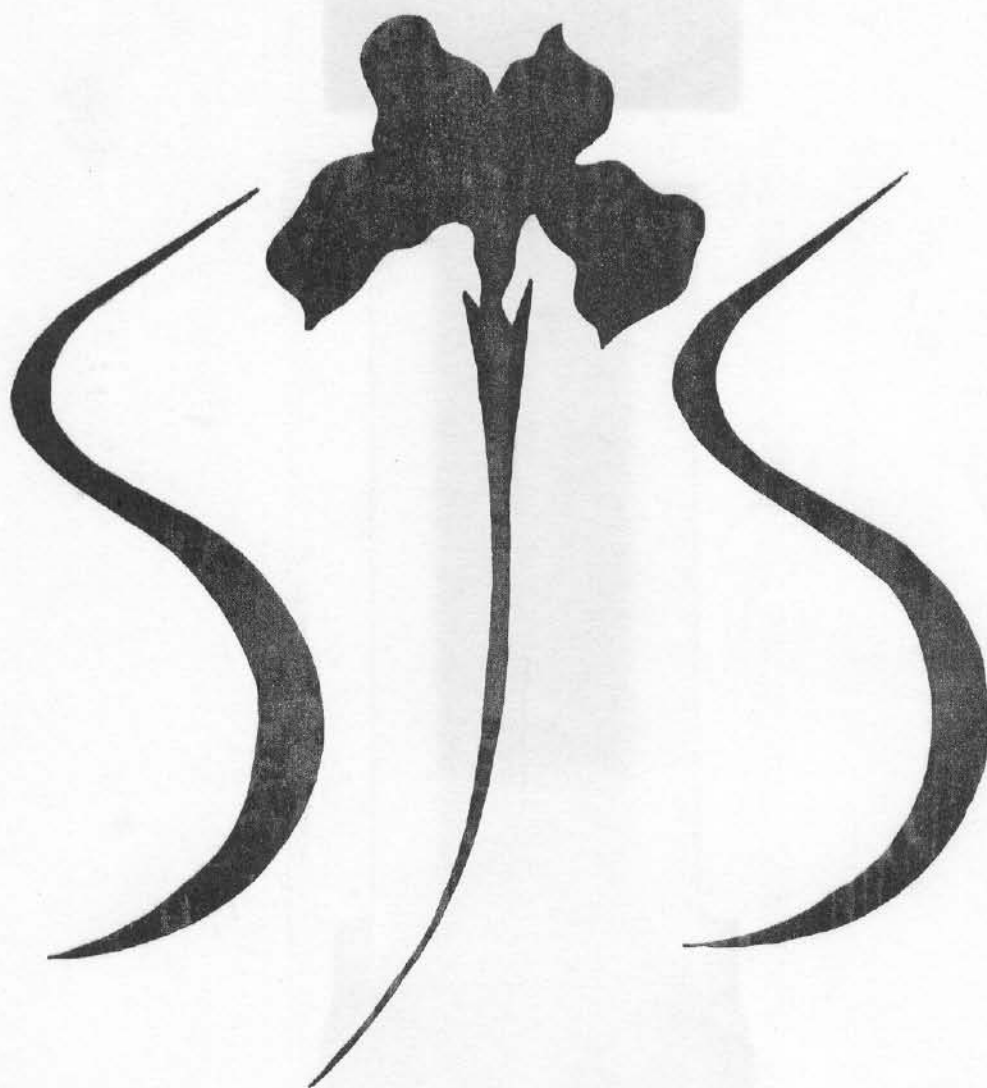


NEWSLETTER



OF THE

SIBERIAN SPURIA AND JAPANESE GROUP
(INCLUDING PACIFICAS AND WATER IRIS)

B.I.S.

The SIBERIAN, SPURIA, JAPANESE GROUP.(including PACIFICAS & WATER IRISES).
of the British Iris Society.

Newsletter No 29.

July 1991.

The Objects of the Group.

