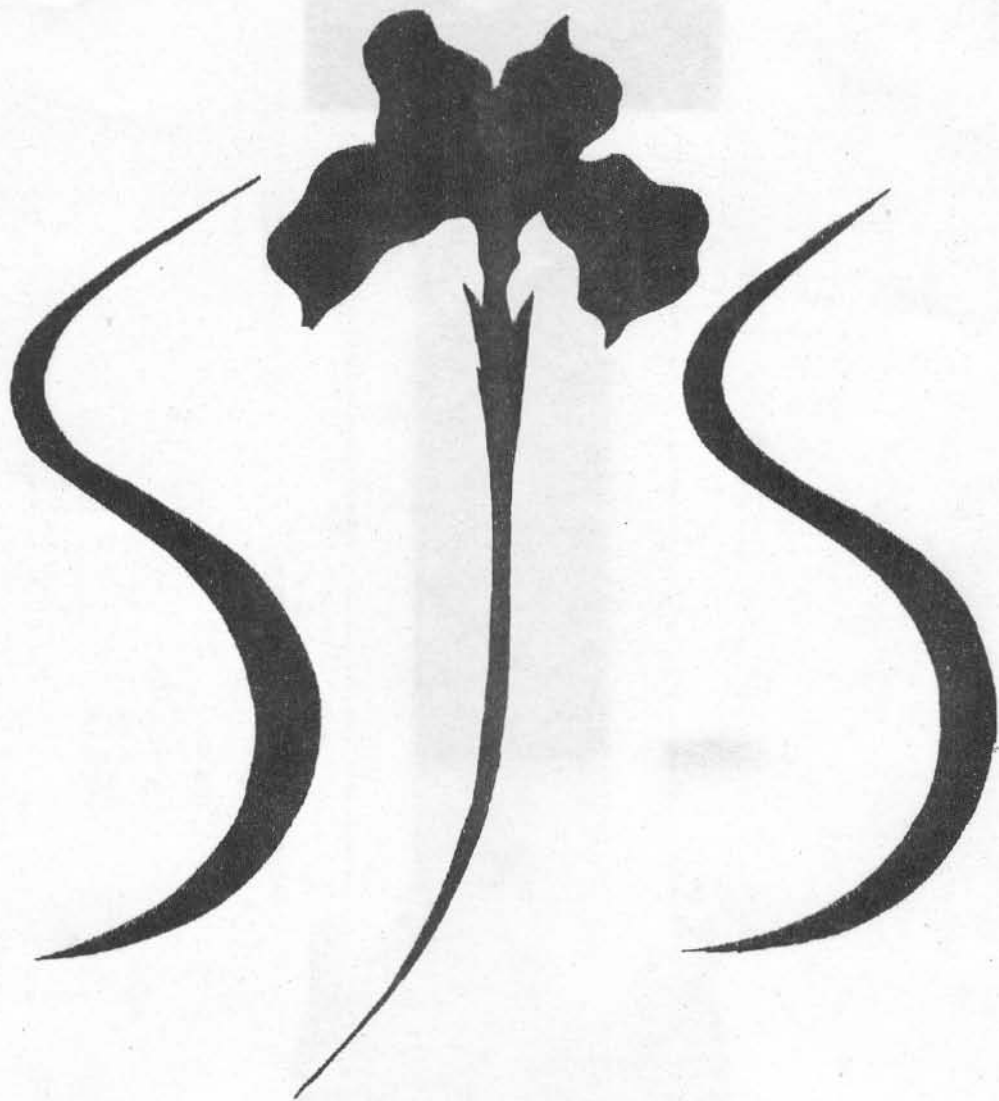


NEWSLETTER



OF THE
SIBERIAN SPURIA AND JAPANESE
GROUP
B.I.S.

The SIBERIAN, SPURIA And JAPANESE IRIS GROUP
of the BRITISH IRIS SOCIETY.

Newsletter No. 25. July 1989

The Objects of the Group.

1. Communications between Members in Great Britain and Overseas.
2. A means of exchanging ideas, plants and seeds etc.
3. To assist beginners in growing Irises and to help with problems.
4. To report on Hybridisation.

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Our Regional Representatives play an important part in our Group, bringing news and reports from different parts of the country, as well as helping Members in their area. Also our Specialists assist in our efforts to make the growing of our Irises more popular. Thank you to everyone.

SUBSCRIPTIONS £1.50 are now due please, will you pay as promptly as possible please.

Cheques should be made payable to:-

THE S. S and J. GROUP. B.I.S.

Newsletters are published in February and July, please remember that it is your Newsletter, and we welcome any information about your garden, the Irises you grow, your Show successes, your problems, in fact anything you feel will be of interest to other Members--- let us know....

Editorial.Our Opportunity taken from Walter Stager's Book..

We take things as we find
 But do not leave them so;
 We're sure to leave behind
 Some changes when we go.
 And so, while we are here
 We constantly should try
 To make each change a cheer
 To others ere we die.
 Do much, perhaps all cannot,
 But each one has the power
 At least to make some spot
 The brighter with a flower.

This struck me as being appropriate in these days when everyone seems to be determined to change everything, whether it be for good or ill, particularly in the country side, where more and more land is being 'swallowed up' each year.

First let me apologize for my typing, I hope you will understand. Secondly and more important a big thank you to Ray Wilson, who took over so nobly and produced the February Newsletter during my recent illness...

What a season it has been, especially for growing Irises, many parts of the country so dry that they were out and over in such a short time. Some parts of the country seem to have been a little more fortunate than others and did have some rain, now the drought has broken, thank goodness saving many plants. The early flowering played havoc with Show Dates, as our Regional Reports will tell you, but we send congratulations to everyone who won awards at the different Shows.

Here in the East the Pond Iris came through the best, a lovely clump of *I. pseudacorus* 'E. Turnipseed' (creamy white) flowered well, *I. laevigata* and *I. ensata*, in their turn and 'Gerald Darby' as well. *I. innominata* came out first in shades of 'buff pink to blue' then 'Holden Clough'. The Sibiricas came later 'Dreaming Yellow', 'Swank', 'Orville Fay', 'Dragon Fly' and a strong seedling which came from Nigel Colborn's Nursery. *I. Wilsonii* Major produced more flowers than ever this year. I was very pleased to see a seedling 'blue' foetidissima as well as a large clump of 'Citrina'. All growing well despite much neglect.

We welcome three new Members, Mr. Art Cronin of Roscommon M.I. U.S.A., Mr. A. Robbins of Belfast and Dr. J.A. Smart of Barnstaple N. Devon. We hope you will all enjoy reading the Newsletter and will write an account of your garden and the Irises you grow for future Newsletters.

Our Chairman Jack Venner has not been well, we send him all good wishes, and hope he will soon feel better. Philip Allery, our West Midlands Regional Reporter, has had a spell of ill health, we hope he too is improving.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to Members and friends who have sent messages concerning my health, I am feeling a little better, not fully well yet, but well enough to sit down and attempt to type this. I do hope you will excuse the delay, and I send you all good wishes.....

