If snowfall is light it can be induced to form drifts if snow fences are properly placed with reference to prevailing winds so that snowflakes fall to the leeward side of them, he says.

Both summer mulching and winter mulching are live topics in robin discussion. The 'Reporter' gives you opportunity to listen in. From Saline, Mich., comes this bit of useful information. "I have a farmer leave me a big pile of chopped alfalfa - 2nd or 3rd cutting, so no weed seeds. I turn it while it dries and use as a 2-3" mulch in summer. It gives up its nitrogen and when weeds come through you can pull them like out of cheese. I also bring home from Cape Cod on nearly every trip some bags of eel grass from the beach. I wash it well and mulch with it. The rain water goes through it well but it does not pack and is several years rotting, wonderful for any who can get it."

From Tehama County, northern California, comes this. "We never have rot if we keep the leaves from piling up around the iris plants in the winter or rainy season! That is why the expression, "well-ventilated mulch" was used somewhere above. Mulch material that becomes soggy and mats down when wet, as do maple leaves, keeps the leaf bases damp and favors rot organisms. Kinds that possess the ability to allow air circulation are: straw, salt marsh hay, pine needles, evergreen boughs, glass wool, excelsior.

Clement Reeves, who will operate our first test garden for reblooming irises, had this to say about mulching. "I plant my irises on a ridge at least 8 inches high and about a foot wide at the base in 40" rows. I cultivate all summer, then, if I can get to it in the winter, I fill the rows with bean vines. This makes the mulch and it is at least 8" deep after it is packed down. The bean vines are waste from shelled lima beans. They are left in piles during the summer and hauled and spread on the fields as manure in the winter. Actually they are no more than semi-decayed vegetation. One thing that helps through a drought is

to have the soil in good shape, rich in humus and high in fertility. The only rot I get with mulching is when it is too wet for too long, and this only on varieties that rot easily under any damp condition. Planting on a ridge leaves little soil near the top so the plants don't have trouble breathing, and the roots go deep. The weeds don't get a chance to grow up because there isn't much soil there."

Elsewhere Clem told of experience with the bean vine mulch with addition on top of about 4" of pine sawdust. "That year rebloom started in mid-August. The irises grew all summer long and the plants were enormous. That was two years ago. This year's bed had no mulch and had to be cultivated all summer. The rebloom started in late September. See? Summer care matters.

Advice about shade for reblooming irises varies too, according to the climate of the writer. The most general advice is, "the more sun, the better." From Bell County, east central Texas, comes this sage statement, "My fall bloomers are doing better since I have them where afternoon shade protects them from the hot sun."

From Colorado Springs, Colo. we get another bit of advice about excess sunlight. "I place a basket or some light shade over new plantings, for our sun out here is very hot, yet you can step into the shade of a tree and start shivering the next minute" A grower in Roy, Utah, is reported to use shingles set upright beside newly-set rhizomes for the same purpose.

But from San Bernardino County, close to the Mohave Desert we are told, "I'm convinced that too much sun is better for irises than too much shade. As trees become larger it is easy to see why they wouldn't get enough sun." Ed. Remember root competition for water and nutrients too.

From San Joaquin County, California, one of America's low level hot spots, we are told, "The heat is so terrific (yesterday, June 18, it was 103 at 4:30 P.M.) that I feel all irises do better with shade. I have an area with no shade whatever and the irises bloom O.K., but small and short, while the same irises on the shady side are huge, tall, and blue ribbon specimens. I have tried various locations here in my garden and now am planting trees this fall for shade."

Now let's jet back north and east, to Doc Percy Brown's Bristol County, Mass. garden. He agrees with the above advice that various parts of the garden should be tried for best results. Read on. "Some rebloomers rebloom well in one location in the garden and not so well in another place. They need full sun - no shadows from trees or buildings. I had a row of OCTOBER SHADOWS, one of my rebloomers. It was west from a stone wall with a 15-foot tree near the wall. The shadow from that tree made a week's difference in blooming time. Bloom started at the west end of the row beyond the shadow and it was a week later that the rebloom started near the stone wall and in the shadow." In another letter he added, "Bloom is a week earlier on the southeast side of the old house at Barre. The house keeps off the cold west wind and perhaps the reflected heat and light from the white house warms up the garden. Reblooming irises need such a spot in severe climates."