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

The Group's Officers.

Chairman..... Mr. Adrian Whittaker, 'Chestnuts', Hilden Way, LITTLETON.
(Spuria Specialist)..... WINCHESTER. Hants. SO2 26QH.
Vice Chairman..... Mrs. Hilda Goodwin, Corner Cottage, School Road, Great Barton
BURY St. EDMUNDS. Suffolk. IP31 2HT.
Hon. Secty/Treas..... Mrs. Joan Trevithick, 86a, Grantham Rd. RADCLIFFE-on-TRENT.
NOTTINGHAM. NG12 2HY.
Hon. Newsletter Editor.. Mrs. Joan Trevithick, address as above.
Hon. Seed Distribution, Mr. David Trevithick, 86a, Grantham Rd. RADCLIFFE-on-TRENT.
Officer,,,,, NOTTINGHAM. NG12 2HY.
Hon. Librarian..... Mrs. Jennifer Hewitt, 'Haygarth', CLETON ST. MARY,
(Siberian Specialist)... CLEOBURY MORTIMER. KIDDERMINSTER. DY14 0QU.
Japanese Iris Specialist. Mrs. Anne Blanco White, 72, South Hill Park, LONDON. NW3 2SN.
Pacifica Specialist..... Mr. Ray Wilson, 'Daleshead', 100, Blackburn Rd. CHORLEY.
Lancs. PR6 8TJ.

Regional Representatives.

Eastern Area..... Mrs. Shirley Ryder, 'Toadshole Cottage', Old Rd. FEERING.
COLCHESTER. Essex. CO5 9RN.
London Area..... Mrs. Anne Blanco White, 72, South Hill Park, LONDON. NW3 2SN.
North Western Area..... Mr. Ray Wilson, 'Daleshead', 100, Blackburn Rd. CHORLEY.
Lancs. PR6 8TJ.
Southern Area..... Mr. Adrian Whittaker, 'Chestnuts', Hilden Way, LITTLETON.
WINCHESTER. Hants. SO2 26QH.
South Western Area..... Mrs. Mary Ramsdale, 'Winkfield', Swan Mill Rd. COLYFORD.
COLYTON. Devon. EX13 6QJ.
West Midland Area..... Mr. Philip Allery, 199, Walsall Rd. ALDRIDGE. Nr. WALSALL
Staffs. WS9 0BE.

Ian Smith will report on the Wisley Show.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1991/992 ARE NOW DUE PLEASE, IT IS A GREAT HELP IF YOU
PAY PROMPTLY. THIS YEAR IT IS £2.

(From July 1st 1991 the practice of sending two Newsletters (July and February) is to be discontinued. If Members have not paid their Subscriptions by 31st December their Membership will be deemed to have ceased. This course is necessary due to the increased V.A.T. on items apart from Printing, which is not V.A.T. rated.)
Please send all Subscriptions to the Hon. Secty/Treas. do not mark the envelope Treas, it is not wise, all cheques should be made payable to ...'THE S. S. & J. B.I.S.'

The demand for our seeds is increasing, we try to keep up, but need your help... so, if you have seed heads which need gathering, don't forget to send them in, they are sent all round the world. Also if you have a clump which needs parting, send some in, we will refund the Postage to you.

We have a comprehensive seed list on the back page, but they soon go. Plants are all sold at the present time, and we have been asked for more. The reports on seeds and plants have been good, we try to help you to grow more of our Irises this way.

Editorial.

'In all places, then, and in all seasons
Flowers expand their light and soul-like ways.
Teaching us, by most persuasive reasons,
How akin they are to human things.

And with childlike, credulous affection,
We behold their tender buds expand.
Emblems of our great resurrection,
Emblems of the bright and better land.