Joan Trevithick.

Chairman's Letter.

Dear Fellow Members,

My message to you, in this earliest of early Iris seasons, is to report something that I am sure will please all of you. Although I have not seen Joan Trevithick, our Hon. Secretary this year, I am happy to say that, from telephone conversations she seems so much better in health. I am sure Members appreciate, as I do, the sterling work that she has put into the S. S. & J. in the past, and although she is still undergoing medical treatment, I know that she is still eager to give Members the benefit of her services; I have persuaded her not to overdo things.

Best Wishes to you all, and may successful Iris growing continue....

Jack Venner.

My Irises.

by Dr. J.A. Smart.

In the last 10 or 12 years we have established at Marwood Hill Gardens, 4 miles out of Barnstaple, North Devon, a fairly large Bog Garden alongside a stream running through the valley which bisects the garden. In addition there is a fairly extensive planting of waterside
 (cont.)

plants around three small lakes, which have been formed by damming the stream. The collection includes Trollius, Lysichitum, Hostas, Ligularias, Senecio smithii, Astilbes and many others. It also includes Iris Sibirica, Laevigata and Ensata. We hold a National Collection of Astilbes which do exceptionally well in this situation, and we now have about 120 different species or cultivars.

I am also hoping to grow an increasing number of Iris Kaempferi (how I dislike the Botanists who will shange the names of plants, so that, I suppose, I must now call it I. Ensata.) I find that these Iris grow very well in either the boggy part or by the streamside, which is raised above the level of the water so that the soil is not particularly wet; presumably the roots get down some distance into the wetter soil. They clump up very well, and the flowers have been very good this year, inspite of the extremely hot weather conditions since mid-May.

I have collected my plants from a variety of sources over a number of years, and I am not sure of the validity of their names. I would be most grateful if any Member of the Group, who happens to be in this area in the next flowering season would cast a critical eye over the flowers and tell me that I am wrong in their naming, and help me as to their correct titles. I am anxious to collect as many of these Iris as I can and have allocated a special part of the bog garden to be given over entirely to them.

When I was in South Africa in October 1988, I was very intrigued to see a large number of forms of Iris Louisiana in red/bronze, white and many other colours. These were being grown water in the same way as I grow Iris Laevigata in this garden. I wonder whether the same might be used here? Growing under water would keep them from frost, but, I suppose, it is possible that, excepting this year, there might not be enough heat for them. I would value any opinions about this and also any suggested source for Iris Louisiana in this country?

The Iris Ensata that I grow are as follows:-

'Apollo'	6. Petals, White, Large.
'Axumes Koucko'	6. Petals, White, Blue tinge.
'Galathea'	Silvery, Blue veining, Deep Blue centre.
'Gei-sho-ui'	6 Petals, White edged Rosy-violet.
'Swell'	
'Hageromo'	12 Petals, White with slight Blue flush.
'Natsu-sugaata'	6 Petals, White veined Deep Blue.
'Hercule'	6 Petals, Purple, Yellow centre, Large
'Higo'	6 Petals, Purple-Blue.
'Hokkaido'	6 Petals, Silvery-Blue.
'Kuwi-Gunjin'	6 Petals, Violet Mauve.
'Landscape at Dawn'	
'Manderin'	Deep Blue, Large.
'Moonlight Waves'	6 Petals, White, Small.
'Pink Frost'	Pink.
'Purple East'	6 Petals, Silvery-Blue.
'Red Dawn'	Reddish with White spotting.
'Royal Purple'	6 Petals Deep Purple. Large.
'Snowdrift'	
'Sunnybank'	6 Petals, Rosy-Purple.

Dr. James Smart goes on to say that these descriptions are from memory, and could be inaccurate, but he hopes that some Members will be able to help.

(I would like to add that I am not familiar with some of these names myself, so I hope That I have done them justice in copying. J.T.)

Farewell to a Garden.

by Hilda Goodwin.

Now that the time has come for us to leave the garden which we have made and tended for fifty-six years, memories come flooding back... The planning of the lay-out, the poring over catalogues, the gradual transformation of that tussocky slope to lawns, rockeries, beds and borders, the plants gratefully accepted from friends and relations... some of which are still thriving to-day.

Among these plants were a few Irises.. quite new to me, but it was not until the late 1940's that I began to take a real interest in the flowers that were to become my chief joy.

Looking back on my early records I see such names as 'Bittersweet', 'Bonnet of Blue', 'Senlac', 'Natal', 'Lady of Shalott', 'Arab Chief', 'Radiant', 'Loomis V.20'... I could go on and on with names that are now only found in old catalogues and registration lists. And the prices, mostly 2/6 to 5/- (old money), though I did pay 8/6 in 1952 for 'Arab Chief' and by 1958 had advanced to 15/- for 'Starshine'.

(cont.)

After joining the B.I.S. in 1961 I became a little more discriminating, and also began experimenting with dwarfs and intermediates. I also obtained a few Sibiricas and planted them by the pond. It is not until 1970, however, that I find any mention of Species in my records. In that year I recorded the flowering of reticulatas, unguicularis, japonica, versicolor, chrysographes, pseudacorus, achroleuca (now orientalis), laevigata, graminea and ruthenica, plus several named Sibiricas.

It is interesting to look back on these old records; from 36 bearded Irises flowering in 1959, the number increased to 100 in 1966. Entries seem to be rather erratic for a few years.. (I wonder why?... Probably I was away from home quite a bit, as by then I had a married son and daughter to visit), but from 1971 onward they seem fairly complete. By 1988 the total reached nearly 300, but this year dropped to under 250, I expect it was because I had not been able to look after them as well as I would have liked. The period of blossom has lengthened as earlier and later varieties have been added, and now ranges from early April until the first week in July. This year (1959) I had M.D.B's out in March, while in 1986 the first dwarf did not appear until May 5th.

Although my first love was for the bearded Irises I have enjoyed growing Sibiricas and Spurias, but I have not had much success with the Japanese section: Just the odd bloom now and again. Some Species have done very well with me, while others, in spite of all my efforts, have only lasted a year or two.

Now as I wander round the garden and think of all the pleasures and disappointments of the years, I realize it is 'goodbye' to most of the plants that I have nurtured. I will not be able to take many of them, so how do I choose which ones they will be? Shall I take some of the 'Old faithfuls' that have proved their worth over the years, or the more recently acquired, which have not yet had time to show their capabilities?... It will probably be some of each, but the final decision will be very difficult to make.....

(Thank you Hilda for such an interesting account of your years of growing Irises. I would add also the years of success on the Show Bench, gaining many awards, some recently. I have seen your beautiful garden and appreciate your sadness at the thought of leaving it, let us hope there will be compensations for you. Best Wishes. J.T.)

Trevor Nottle's Letter from Australia.