Our Tehama County, California hybridizer sums up the situation regarding the need for bloom at specific times as follows. "I do not consider a December blooming rebloomer as such in this area. They must bloom here in October - preferably late October and early November. September is not good as the hot weather makes the blooms poor - bunched with small bloom amongst conspicuous spathes. The winter blooming irises

of southern California bloom too late, and the September blooming irises of Mass. bloom too early. So we have all this need for careful definition of reblooming irises suited to various areas. We need to pick, for the central valley of California, certain varieties that bloom in the mid-period of late October and early November."

The classification of the long list of so-called rebloomers or remontant irises into groups fit for performing well in specific geographic areas is the prime objective of our publication and of its supporting group. All irises that in any single climate qualify as remontants, as properly defined, should have a place in the program. The word, rebloomer, is simply a synonym we applied because too many people did not know the meaning of the other term, or how to pronounce it.

A robin member living in Lincoln County, Washington wrote, "I have always felt that length of annual growing season has more to do with iris rebloom than average mean temperature. That is from personal observation. My folks' ranch is just 27 miles from us, yet their garden is usually a week or ten days ahead of mine. We are situated 500 feet above them and our growing season is just about a week shorter than theirs."

A valued robin writer in Oswego County, N.Y., wrote, "From my experience I would say that it isn't the climate so much as the length of season that is important. I have had rebloomers from California and they were hardy enough, even formed budded stalks, but cold weather always cut them down. I want irises to bloom outdoors in September and October without being pampered, jarred, or what have you?"

"From a mountainous area in western Idaho we are informed of needs there. "Elevation has quite an influence on growth. You can see the difference quite easily and within a short distance from our house. A lot of factors go into making a difference of climate, including direction of slope faces, general protection from the elements and the like. Some spots in my own yard are showing a definite advance on others, and I will change plantings to suit."

Oh, there is so much, much that could and should be written on this subject, but space is running out. Stay with us and good progress is certain. There is room on this page for a final paragraph of more than common interest. It comes from Mrs. Austin. "There is another aspect about reblooming irises -- that is that at least some of them do not require a long winter dormant period to force bloom. This is probably truest of our so-called Winter Bloomers. We have suggested such irises to persons in Florida, extreme southern California, Mexico and Hawaii, but, unfortunately, have had no reports as to their behavior."

"Just as I was writing this, Mr. Kensel Williams, of Vallejo, Cal., asked permission to name one of his new reblooming iris seedlings for Lloyd. I told him that, in our experience irises named for persons did not sell well, but he still wanted to do this as a recognition of Lloyd's work with rebloomers, and I was happy to give him my approval. The climate at Vallejo is definitely mild, but he states it has bloomed well in Reno, Nevada (winter temperatures often below zero) for the last three seasons. He also has one named Miss Vallejo which he states blooms eight months of the year there."

Your editor has wanted to point out in detail the similarity in climate requirements of peach trees and of cold climate rebloomers. Well, that, and much else, must be postponed until the January 1964 issue. We might even have maps of member distribution and of peach culture areas.