Two verses of the poem 'Flowers' by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

To me they epitomise the way, despite the desperate weather, our different Irises have continued to bloom, in fact, I think longer than in other years, although at least a fortnight later. It has been the cloudiest May since 1913, and the driest since 1896. The wettest June since 1958 and the coldest since 1977, these are the statistics quoted locally. I recorded the first Pacific Coast Iris to flower on May 18th., but by June 20 hail and cold winds had spoiled them, still a month of their lovely colours was good.

A nice surprise was the first flowering of *I. forrestii* grown from seed, and Ben Hager's sibirica 'Swank' is blooming profusely, a lovely sight. However honours must go again to the Pond Irises, 'Gerald Darby' with its lovely blue flowers and black stems, *I. pseudacorus* 'Bastardii' and 'E. Turnipseed', pale lemon and creamy white, vying with deep blue *I. laevigata*, such a picture they create.

Now to business... Ian Smith has relinquished his post as Area Representative for the South, due to other commitments. Adrian has kindly taken this over, but Ian will continue to Report on the Wisley Show each year.

In our list of New Members you will notice more Nurserymen and Women, so look out for more of our Irises in the catalogues.

Congratulations to all who won awards at the different Shows, which, in spite of bad weather conditions, through hard work and diligence managed to be staged.

Altogether a good growing season, the rain was much needed, and will have given many Irises a good start for next year.

Happy Iris Gardening. Joan Trevithick.

Chairman's Letter.

Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who, both at home and abroad, send seed for distribution. In many cases the seed is just not available from any other source and the donors are providing the opportunity for others to share a very valuable resource. They all deserve our unstinting thanks.

I'm a keen advocate of growing from seed, as it provides much more interest than just growing on mature plants. There is always the chance of the unexpected, especially so with hybrid seed, and along the way you accumulate a better picture of the requirements of any particular group. Home raised plants have the opportunity to adjust to the local conditions slowly, before they reach maturity, and this can make all the difference between survival and failure for difficult subjects. The only prerequisite is a little patience.

On the same theme, turning to *I. pseudacorus*, my experience is that it is well-worth potting up germinated seedlings individually, as soon as possible, this seems to improve the rate of growth vastly compared to the seedlings which are just planted in a group in a bed. Quite possibly this is a case of them being looked at a little more often and getting more care, but it certainly seems to 'pay off' with faster growth.

With most forms of *I. pseudacorus* there can be noticeable differences between seedlings from one pod, so even if you are not making crosses it is quite interesting to see what turns up... Who knows you may land a winner.

May I end wishing you all a really rewarding year in the garden, whatever your particular interest is, may it give you great satisfaction.

Adrian Whittaker.

New Members.

We extend a warm welcome to the following New Members, and hope that they enjoy reading our Newsletter, and will write in and tell us about their gardens and the Irises they grow.

Mr. John Russell, 47, Station Rd. NEW BARNET, Herts. EN5 1PR. John is the Hon. Treas of the B.I.S., after seeing *Spurias* growing in the U.S.A. he is trying our seed, and is pleased with the results. In the N/L is a list of plants he would like to obtain.

Mrs. Vanessa Cook, Stillingfleet Lodge Nurseries, STILLINGFLEET. YORK YO1 6HW.

Vanessa is our first Member from Yorkshire, (although there used to be a Yorkshire Group of the B.I.S. years ago.) In her nursery of unusual perennial plants can be found quite a few Irises including I.chrysographes, foetidissima Variegata, graminea, pallida Variegata, pseudacorus Variegata, sibiricas and Pacific Coast. A comprehensive list you will agree. We hope she will add more after seeing our Group plant and seed offers. Best Wishes.

MAITREYA, 'Peaceland', NORTH CLIFTON. NEWARK. Notts. NG23 7HI. Maitreya, who is originally from NAGOYA, Japan, came to England 20 years ago and is now in the process of building a beautiful Japanese garden at North Clifton, 10 miles North of Newark. There is an article about his work in the N/L under the 'My Irises' heading.