Trevor wrote in March that they had had a mild Winter, very dry, not a drop of rain since early December (1988). Everything very dusty, droopy and burned round the edges. Grass is yellow-white despite attempts to keep it green. I have thought it better to get on with planting and digging bulbs rather than worry too much about what cannot be helped. This year two new bulb dealers opened for business, each with exciting 'new' imports of Tulips, Crocus, sp. Narcissus, Galanthus etc. so I have spent several days choosing among the Crocus and from some South African bulbs which you may not know... Babiana, Geissorhiza, Massonia and Watsonia.

Al-ready we have Cyclamen Hedrifolium (pink and white) in flower also C.Africanum and C.Repandum. Colchicums are also showing in the cooler, shadier parts of the garden. Yesterday while doing my daily dozen in the swimming pool I noticed the first two flowers on Camellia nasongua.. this must mean Winter is coming; though this is hard to believe when the day temperatures have been around 38 degrees and nights at 30 degrees for nearly a fortnight.

Naturally Iris are all pretty much dormant. I have begun the chore of cutting back old foliage on the Spurias and T.B.'s and will soon get stuck into I. Unguicularis so that it can show off it's flowers in early Winter. I did notice Gynandiris shooting up new foliage last week, and Moreas and a few other 'low-life' Irids will soon be making grass... if it rains.

My work is keeping me very busy away from home. Since Christmas I have been to Jakakarta in Indonesia (it used to be Batavia) as part of a Health and Education Survey team for our Foreign Aid programme. and I have been twice to Melbourne to do some research at the Royal Children's Hospital as part of a World Health Organization project on deaf-blind children. In October I will be going to Hamilton in New Zealand to speak on my school's programme for head-injured children (usually as a result of car accidents).

However, with Spring around the corner, there is much to look forward to... even if some one else has to do the weeding....

(Thank you Trevor, all good wishes in your work with children. J.T.)

Reprinted from the book 'Know Your Irises' issued by the New Zealand Iris Society (inc.) for the benefit of Irisarians in assessing, judging, showing Irises and seedlings. Paul Richardson and Frances Love, the Treasurer and President are Members of our Group.

Series Sibicae is a group of ten species native to the moist areas of Central Europe and Asia. These fall into two distinct groups: subseries sibiricae consisting of I. sibirica and I. sanguinea and subseries chrysographes including I. chrysographes, forestii, clarkei, dykesii & delavayi. All these species, with the exception of I. clarkei have hollow stems.

In this section the judge will have to deal with all these species, each having their own characteristics, as well as the latest in hybrids. Perhaps the most important point to consider in either show or garden judging is the ability of the bloom stalk and plant to give the effect of graceful charm.

These Irises vary in height from 15cm. (6") to 120 cm. (48"). Stalks must be strong, yet at the same time both slender and supple and in good proportion to the size of the flower.

Branching is generally considered an asset as it gives more bloom, but over-wide candelabra type branching is not good as it crowds other bloom stalks in the clump. Ideal branching is well spaced, holding blooms above the foliage and as close to the stem as possible, without crowding.

Foliage is a rich green and can be very narrow to quite broad, and in some cases erect, in others gracefully arched. The foliage of a particular variety must complement the flower.

Colour of the flower should be clear and clean and non-fading. Most siberian irises have a characteristic semi-circular pattern extending from the haft out on to the falls. This should be clear cut and contrast harmoniously with the colour of the flower. Some varieties have reddish-purple spathes and look very attractive in bud.

Flower. The size of the flower varies from 7cm(3") to 13cm.(5") across with some tetraploids even larger, though the height of their bloom stalk is not usually taller. Whatever the size, the overall effect must be light and graceful. The flowers are divided into two distinct forms. Species and older cultivars have pendant or vertically arched falls, and the modern trend is for horizontally flaring falls. Shape of falls varies from fairly narrow to give an open, airy appearance, to very rounded giving an almost circular effect. They can be ruffled or plain. Reject twisted, badly tucked or sloppy falls. Standards can be upright, close to horizontal or any angle in between. Whatever the shape or size, standards should produce a graceful effect in combination with the falls. Styles tend to be held at an angle of 45degrees.

Texture and Substance. The texture of the flowers also varies from matte to satin or velvety, but should not be crepey. The substance of the horizontal, flaring type needs to be more starchy than the pendant type. Very firm substance is not desirable in the very large flowers as it makes them brittle. This applies to any size or shape as it destroys one of the chief attractions of the siberian irises- that is the way the flowers flutter in the breeze, like a mass of butterflies.

Japanese Irises. The irises dealt with in this section are hybrids which bear very little resemblance to the original species. They belong to the series Laevigatae and are derived from the single species I. ensata Thunb. There are four distinct types of flower in the Japanese irises.

- 1.. Single 3 petal type. This should have the hafts wide enough to touch or overlap. Standards should have sufficient substance to be held in a natural semi-erect position.
- 2.. Double 6 petal type. Should have solid form. There should be no gaps between petals at the base of the flower. The inner petals should lie flat on the lower petals.
- 3.. Peony type. This is a 6 petal double with extra petaloid style forming a central tuft.
- 4.. Double 9 petal type. This has nine complete overlapping petals lying flat on top of each other.

In both garden and exhibition judging, points for evaluation would be very similar except that in garden judging the vigour of the plant and amount and duration of bloom must be taken into consideration.

Flower. Regardless of type, the flower must be well formed and in proportion with petals held horizontally or arching downward.

Colour. This must be clear and brilliant if in solid colour. If marked and patterned, the lines should be distinct and delicate and the colours must harmonise. In garden judging the colours must either be non-fading or fade to a pleasing colour.

Substance. This should be sufficiently heavy to maintain the shape of the flower and withstand the sun's heat.

Texture. Texture varies but should be in keeping with the colour and type of the flower so that the overall appearance is one of distinction and charm.

Plant. Regardless of size, the plant should be vigorous with attractive foliage to set off the flowers.

(Cont.)

Stalk. There should be a minimum of one branch, preferably more. The branches should be well spaced and of sufficient length so that the flowers do not appear crowded. Each branch should carry two or more buds, preferably with only one open at a time. The stalk should be straight and strong enough to carry the flower erect during ordinary weather conditions. It must not be flexible or wiry and the bloom must have a strong neck. Height will be in proportion to the flower, with the blooms carried well above the foliage. The ratio of the bloom to the stalk should be approximately 1 to 5, i.e. an 18cm. bloom will have a 90cm. stalk.

Condition and Grooming. In show judging the same rules apply as for other types of irises.

(Thank you for such an interesting insight to these Irises, we hope it will be of use both to Members who show their Irises and those who just grow them will be encouraged to bring them to the various shows. A lot of hard work must have gone into compiling it, by the New Zealand Society, we commend them. Ed.)

Congratulations to the Society for Japanese Irises, who are celebrating their 25th Anniversary this year.. well done...

Here is an account taken from their Anniversary Review, by kind permission of their Editor Leland M. Welsh.

Culture in Artificial Bogs.

by Robert A. Bauer.

Most experts on Japanese iris culture write that JI are not bog plants, but do very well in ordinary garden soil, given an adequate supply of water during the blooming season. The Japanese flood their iris during bloom season, they say, for the aesthetic qualities of the water background. There's more to water, I think, than an aesthetic background.