Reblooming Iris Registration — 1962

- ADAM (Tom Craig, R. 1962). Sdlg. R6-1. TB, 38", E-Re-L, R3. S., vineyard; F., similar but brighter. From sdlgs. involving Savage, Molten, Lois Craig. Craig 1962.
- AUTUMN TINTS (G.P. Brown, R. 1962). TB, 31", Re, Y05D. S., brown, flushed red; F., red-brown blend. Mary Randall x Sea Orchid.
- AUTUMN VELVET (Austin, R. 1962). Sdlg. 951. TB, 33", EM-Re, R3. S., deep carmine; F. dark carmine, gold-bronze beard. Savage x Tabasco. Rainbow 1962.
- COMMENT (Willbanks, R. 1962). Sdlg. 52-29-1. Arilbred, 40", M-Re, G5. S., blended agate gray, white, eucalyptus green to russet green; F., eucalyptus green, mineral gray and light russet green. White Peacock X Kalifa Baltis.
- DARK MYSTERY (Austin, R. 1962). Sdlg. 941. TB, 44", Re, V3D. S., smoky wine; F., blackish crimson, cream beard. Russian Bronze x April Showers. Rainbow 1962.
- FALL FIRE (Austin, R. 1962). Sdlg. 944. TB, 29", Re, R3V. S., light scarlet-red; F., dark scarlet, bronze beard. Savage x Hustman. Rainbow 1962.
- FALL GREENWAY (G.P. Brown, R. 1962). TB, 32", Re, G5. S., pale green; F., green shading white, darker green veins, yellow beard. September Charm x Summer Surprise.
- FALL YELLOW WINGS (G.P. Brown, R. 1962). TB, 34", Re, Y1M. Medium yell. self, yellow beard. Autumn Snowdrift x (Russet Wings x Fall Primrose).
- FIRST SNOWFALL (Austin, R. 1962). Sdlg. 938. TB, 36", Re, W1. Pure white self. Lady Moon x Canadaway. Rainbow 1962.
- SEPTEMBER SERENADE (G.P. Brown, R. 1962). TB, 30", Re, R1. S., red flush; F., red; red veins on cream beside yellow beard. Fall Serenade X Summer Surprise.
- SKY QUEEN (Frances Craig, R. 1962). Sdlg. B-202. TB, 38", E-Re, B1. Campanula-blue self. (Steeplechase x Mary McClellan) x Regina Maria. Craig 1962.
- SPRING'S RETURN (Z. Benson, R. 1962) Sdlg. 4-3-26-1. BB, 18", M-Re, VID. Red-violet self, white blaze, white-tipped yellow beard. Major-ette x Sass 48-443.
- SUMMER CAVANETTE (G.P. Brown, R. 1962). TB, 34", Re, V3. S., pale lavender; F., lavender, lavender veins on cream base of falls; orange beard. Autumn Afternoon x Glow Port.
- SUMMER GOLDILOCKS (G.P. Brown, R. 1962). TB, 34", Re, Y1. Golden yellow self, golden veins on white beside golden beard. Mattie Gates x Summer Surprise.
- SUMMER TABLETINE (G.P. Brown, R. 1962). TB, 25", Re, Y1. Pale yellow, brown veins on yellow hafts, yellow-tipped beard, white styles. Autumn Twilight x Halloween Night.
- VALHALLA (Tom Craig, R. 1962). Sdlg. 61-110. TB, 38", E-L-Re, B3. S., lobelia; F., lobelia to clematis. Steeplechase x (Headlands x Mary McClellan). Craig 1962.

Addresses of Originators

AUSTIN, LLOYD, 2036 Carson Road, Placerville, Calif. Though Lloyd is deceased, the business of the Rainbow Hybridizing Gardens at this address continues, for the present at least, under the direction of his wife, Gladys.

BENSON, Z.G., 2211 Denver, Wichita Falls, Texas.

BROWN, DR. G. PERCY, Broad Street, Barre, Mass. in cold weather.
His iris garden is at 1603 Main Road, Central Village, Mass. in warm

CRAIG, TOM, R. 4, Box 315, Escondido, Calif.

CRAIG, MRS. TOM (FRANCES), originator of SKY QUEEN, same address.

WILLBANKS, N.T., 3806 Gardenia Street., Long Beach 7, Calif.

Passing thought: Since reblooming irises are extremely subject to influence by climate, wouldn't it be a good idea to study the climate at each address of an originator of a variety? In the January, 1962 'Reblooming Iris Reporter' we listed all rebloomer registrations, 1955 through 1960. In the July, 1962 issue we added those for 1961. Now you have those for 1962. Our advice is to get acquainted with the originators and with the climates existing at their homes. Buy from them if you can, or ask them for sources. A few copies of these back numbers are available from the Editor @ .50 each. *****

Source Research Service

Breeders of reblooming irises are most interested in modern types, but gardeners do not confine their interest to the modern ones. Some of the best performers are really old, and gardeners want them. To help such people our Bulletin and Catalog Research Consultant, Earl F. Beach, 420 Bon Air Road, Pittsburgh 35, Penna., has consented to reply to inquiries about reblooming iris variety sources, if self-addressed and stamped envelopes accompany the requests. In doing so he must depend upon catalogs and price lists in hand. Therefore the suggestion is made that any commercial grower of irises who includes remountants (rebloomers) in his stock send him such catalog or price list annually without being asked. It would be helpful to him if the items of this type were marked conspicuously by crayon or ink, as they are but a small proportion of the whole.

Incidentally, Earl's wife, Gerta, is American Iris Society historian, as far as robins are concerned. The accumulation of catalogs will help that project as well. Join the history builders. But remember that self-addressed stamped envelope; no such service without it.

Invitation to Join a Letter Robin

Readers may have gathered from the foregoing pages that robin writers are having a very interesting time discussing their various procedures aimed at making irises bloom when they want them to. There are large portions of the country where little success has been had in the reblooming iris game, yet where success has resulted, the effort pays off well. Cultural hints being circulated often apply to all bearded irises, so it pays well anyway. Your editor is Division Chairman for Reblooming Iris Robins of the American Iris Society. If you are interested in joining a robin and are willing to live up to a few simple rules to avoid robin troubles, please write him. See inner cover for the address.