Mr. & Mrs. Fred & Eileen Mellor, 22, Lilac Place, YIEWSLEY. Middx. UB7 8LR. Fred and Eileen have joined us on reading Currier's Book 'The Japanese Iris' and receiving our leaflet kindly sent out by Norman Payne. We hope to hear more about the I.ensata they are growing, later.

Mrs. P.R.Tryhorn, 2, Woodfield Cottages, Marlpit Lane, Oving. CHICHESTER. W.Sussex.

FO20 63P.

Having recently joined the B.I.S. was encouraged to join us by the B.I.S.Members (for which many thanks). We hope to hear about your garden when you have time please,

Graham Spencer, Croftway Nursery, Yapton Rd. BARNHAM. BOGNOR REGIS. West Sussex PO220BH.

Not only has Graham joined but he has written an account of his Nursery, which he tells me used to be F.Toynbee Ltd. (I well remember it). You will find it under 'My Irises'.

Mrs. Beryl Timmerman, Timmerman's Roses, Woodborough Rd. LOWDHAM. Notts. Joe Timmerman is a well-known Rosarian and judges roses everywhere, his wife Beryl has now extended their Nursery to include Hardy Plants, shrubs, annuals and all the necessary equipment such as slabs, tubs, hanging baskets etc. which go to making a modern garden to-day, even a collection of ornamental pigs to give a rural atmosphere. We hope she will add Irises in due course.

Mrs. Maureen Wilson, 27, Holcombe Close, ASLEY. NOTTINGHAM. NG8 5NU. Maureen is a Member of the Nottingham Rock Garden Club (A.G.S.), who has joined through Tony Napleton, we hope to hear about her garden and the Irises she grows.

Jeffrey Wheeler, 1, St. Dunstan's Hill, CHEAM. SUTTON. Surrey. Jeffrey, who works for a commercial Nursery grows mainly Ensatae, Lavigatae and Sibiricae, we hope to hear more about his garden when he has time please.

Mrs. Ruth Jones, 87, Ack Lane East, BRAMHALL. STOCKPORT. Cheshire. SK7 2BH. Ruth would like to know Members who live in her area, as she cannot get around easily. Hope you will write to her. We certainly would like to hear about her garden too.

Mrs. Joyce K. Gray, 'Graygarry', 8, Churnhill Rd. ALDRIDGE. WALSALL. W.Midlands WS9 0HG. Joyce has joined through Philip Allery, perhaps you will write later about your garden and the Irises you are growing please.

OVERSEAS.

Mr. D.Paterson, 1870, 25th Avenue COLUMBUS. NE. 68601. U.S.A. has joined through the B.I.S. perhaps he will let us know about his garden? Are you among the wheatfields of Nebraska?

Just arrived, by post, through Edwin Funnival the Membership Secretary of the B.I.

Mr. Hiroshi Shimizu, 3-6-21, AIHARA, SAGAMIHARA-SHI. Japan. We hope to hear about your garden too, I feel sure MAITREYA will endeavour to compare notes with you later.

I repeat.... Welcome to you all.

Sadly I have to tell you of the passing of two well-known Members of the B.I.S. and our Group, namely Mr. G.E.Cassidy and Mr. V.H.Humphrey.

Mr. G.E.Cassidy, 'Cass' as he was known died on the 20th. February after a painful illness which lasted 2 years. He was a J.P., F.R.I.B.A. and a wartime cipher officer, an independent councillor for Kew for 15 years, and as we all knew him, one-time Secretary of the B.I.S. He was also the Historian. We send our deepest sympathy to Kath and his family. He will long be remembered in the B.I.S.

Mr. Hugh Humphrey of Arnold Nottingham, died on the 7th June, after a short illness. His life's work was cultivating Irises, he was well-known for the stands he created at the different Shows around the country, and throughout the years. 'Vic' as I first knew him introduced me to the intricate cultivation of Irises I had only seen in pictures. There is no doubt he had a vast knowledge of growing methods. We send our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Humphrey and the family. Pauline Brown (his daughter) as many will know is carrying on the family business in Surrey, is a Member of our Group also.