First of all, Japanese iris may not thrive in ordinary garden soil, and in most parts of the U.S., they will fail to bloom well or even die in ordinary garden soil. For them to do well, the soil must be rich, on the acid side, and water retentive (or have poor drainage). For optimum bloom the soil must be moist, even soggy, from the time the iris to grow in early spring through the blooming period. After blooming, the plant continues to grow and the foliage increases tremendously throughout the summer; for optimum performance, the plant must be kept watered all through the growing season.

Two years ago (1986) we decided to add two artificial ponds to the garden, and while in the business of looking for sources of plastic liners, I came across a landscaping firm that had a pool liner left from a job where the size of the pool was changed, and it was available at a very reasonable cost. The problem with the liner was it's colour - a brilliant blue, which seemed out of place in the garden. We eventually found 32 mil black PVC liners for the ponds. We also had two areas that had grown Japanese iris for several years where the plants no longer flourished and we decided to replace soil in these areas with the virgin soil removed while digging the ponds. It was then that we decided to experiment with bogs. The planting areas were excavated to a depth of 14-16 inches which is where a layer of rocks, sand and gravel begins, and lined the holes with sections of the 20 mil blue PVC pool liner. The excavation of the ponds began by first removing the sod (2") and using the topsoil to fill the plastic lined bogs. The two bogs were prepared differently; one, which I will call the large one, was triangular, about 12 feet to a side, and was filled with a mix of topsoil:perlite, 3:1. The second, the small one, was circular with a diameter of about five feet, and was filled with a 'classic' bog mix of 1:1:1, topsoil:perlite: Canadian sphagnum peat. About an inch of rotted stable manure (horse manure and straw) was incorporated into the top six inches of each bog, and they were planted in mid-September and thoroughly watered. The soil level in the bogs was even with the surrounding soil, but because of the slope of the ground, excess water drained to one edge of each; that is, there was never any standing water in the bogs, even after heavy rain.

All the plants responded very well, blooming the next summer with tall, multiple branched stalks and very large flowers, the stalks being 6-12" taller than those of the same variety in non-bog conditions. The smaller bog, a mass planting of the short pink 'Kyokko', was thinned to about half the number of plants. This year (1988), again the bloom was spectacular. By September each plant was a clump of 20-40 fans, which we consider to be overcrowded. The planting of 'Kyokko' was replaced with a mass planting of Reid's magnificent red 'Garnet Royalty'. In the larger bog, half the plants were removed and replaced with two-fan divisions and half were left. Normally the remaining plants would have been divided, but they were left to see how large clumps behave in bog conditions.

Based on our experience with artificial bogs, the reports by George Padget (The Review 24:2 33 (1987); 25:2, 35 (1988), and the results of Jim and Jill Copelands' bogs, we most heartily recommend them. If we define bog plants as those that flourish in bog conditions, perhaps Japanese iris would not fit in that class, because they need more nutrients than are present (cont)

in a bog. Maybe we should call them marsh plants, but I believe it is misleading to represent them as plants which would do well in an ordinary perennial bed.

Making an artificial bog represents a considerable amount of labor, with additional problems of where to store the soil while the excavation takes place and the high cost of durable PVC liners. This year we are experimenting with small planting pockets which would allow J.I. and other water-loving irises to be grown in a perennial border. They consist of holes about 18" in diameter, 14-16" deep, lined with 2 strong, large plastic garbage bags, one inside the other. While excavating the hole, the soil can be amended and stored in a large wheelbarrow. After filling the garbage bag lined holes with the amended soil, the plastic is cut to about half an inch below soil level for aesthetic reasons. I call these planting pockets 'bogettes' and will report on them in the future.

(From enquiries, I am sure Members will be interested in Robert Bauer's article, we look forward to hearing more. In fact there are already two more, these will appear in later Newsletters. Ed.)

Continuing the account of Lime-resistant Kaempferi (Ensata). Reprinted from the 1959 Year Book by kind permission of the B.I.S.

In the autumn of 1955 new seeds were once more bought, but for the most part I could by then use some of my own, as that summer I was able to admire the first flowers on the plants I had bought and on the seedlings of 1953. My enthusiasm knew no bounds, but I quickly found out that the Higo and Marhigo seedlings had much better flowering-qualities than the plants grown from German seed. This observation induced me to cross good varieties only, and the result was such a wealth of seed as I have never seen before with irises. The first harvest, in 1955, comprised about 300 seed-capsules, and there must have been far more than 10,000 seeds. Some seed-capsules from crosses of the most beautiful flowers were sown out at once; after having been soaked for two days, the seeds were cooled down for a week to 32 degrees F., thinly sown out in boxes, and kept at a temperature of 68 degrees F. The first seedlings appeared about four weeks later, and by the beginning of November 1955 I had several hundred vigorous plants. These were potted by the middle of January, the soil being a mixture of $\frac{1}{2}$ loam, poor in lime, $\frac{1}{3}$ peat, and $\frac{1}{3}$ rotted cow-manure. The temperature in the hot-house, which I had by then, varied between 68 and 86 degrees F., and growth was tremendous. Every fortnight a 1% solution of an acid artificial manure, free from lime, was given, and the plants were kept well watered. By the middle of April 1956 the plants, now vigorous, dark green, and up to 20 ins. high, some already with lateral growths, were put into open soil. In summer 1956, about 50% of these plants flowered; that is to say, I had found a way to grow one generation in one year, a process which usually takes two years.

The seed not used for lack of space in autumn 1955 was sown in the following February during a period of warm weather, in rows with a distance of 6 inches between, about half an inch deep, and so that the seeds just failed to touch each other. The sowing was done in an open box with a rich lime-free garden soil, with a pH value of 6.5. This box was always kept moist, and the small lime-content of the sprinkling-water did not cause any visible damage. In cold winters germination took place within 8 to 10 weeks, whereas in warm winters the first seedlings appeared in 6 weeks. Night frosts, here not unusual up to the middle of May, never damaged the young seedlings. These, which by the beginning of July had reached a height of about 10 to 15 ins., were then planted direct into the open soil, at a distance of 12 ins. apart. Experience has taught me that about 10% of the plants will flower in the first year after sowing, although with shortened stems and small blooms, but nevertheless, even at such an early date, they show their distinct flower-colours and patterns. The following year brings all the seedlings to full bloom, except, of course, for a small proportion of stunted plants useless for further breeding. The growing and planting method described has proved its value, and has always been adhered to in succeeding years.

In the meantime I had learned that the essential improvements could be reached by applying suitable doses of manure, and by heavy watering in spring until after blooming. The vigour of the plants as well as the form and size of the flowers was greatly improved thereby. It may be of interest that out of 5000 seedlings originating from seeds collected in Germany from old Japanese stock, not a single plant could in any way with the latest Higo and Marhigo varieties.

(cont)

With a heavy heart I came to the decision that the whole of this large collection of seedlings had to be scrapped.

(To be continued in the February 1990 Newsletter.)

Regional Report for the North West. (June 23rd 1989)

by Ray Wilson.

The hot weather, at least for the present, ^{seems to be over} so there is time to ponder over the past few months. Without doubt, the exceptionally mild winter encouraged new growth and when fairly hard frosts came along many plants, not only irises, were cut down. On the other hand and to my relief I did not suffer much from rot. With the return of the warmer weather and the hot dry periods, interspersed with a few days of very high temperatures and humidity, the bearded irises seemed to dash through their blooming so that in early June they were as good as over. Setosa came along normally, but once in flower the bloom only lasted a couple of days. The Sibiricas were very early, with the exception of I. Forrestii and Wilsonii, all the blooms were over by mid-June. The exceptions are now in bloom, making a useful contribution to the garden colour. Once again 'Blue Burgee' was a favourite Sibirica, although it did not do as well as last year due to the drier conditions.

Reading about wide crosses in SIGNA reminded me that Tetrasibitosa, which was grown from seed which came from Tomas Tamberg, bloomed this year (3 years from seed to bloom). The plant is very upright, flower stem 3 ft. tall, with 3 branches giving a total of 10 blooms and the leaf stems a good mid-green, a bit smaller than the flower spike-- about $\frac{1}{2}$ " - $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide. The form of the blooms was typical modern Sibirica, although the standards were about half the height expected of a Sibirica. The flower colour lacked the Setosa purple, it was a purple-tinged blue with white markings. Style arms as for a Sibirica. The plant looks quite vigorous and I look forward to seeing how it improves next year.

Last year I got some new (to me) Sibiricas and Japanese Irises, which I potted up for the winter. Most came along very well and once the root development was adequate I planted them outside in May. This procedure has proved to be a sensible precaution for most Irises, enabling them to acclimatize more easily to our climate.

Spurias and Japanese Irises have done less well than I had hoped. Partly, perhaps wholly, because of the drier conditions. Leaf growth has been slow and remains stunted, and, to date, no Japanese Iris has bloomed -- happily it is raining !! - and there is still time.

'Holden Clough' has performed well, plenty of bloom and good increases. I split 'Gerald Darby' leaving one half in it's old position and potted the other half then sank the pot up to the brim in the pond. Both have done well, although the plant in the pond had flower stalks which were much greener in colour than the land-based plant, otherwise no difference in bloom or size.

From this year, I will be growing fewer Bearded Irises so that I can concentrate more on Pacific Coast Irises (main interest) Sibiricas and Japanese Irises.

Regional Report from London.

by Anne Blanco White.

This is no year to write about the garden performance of any iris: there were Californians in flower with the reticulatas and everything else was flowered too early, with those flowering relatively late being wrecked by the dry heat.

I had my earliest sibiricas out during April and I doubt if that is a record for the year. The normally cold clay never was really chilled over winter, and the lack of soil water definitely led to poor growth so that spikes were short and lacked branching. I rather think it will be a poor seed year, too.

The B.I.S. Show at Wisley on the 10th. & 11th. June definitely relied on spikes from Wales and the Midlands. The actual balance between Tall Bearded and the rest was quite satisfactory, while the decorative classes showed great ingenuity. Tomas Tamberg came over from Berlin with armfuls of his own plants, which included one seedling with the most beautiful rainbow colouring on the hafts of the falls. If it can retain this feature over the years, it will be a very satisfying addition to the range.

The Sibirica Trials were past their best by that time and are due for replanting this year. Luckily we have been able to select many promising new seedlings to add to them, although we have had to evict a number which did not come up to expectation.

At the bottom of the Rock Garden, the laevigatas and ensatas put on an acceptable

(cont.)

display. They are always early on this site, but really do not seem to like an overdry atmosphere.

The situation with the spurias is not so good. The Trial itself was in magnificent form - should I remind you that we usually judge them during July? Probably I should, because we get virtually no spurias sent up to the J.I.C. for possible selection and yet, you know, they are excellent for cutting and very tolerant of being posted around the country. Do none of you try to breed them? Nice quiet, well behaved plants preferring not to be replanted too often and well suited to small gardens. And there are some fine colours to start from. One of the trial cultivars this year was still in green bud, so it was arranged for spikes to be brought up to London ten days later for the J.I.C. to consider. So much for man's proposals: by the time of the Late Show those spikes had gone beyond recall, let alone judgement, but this was an exceptional year.

Admittedly, Sidney Linnegar, the Show Secretary, had decided at Wisley to cancel the competitive classes at the Late Show and so we staged a Publicity Stand using such spikes as willing Members could raise, on staging, which was all of 10 feet long and 2 feet 6 inches deep. Sidney himself produced some ensatas; we were more than grateful to a commercial Member who provided various colour forms of foetidissimas and laevigatas, while a few last spurias widened the range a little and a spike of inter-war T.B. brought up for identification sufficed to demonstrate precisely what was meant by a 'bearded' iris. Interestingly enough, the plants which seem to have enjoyed the year in good form and flowered at the proper time are the Lousianas. What's more there seem to be pods forming on some spikes of mine in London. Could I.fulva have flowered while I wasn't looking? It is buried in alstromerias which have been spreadeagled by wind and rain. At all events, I never saw those particular spikes with flowers on, although I did see I.fulva nearby.

Anyway, the Late Show was a pathetic turnout, with blooms fading visibly in the heat, for all that it is unusual for ensatas to appear at a show at all these days and 'Rose Queen', above all, gave us something to talk about to visitors. Indeed, I find it difficult to believe that some of the artists who contrived to turn up at the end of the second day, during the transport strike, wanted to take material away for a quick evening's work.

Mercifully, we have now had some rain which will help the plants to survive the rest of the summer, and, after all, most of them survived 1976 which was even worse. I have found that even ensatas growing in the stream bed had flower buds dehydrated before they opened this year, so that the edges of the petals were dry and they expended into rather odd shapes. Those in flower beds simply didn't bother to produce flower spikes at all and I think that was due to lack of watering at the crucial stage of growth. I was out of the country when the temperature really took off and the ground was already deficient in water by then.

If the 'greenhouse effect' is going to give us summers like this with any frequency we may well have to rethink our watering techniques. In any case, metered water supplies are going to give many gardeners a very nasty shock. New ways will have to be found of ensuring that we have reserves for critical periods, and that those supplies do go to the plants and not just all over the soil.

The spurias, by way of contrast, seem to have taken the year in their strides - even the ones mown down from 18" to 2" by a marauding rabbit. This is possibly because they tend to grow all winter and took full advantage of the spring rains when the ensatas were not sufficiently advanced to benefit.

With luck we will have reasonable rain from now into the autumn and plants will make a little growth, but replanting is off the agenda while the soil remains so hard and the only thing to do is compost the weeds as fast as they occur. We're going to need that compost.