My Irises.

by Joseph Beattie.

Joseph, who lives in Carlisle, wrote this in March, after his first letter was not printed in the February Newsletter, due to an oversight.

He writes:- After meeting Jennifer Hewitt and Peter, and staying with them overnight, I saw their Siberian Irises for the first time. The view is from above, and looking down there was a great splash of colour to see, more like a 'Van Gogh' painting with the fields and hills behind.

On arriving home I laid out three new beds each 60ft. by 5ft. with a path alongside, they run from South to North. The idea was continuation, so each bed was newly planted with 4 larger and taller shrubs to give solidarity and as many contrasts of leaf and habit as possible. Then using 4 main grouping of plants, Sibiricas (from B.I.S.), Kniphofia (the new hybrids with narrow foliage), Day Lilies (I now have six named varieties) and lastly Tradescantia. For a Spring show I use Wanda types (primula), Snowdrops, crocus, sempervivums and neat dianthus. My idea is to create as nice a picture as possible, with height, contrasts in leaf, habit, colours and to look good for a long period. All these grand ideas soon had to be scrapped as my Irises, both my own seedlings and other plants just grew and grew... in the end after adding about 60 S.D.B. obtained from Brian Price, and another 50 M.D.B. from Peter Young, also Pacific Coast and Japanese Irises galore, paths had to be scrapped, dug up and narrowed to make more space... how fanatical can you get.

Still I persist, this year I have sown seed from the Alpine Garden Socy., Scottish Rock Garden Club, the Iris Society and the Hardy Plant Society, Already I have about 200 pans of seed set. My delight never ceases when either seeds germinate or cuttings root, it is a major part of my pleasure in life. Today (March 21st.) I have potted up seedlings of I.orientalis, which have germinated in the middle of Winter, would you believe.

I also have many roses, all groups, Species, Old Roses, Hybrid T's, Miniatures, Floribundas and Climbing, the Pacifica Irises have been so good that I plan to plant them between the roses. I had three plants of I.innominata from Mary Fraser which, even in the depth of Winter had a lovely sheen on the foliage, so my plan is to grow a few hundred P.C.I's in the future.

Although I do not have a Greenhouse, my last love is Alpines, of which I have many, some quite ordinary and some rare, they are grown in pots in cold frames. My windows, in the Spring are full of crocus and I.reticulata growing in pots and producing so much colour to lighten the wintry days.

I hope you have all enjoyed a wander round my garden, and all my joys and aspirations, and that you too will be growing the Irises which I like so much.

(Thank you Joseph, we have, and hope to hear more about it later on. Best Wishes.J.T.)

My Irises.

Maitreya's Peaceland.

You enter a serenely peaceful Japanese garden in North Clifton, situated about 10 miles from Newark-on-Trent, it is entirely the creation of Maitreya, who has made it by raising small hills, a lake and ponds, also there is a sunken path, more like those, in Victorian times and before, would be called a 'Ha Ha'. Koi carp swim in the water, the hills have Japanese lanterns ingeniously made by Maitreya himself. A small Pagoda stands majestically on top of one hill overlooking the lake with its Japanese-style bridges and stepping stones. An inscrutable Buddha stands guard.

Various small and beautiful maple trees abound, also an impressive Korean fir, An archway is covered with twining Wisteria. The paths lead you round to a massive planting of Bearded Irises, including variegata, Maitreya loves their shimmering colours particularly the blue ones. Later on, when we visited again, we saw the proof, they were in full bloom, giving such a peaceful and delightful impression in this most artistic garden, they actually shimmered, as Maitreya said.

Huge boulders, which he said came from Derbyshire, are shaped and formed to blend in with the scheme. It is not yet finished, so our Group is going to help to complete the picture of combining Japanese and English planting, which is Maitreya's aim, by the addition of Water Irises such as I.pseudacorus 'Bastardii' and 'E.Turnipseed' and other varieties. Finally when preparations are ready, the addition of the true Japanese Iris 'ensata'.