But there is one cheering thought: Wisley have offered the B.I.S. an experimental planting of ensatas with special watering arrangements. This is partly due to Currier McEwen's enthusiastic efforts to get more publicity for these gorgeous plants, and partly to Wisley's own willingness to take advantage of the changes forced on it by the Great Gale of 1987. Planting should take place in September, and, if it is successful, a full invited trial may follow in two or three years. It does seem to me that there is an upsurge of interest in 'water' irises. Norman Payne puts it down to the interest in all things Japanese, arising from the introduction of koi carp... Well, obviously there is more to it than that, but whatever the cause, if you have friends or acquaintances with garden ponds then encourage them to try an ensata. They really are no more (trouble (cont)

than the average house plant and will over-winter quite happily out of doors, in their pots, ready for sinking again the following spring. Of course, they must be replanted every year, but that isn't such an awful chore. On the other hand, if there is a nice stream bed they can just sit in it and increase quietly, and wait for the next plant to join them...

Report from the (Sweltering) South.

by Ian Smith.

At last the first really decent drop of rain since some time in April arrived last night with a flash, bang, wallop. To-day I'm offering thanks for the respite, however brief, from the daily chore of watering the garden. Despite my efforts, some shrubs have found the heat too much and have died, others have shed their crisp, scorched leaves. The Irises didn't fare much better. The T.B's were blooming in early May, some spikes never making it to Bloom, the buds shrivelling up in their sockets. The Siberians produced very few spikes, some plants not producing any at all. The only Irises which seemed to flourish were the ones in water. The Pseudacorus, Versicolor, Laevigata and Ensata gave me a good show when nearly everything else had failed.

Unfortunately, I was far from being the only one frustrated by the weather, as I soon found out when I went to the B.I.S. Show at Wisley. The T.B's were in very short supply (one exhibitor telling me that had the Show been one week earlier, he could have brought 100 spikes), so it was left to the Siberian Stalwarts, Jennifer Hewitt and Harry Foster, together with a welcome and well-timed visit of Tomas Tamberg from West Germany, to give us a super display. There were many new seedlings on show and quite a few were selected for trial. As this year is the start of the Siberian trials at Wisley, the next few years should see a marvellous display in the Trial Field.

Due to the very early season, the late Show at Vincent Square was cancelled, and the B.I.S. had only a stand and a small display area, which Sidney Linnegar had somehow managed to fill with Laevigatas, Versicolor and other Species, begged and borrowed from friends, relations, etc.,

Over the past few years, I've found the season getting earlier and earlier, and it has become more and more difficult to find suitable spikes for showing. Perhaps this is the result of the 'Greenhouse Effect' or maybe it's just me getting older!

Regional Report for the West Midlands.

by Philip Allery.

The West Midlands Iris Group opened its programme for the season with a display stand at the Malvern Hills Spring Gardening Show, held at Three Counties Showground, Malvern, on the 5th, 6th and 7th May last. This attracted 33,000 visitors, a record number, and was an ideal opportunity for B.I.S. and Iris groups publicity. Next year Royal Horticultural Society will be working closely in conjunction with the Three Counties Show organisers, and R.H.S. Awards competed for. Visitors are expected to increase and the opportunity for publicity will be even greater.

The Group had booked a space 20' x 10', in which three miniature layouts were built under the design guidance of Group Chairman Jennifer Hewitt; husband Peter undertaking the overall arrangements, pre-show carpentry and a host of other jobs. A large backdrop was suitably decorated by a Japanese flower arrangement of willow, iris and camellia japonica by Vera Hemming; an overall poster design and publicity layout by Suz Winspear; and pot plants or iris spikes to balance the display.

At floor level the Group built and planted a water/moist soil area, and at its side, at waist level, a small herbaceous area with simulated lawn walk-way, planted with S.D.B and Arils. With help from an enthusiastic group of helpers, the Group's effort was justly rewarded by the award of a Second Prize.

The opportunity for publicity for the S.S&J. in future years needs to be given careful thought, as many members of the public expressed interest in the plants on display at Malvern, and in two large posters of Japanese irises which were sent to me by Kamo Nurseries.

Severe frosts at the end of October and half-way into November; a mild winter with few severe frosts; a cold and sometimes wet spring, with severe drops in temperature; and an exceptionally warm and dry early summer, all combined to make planning for show bloom a very difficult exercise. Despite this handicap of an early season the Members of the West Midland Iris Group held a successful Annual Show at the Nurseries of Treasures Ltd. of Tenbury Wells on 17th June.

(cont.)

Despite reduced entries the quality of the exhibits was good, and the increasing interest in beardless irises was maintained. Show judges were Anne Blanco White, Cy Bartlett, Sidney Linnegar, George Preston and Clem Mountford, an Australian visitor who has attended several of this season's events.

Class One, open to Members who have not previously won a First prize, was won by Leonard Hemming showing an attractive Japanese iris hybrid 'Ruby King' and one Siberian iris cultivar. Runner-up was John Beal, showing very attractive Spuria seedlings, which had previously received the judges commendation in an earlier seedling class.

The classes for beardless irises had better support than those for the bearded irises, whose growers struggled to find show quality blooms for a show date some two weeks later than the actual date of peak bloom. Despite this the spikes shown were of excellent quality, though fewer in number.

The class for Siberians was also affected by the early season, although a good display was attempted, which drew public attention. Jennifer Hewitt's vase of 'Pink Haze', 'Romantic Lady', 'Dark Circle' and 'Creme Chantilly' won first prize, and went on to win the prize for the Best Vase in Show. Second prize was awarded to Harry Foster, showing 'Shirley Pope', 'Star Glitter', 'Dark Circle' and a seedling. My own entry, showing 'Peg Edwards', 'Silver Edge' and two spikes of 'Dreaming Yellow' was awarded third prize.

Class Ten for beardless cultivars is a class in which I hope to mount a strong challenge in the future, as my stock of Japanese irises increases. This year it encouraged members to show a wide range of exhibits, and it was won by Harry Foster showing a selection of named I. latifolia varieties, 'King of the Blues', 'Queen of the Blues', and 'Mont Blanc'. This entry must have given the judges considerable difficulty when choosing in favour of Jennifer Hewitt's entry for the Best Vase in the Show. Second prize in this class was won by Jennifer Hewitt with her chrysographes seedlings. An eye-catching light chocolate brown, flushed gold, spuria, 'Driftwood', won third prize for John Beal.

The Batts Trophy for the highest total of points obtained by a single exhibitor went to Jennifer Hewitt. Jennifer's garden at 1000ft. altitude compensated for the early season, and enabled her to show many blooms of excellent quality.

We send Dr. Currier McEwen our congratulations on having his offer of a test bed of Japanese irises at Wisley accepted, and extend our good wishes to Norman Payne on his venture to sell Japanese irises on a commercial basis in the U.K. In conclusion we send our very best wishes to our Hon. Secty./Treas. and Newsletter Editor, for a successful outcome to her further medical treatment, and for recovery to good health.

Report for the Eastern Area.

by Jack Venner.