Maitreya has called his garden 'Pureland', and it certainly is well on the way to being just that, truly a 'garden of tranquility'.

(I must congratulate him on his achievement, so much hard work and dedication, but he should be justifiably proud of such a beautiful garden. J & D. Trevithick.)

My Irises.

by Graham Spencer.

Graham writes.. My parents Malcolm and June Spencer, purchased the Nursery in 1985 you may know it from the past as F.Toynbee Ltd., a famous nursery firm that was at its peak in the 1950's and 60's. With the nursery, we inherited a small collection of Bearded Irises in a very sorry state. We then decided to rescue them, which started our interest in the genus. Later we started to increase the quantity and range of Irises that we had, encouraged by the interest shown by our first customers (we opened for business in April 1988). Not long after joining the B.I.S., with a little help from Peter Maynard (B.I.S.Secty.), we 'discovered' America !! The range of colours, size of bloom, ruffles and lace in the T.B's captured our imaginations. Not only that, but also Jennifer's article in 'The Garden' started us on the Sibirica trail.

We now have nearly 250 varieties of Bearded Irises at our nursery, with more to be ordered from the U.S.A. In addition to this, we also have 30 plus different Sibiricas, with as many again on order from the B.I.S. Plant Scheme, and yet more to come from America. Our collection of other Irises is also growing, and we plan a small range of Ensatas, as well as some species Irises-- a case of WATCH THIS SPACE!!

There is no doubt--we are definitely Iris addicts! We place quite an emphasis on growing perennials, I have a collection of about 120 different types of Cranesbill in our garden. As I write this our one acre field of T.B'S is in full flower with new American varieties opening every day. Very exciting.

(Graham's catalogue includes I. clarkii, crocea, ensata, foetidissima (white berries) and I. japonica. Thank you for an interesting account of your nursery Graham, we send you all Good Wishes. J.T.)

Siberians and other Irises seen in Australia and New Zealand. by Jennifer Hewitt.

Thanks to the great kindness of relatives and friends, I had a wonderful visit to Australia and New Zealand in Autumn 1990 and fulfilled a long-held wish to see something of both countries.

It began with a fortnight staying near Melbourne with a cousin I'd not seen for 42 years - a very happy reunion, and a lot of family news to be caught up on. This time was not intended to be iris-dominated, but I spent a most enjoyable day experiencing the hospitality of Les and Gwen Donnell and their daughter Helen. They took me first to Barry and Lesley Blyth's 'Tempo Two' nursery where there was a superb display of bearded irises in full bloom, mostly T.B's. Barry grows quite a number of Siberians but there was little in bloom on the small lined-out plants: he is also hybridising them and I saw there, and again in the Donnells' home garden Barry's 'Coolabah', a wine-red well-shaped flower which recently won the Ira Wood Award for Australia. This award has been established by Betty, Ira's widow, to encourage Siberian breeding in Australia, and a similar award exists in New Zealand.

The climate and soil in the area are not ideal for Siberians; varieties seen in these gardens and later at the Victorian Region Show were much shorter-stemmed than we expect, with the exception of 'Coolabah' - clearly the home product is best for these conditions. I did see a number of fine Louisianas and Spurias but did not note names.

New Zealand was Irises from end to end. It started by my being met at Auckland airport by Bev McConnell and Marilyn May, who identified themselves by waving a Louisiana, and then N.Z.I.S. Members all the way to Invercargill and back again provided beds, food, transport, a wealth of irises and the warmest possible hospitality. It seemed to me that virtually every kind of Iris will grow somewhere, and many grow everywhere, which has something to do with climates and soil, but also a lot to do with the skills of the growers.

I cannot possibly mention all the Siberians I saw, let alone the Louisianas, Spurias, Japanese, laevigatas, setosas and others--but some must be singled out: Most were American or British cultivars, but hybridising is making progress. There were a number of tetraploids grown from seed supplied by Currier McEwen; most of those I saw were not 'finished' flowers but provided a good basis for future work. Two already raised in New Zealand which have received the Bagg Shield for the best seedling seen at an N.Z.I.S. Convention are the deep blue-violet 'Castlegrace' (1972), a diploid raised by Pat Nelson (an excellent clump was in full bloom in Paul Richardson's garden) and 'Emma Ripeka' (1990), a very fine medium blue tetraploid raised by Frances Love. This too was making the best of itself in her garden. Francis is doing more Siberian hybridising and has some nice seedlings coming along, especially shorter ones.

Two other clumps which stand out in the memory in North Island were 'Eric the Red', a beautiful clump in the Cracketts' garden in Rotorua, and an equally fine show of (cont)

'Fourfold Lavender' in Marion Ball's garden in Hawkes Bay. One iris which seemed to do superbly well everywhere was Iris setosa 'Kirigamine' which we grow as I. setosa hondoensis --- the richest possible purple.

In the Thomas Garden at Mona Vale, Christchurch, I was particularly interested to meet a very short, very fine-leaved form, or perhaps a cultivar, of I. sibirica, which I also grow. It was sold to me, some years ago as a setosa which it clearly is not. Small dark violet-blue flowers of typical sibirica form have white signals and are borne on 12" stems. It would be interesting to know exactly what it is. There is a big waterside planting in the Thomas Garden of assorted Siberians, Louisianas, I. pseudacorus, setosas and Japanese iris; even in pouring rain this was very impressive.

Other Siberians of interest included two, new to me; 'Lilac Nymph' (1975) from America, a little pinky-mauve charmer with white style arms, in the McConnell garden; and 'White Fairy' (which does not seem to have been registered) in several gardens in Southland, the southernmost part of South Island, a white somewhat similar to 'Wisley White' in shape, with yellow hafts, very free-flowering. a spuria raised by the late Jean Collins has now been registered by Hec, her husband, as 'Kiwi Gold'; it is a very nice yellow self with fluted edges.

A most spectacular sight was the six miles of naturalised Iris pseudacorus at Tangarewa, North Island, to which I was taken by Revie and Jack Harvey and Barry Judd. These have spread along streams and into meadows from an original planting at one homestead, (There is a full account of this in the 1983 Year Book, written by Revie), and although most of those I saw were the typical yellow, quite a few were in paler shades. I have photographs of cattle shoulder-deep in irises; (though they were actually grazing on grass). In Carterton (N. Island) Frances Love took Barry and myself to a paddock where a blue I. spuria (probably subsp. maritima) has naturalised, and near Picton in South Island, Paul and Mary Richardson and I saw a large spread of I. orientalis in a paddock (field to us Brits.) in full bloom.

At 'Tempo Two' I saw I. pseudacorus 'Roy Davidson' which has a dark brown-edged signal and fine brown veining all over the falls, but is much less densely veined than 'Holden Clough'. Then, in a nursery and elsewhere in West Otago and Southland there was a bright yellow form with a solid dark chestnut-brown signal. As the 1990 N.Z.I.S. Convention was held in Invercargill and included nearly three days of garden tours, we saw a lot of the irises grown in Southland and neighbouring West Otago. One which received a lot of attention in one garden was an I. setosa seedling; in the middle of a clump of a tall, branched, mid-blue setosa there were several stems bearing good white flowers. Obviously this was a separate seedling in the middle of the larger clump. What made it especially noticeable was that the spathes were deep purple-brown. Another plant of mystery origin had us guessing whether it was 28-chromosome Siberian or 40-chromosome Sino-Siberian from the Chrysographes series. It was a seedling with yellow flowers heavily veined purple which were 40-chr. in colour and form, but the foliage, and especially the rather stout stems with two branches, looked more like those found on 28-chr. plants.