Owing to health problems and public transport difficulties, I have not been around iris gardens this year. However, my brief report on my own garden is that I have had the best T.B. season for 10 years. I'm sure that the same could have been said about Sibiricas if only I had been able to keep the weeds down. In spite of excusable neglect, I had a fairly good show. Clumps of Sibiricas 'Blue Pennant', 'Orville Fay' and 'Harpwell Happiness' were outstanding, and 'Silver Edge' put on its best performance since it was acquired about five years ago.

Spurias are still good, at the time of writing. Perhaps the most outstanding overall show has been the Japanese varieties: some of the flowers being 9" across, have had sufficient substance to withstand rain. Surprisingly a few flowers burned a little in the min-heat wave.

Now that I feel better, I hope to make some overdue alterations in the garden. I intend to accomplish this some outside help, but, no doubt, a lot will be done by Peggy, my long suffering and patient wife.

Like all irisarians, I find iris growing so rewarding. Despite many setbacks the challenge to grow better irises is always there, and best of all, many friendships are made along the way.

(Since writing this account, I regret to have to tell you, that Peggy has rung up to say that Jack has suffered a stroke, and is now in hospital. The latest news is that he is making some progress, but it will take some time. I know you will all join me in sending him good wishes for recovery, also to Peggy, who has been such a staunch supporter. God Bless. Joan.)

Excerpts from Your Letters.

Helen Grier wrote in May, from her home in Yorba Linda California, to tell of the unusual season for irises they have had. Temperatures from 100 to 107 degrees, but before that foggy days of about 58 degrees for 2 months -- no rain to speak of since January. Meanwhile during a trip to Ontario, following her other interest, Daffodils, they had frosts. Now, at the time of writing, glorious weather again.

The Spurias are now ready to be divided, many are 20 years old, and blooms are getting scarce... Space is the thing. Helen sent some photographs of Spuria 'Bold Horizon' from Ben Hager.. the inter-mingled white has large yellow blotches on the falls (as in 'Plain Jane'). Also in the picture is 'Tiger Blues' from McGowen and in front 'Bold Horizon' 69 ins. tall. Two other photographs were of Day Lilies (Helen's own diploid seedlings), they are beautiful: one has deeper yellow streaks on a cream background than the other, both have large flowers.

Helen comments that most of her Spurias are 3 or 4 feet high, only 'Anacapa', a pale blue, smaller flowers is 3 feet tall. She also goes on to say how long it takes for seeds to germinate. In a later letter Helen writes that despite the fact they are not always watered as they should be, she does get a good percentage of germination, the problem is where to put the seedlings!!!

(I entirely agree with you about the length of time it takes for seeds to germinate Helen. Seeds sown last year are just putting in an appearance, you just do not have to give them up. All the Best for the next Iris season. J.T.)

Jack Ashford wrote in July from Nairn, how the year had started with such promise, Apricots, peaches and plums had all set fruit so well, but the weather left him with very few to pick. His greenhouse suffered a bacteriological bug, nearly all tomatoes and melons died. The peacock ate the brassicas, the pigeons ate the peas, now he is looking forward to eating the pigeons... There are some successes, would you believe Foxgloves, monumental great spikes that soar above the ravaging hordes of fathen, chickweed, the twin creepers thistle and buttercup, and all the rest of the motly crew that make life in a garden. I have a deep red poppy that came in with a load of council leaves, and like 'the man who came to dinner' is obviously going to stay.

Iris didn't like that awful brassy heat of June and were far too quickly over. In fact that spell set most things right back more efficiently than a frost (and you can include me in that)... It had that searing heat that sucked the very life out of our light soils. See me in my Bermuda shirt (Present from not very filial daughter in America); Army shorts (1939 vintage) and bee-hat minus veil..... (Jack includes a very funny cartoon of himself, which I cannot reproduce).. We made gallons of elderflower lemonade and were exceedingly popular while it lasted; but we were not so very popular when those same fickle people found out that somehow we hadn't got round to making the usual brew of nettle beer. I'm also involved now with the Greens and more and more time is needed to watch over the antics of those who order our lives. Seems to me to be the obvious conclusion for anyone who gardens to come to... So there we are !!!!

(Thank you Jack for the entertainment, I was getting rather despondent about the short and sometimes non-existent Iris season, you have raised my spirits...J.T.)

The Group Library.

Copies of the following American Books and Publications are obtainable from:-
Hon. Librarian-- Mrs. Jennifer Hewitt, 'Haygarth', Cleeton St. Mary, CLEOBURY MORTIMER.
KIDDERMINSTER. Worcs. DY14 0QU.

Siberian Irises by Currier McEwen.

The Spuria Irises-Introduction & Varietal Listing-1985. Editor James J. Foreman.

Newsletter of the Spuria Iris Society.

Review of the Society for Japanese Irises.

Journal of the Siberian Iris Society.

The Genus Iris, subsection Sibiricae. B.I.S.

Alphabetical Table and Cultivation Guide to the Species. B.I.S.

All back numbers of the S. S. & J. Newsletters.

Please include Postage when requesting items.

Treasurer's Report.

The Balance in Bank is looking slightly less healthy than this time last year, it is £72.93p. (Res. £33.54p.) due to the lapse of our Plant Scheme, and Subscriptions owing. Will you please send them as soon as possible. The Postage will be going up again in September, requiring consideration to be given to the 1990/91 year. Sorry to be so pessimistic, but there is just no way round these increased costs..

We have some Back Numbers of the Newsletters at 50p plus 14p each.

Please make cheques and Postal Orders payable to the :-

S. S. & J. Group. B.I.S.

Send to:- Mrs J.Trevithick, 86a, Grantham Rd. RADCLIFFE-on-TRENT. NOTTINGHAM. NG12 2HY.
(Please omit Hon. Treas.)

List of New Members.

Mr. A.Robbins, 'Grosvenor Tropicals', 160-162, Beersbridge Rd. BELFAST. BT6 8AE.

Dr. J.A.Smart, 'Marwood Hill Gardens' BARNSTAPLE. N.DEVON. EX31 4EB.

Overseas.

Mr. Art Cronin, 10920, Oakwood Road, R3 Box 24-14, ROSCOMMON. MI. 48653 U.S.A. (April to October). Winter R I Box 35-B. Lot 24, Midway Mobile Manor, ALUNO. TEXAS. 785116.

Dr. S.P.Ruffles, 18 Bluebell Rd. WALSALL WOOD. WALSALL. W.Midlands. W892 BB. (whose address was not given in the Feb. List.)

Change of Address.

Mr. R.Bray, 'Fairfield' Coronation Rd. RODBOROUGH. STROUD. Glos. GL5 8SB.

List of Plantsmen and Women in our Group.

Mr. Norman Berekis, 'Valley Nurseries', Erdington Rd. ALDRIDGE. WALSALL. W.M. WS9 0SB.

Mr. & Mrs. N.Colborn, Careby Manor Gardens, CAREBY. STAMFORD. Lincs. PE9 4EA.

(National Gardens.)

Mr. H.R.Jeffs, 'Nutfield Nurseries', Crab Hill Lane, S.NUFFIELD. REDHILL. Surrey RH151g.

Mrs. Myra Geeson, 'Coach Gap Nurseries', LANGAR. Notts.

Mr. T.Porter, Manager, 'Hollybush Nurseries Ltd.', Hollybush Gdn. & Aquatic Centre, Warstone Rd. SAREDON. CHESLYN HAY. WALSALL. WM.

Mr. N.Payne, Japanese Iris Nurseries, 84, Whateley Ave., MERTON PARK. LONDON SW20 9NU.

Walsall Mutual Gardeners, c/o Mr. P.Taylor, 67, Lydford Rd. SEFTON PARK. BLOXWICH. WALSALL. WS3 3NT.

Dr. J.A.Smart, 'Marwood Hill Gardens', BARNSTAPLE. N.DEVON. EX31 4EB.

Mr. Richard Yates, Alpine Nursery, Roecliffe Manor, WOODHOUSE EAVES. LOUGHBOROUGH. Leics.

Mr. S.York, 'Bardill's Roses', Toton Lane, STAPLEFORD. Notts.

Contacts in Societies.

President of the B.I.S. Mrs. Anne Blanco White, 72, South Hill Park, LONDON WS9 0SB.

Secretary of B.I.S. Mr. P.R.Maynard, 43, Sea Lane, Goring-by-Sea, WORTHING. SUSSEX. BN12 4QD.

Secretary Species Group. Mrs. M.Fraser, 'Barsham House', Roundwood, Buckler's Lane, KING'S LANGLEY. Herts. WD4 8BE.

U.S.A.

Editor of Spuria N/L. Mr. Gordon Green, Box 301, BONHAM. Texas. 75418. U.S.A.

Editor of Siberian. Mrs. J.Hollingworth, 120, Sherwood Rd. East, WILLIAMSTON. MI. 48895. U.S.A.

Editor Japanese Iris Review. Mr. Leland M.Walsh, 7679, West D. Ave., KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN. 49009. U.S.A.

Mr. Floyd Wickenkamp (Spuria), 10521, Bellarose Drive, SUN CITY. AZ. 85351.

Mr. A.Horinaka (Pres. Japanese Iris Socty.) 3-9, Tanimachi, 6 chome MINIMA-KU. OSAKA Japan.

Other Groups.

Kent Group. Mrs M. Tubbs, 9, Lingfield Rd., WIMBLEDON COMMON. LONDON. SW19 4QA.
Mercia Group. Mrs. E.Wise, 197, The Parkway, IVER HEATH. IVER. Bucks. SLO ORQ.
West Midland Group. Mr. P.Allery, 199, Walsall Rd., ALDRIDGE. Nr, WALSALL. WS9 OBE.
Remontant Group. Mr. P.Allery, as above.
B.I.S.Publications. Mr.N.Watkins, 31, Larkfield Rd., FARNHAM. Surrey. GU9 7DB.

Seed Distribution List.

All seeds are charged 25p. per packet, but if a quantity is ordered, a discount of extra seeds is made. Please send to:-

Mr. D.Trevithick, 86a, Grantham Rd. RADCLIFFE-on-TRENT. NOTTINGHAM. NG12 2HY.

LAEVIGATAE.

I.Laevigata Alba, I.Laevigata Semperflorens & Monstrosa mixed (p). I.Laevigata (s)
 3 petalled, blue-violet with dark stipple.
 I.Pseudacorus Bastardii (p), I.Pseudacorus 'Golden Queen'(p), I.Pseudacorus (p),
 do Alba(s), E.Turnipseed (m), Plain Yellow no signals (m), Variegatus (s),
 do Cream Forms (m).
 I.Versicolor Mixed (m), I.Versicolor 'Claret Cup' dark red (s), I.Versicolor 'Rosea'(p)
 do 'Rougette'(p), 'Cat Mosam' (p).
 I.Virginica 'Contraband Girl' (vs), I.Virginica (s)..

ENSATA.

I.Ensata 'Ruby Red' (s), I.Ensata Mixed Diploids (s), I.Ensata Mixed (s).

TRIPETALAE.

I.Setosa (m), I.Setosa Hondoensis (vs), I.Setosa Pallas (s), I.Setosa 'Savill Garden Form' (vs).

SIBIRICAE.

I.Sibirica Mixed (m), I.Delavayi Deep Purple (s), I.Sibirica 'Cambridge' (vs),
 do 'Dreaming Spires' (s), 'Bickley Cape' (vs), 'Blue Pennant x Bee' (vs),
 do 'Fanny Heidt x Bee' (s), 'Fourfold White' (vs), 'Orville Fay' (vs),
 do 'Orville Fay x Bee' (s), 'Laurenstuhl' (vs), 'Nottingham Lace' (vs),
 do 'Lavender Bounty x Bee' (vs), 'Steve Varner' (vs), 'Silver Edge x Bee' (vs),
 do 'Perry's Blue' (vs), 'Wilstrudgissell x Bee' (s).

I.Chrysographes Dark Form (vs), I.Chrysographes (s), I.Chrysographes x Chrysofors
 mixed colours (p).

I.Chrysographes x Forrestii (s)

I.Wilsonii Hybrid (m).

SPURIAE.

I.Orientalis (s), I.Orientalis White Yellow falls (s), I.Orientalis Alba (s).
 I.Kerneriana (s).
 I.Spuria Mixed (p), I.Spuria 'Clarke Cosgrove' (vs), Mixed Hybrids (vs).
 I.Musulmanica (s).

Seeds noted (vs) mean very short supply, (s) short supply, (m) medium supply and (p) means plenty. If (s) and (vs) please order alternatives.

Considering the fact that the dry weather has not helped in the setting of seed heads this year, I do urge you to take advantage of ordering from our seed list... they will probably not be as plentiful next year. It is a known fact that Iris seeds are viable for two or three years, given the right treatment when planting, I have had good germination in the past from seed which were at least four years old, in years gone by. I find it exciting, because you never quite know how they will turn out, you may find yourself with a winner in the end. Good Luck. J.T.

Errata.

In the February Newsletter Norman Payne's Telephone Number was given as 01435 2700, whereas it should be 01 5404794. Sorry Norman.....

Last page and there is just not enough room for a late item from Jack, written before he went into hospital, so it will have to be included in the February Newsletter. It has taken me a lot longer this time to type this N/L this time and so it is late, do hope you will forgive...

Meanwhile we have the drought back, I would think the T.B's will like the baking, but not the Sibiricas and others, you just cannot have everything can you???

There is space for you to send in your Name and Address with your Subscription, and for your Seed Order, here it is.

Please send £1.50p to:-

Mrs. J.Trevithick, 86a, Grantham Rd. RADCLIFFE-en-TRENT. NOTTINGHAM. NG12 2HY.

Name and Address.....

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Seed Order to:-

Mr. D.Trevithick, 86a, Grantham Rd. RADCLIFFE-on-TRENT. NOTTINGHAM. NG12 2HY.

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Enclosed in payment.

Name and Address.

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Finally do not forget to write in and tell us about your garden, and how it has fared in this scorching year, we like to hear from you. All the Best. Joan.