Some of the irises mentioned may, if plans work out, be coming to Britain in the future. Meanwhile, I have a lot of happy, colourful and sometimes intriguing memories, and a great debt of gratitude to family and friends in the Antipodes.

(Thank you Jennifer, we look forward to hearing more about the Irises you have seen, and Members have asked if Paul Richardson will be resuming his 'Letter from New Zealand').

Update on My Siberians.

by Currier McEwen.

(Reprinted by kind permission of Judy Holligworth Editor of 'the Siberian').

Thinking over my own Siberian Irises for this article has made me realize anew how important it is for us to have our own S.S.I. Convention. We rarely see the newer Siberians (or see them growing suitably) at the A.I.S. Conventions, and I have been able to get to so few Siberian iris gardens in recent years that I am sadly out of touch. I do welcome this opportunity to update Members on my hybridizing, (listed in TSI Spring '90), and the results obtained in the past few years.

I will start with the goal of obtaining colors that are closer to the true hues. 'BUTTER AND SUGAR' (77), was our yellow amoena breakthrough; yellow tetraploids also came quite readily, but although richer in color, their form and plant habit were poor. We kept on trying each year using our best yellow tetraploids, and finally in 1990 a number of seedlings bloomed with rich color and pleasing form, the latter coming from the other parents, 'GOLDEN CRIMPING' ('85) and 'DREAMING ORANGE' ('87). These efforts continue, crossing the best of the seedlings.

Another goal has been white flowers with lots of green in throat and veins. Our best

(cont).

to date is 'GREEN PROMISE', registered in 1984 but slow to increase and not currently listed. Stock is now increasing and I trust it will soon be available. Meanwhile, newer seedlings are appearing which are being intercrossed and crossed also with our best yellow anemones, hoping to combine yellow and green.

'HUBBARD' (1982) is still our best in the red range, but a number of new seedlings, some involving 'JEWELLED CROWN' (Hollingworth '87), look promising. An aim in our red breeding is to have green rather than yellow throats and signals. 'HUBBARD' shows this modestly and we hope in time for distinctly green signals.

Blue flowers with gold edges are one of our objectives. Since 'SILVER EDGE' (74) there have been many flowers with improved form and sharper silver edges, but gold edging has come slowly. 'ADJ' ('83) was our first, but the gold fades to silver after a day or two. We have had a few red flowers with suggestions of gilt edges but this pattern is in its infancy.

Another pattern of fairly recent occurrence is what Bob Hollingworth and I have thought of as the sunburst type with signals that seem to burst out on the falls. Bob's 'WINDWOOD SPRING' ('85) and my 'HARPSWELL SNOWBURST' which is new for 1991, are examples.

Turning to improvements in form. I have been pleased in recent years with the appearance of flowers with wide, round form, exquisite ruffling and wide tufted style arms, often with 'feathered' midribs. In some, the style arms are more than an inch wide. This, combined with the tufted tips, adds a new impressive dimension to the flower. 'REGENCY BUCK' ('85) was an early example of this and 'HARPSWELL VELVET', making its bow this year, is another, and there are more to be introduced when stocks permit.

Progress in the development of repeaters continues. The new ones do not surpass 'SOFT BLUE' ('79), 'BLUE ENCORE' ('80), 'LAVENDER BOUNTY' ('81) and 'EXUBERANT ENCORE' ('85), in the amount of repeat bloom, but have improved form. 'TIFFANY LASS' ('90) was the first of these and several new ones from crosses of 'EXUBERANT ENCORE' and 'HARPSWELL HAPPINESS' ('83) should be ready for introduction in a year or two.

My interest in the miniatures continues also, 'BABY SISTER' ('86) is our best thus far introduced, but we are very pleased with several that bloomed first in 1990. One is a white with very round form, exquisite ruffling and a dramatically rich yellow center which will be named 'SASSY KOOMA' (as our daughter pronounced her name at age four) when ready for introduction in a few years. Another (M87/244(4) is the tiniest Siberian I have yet seen. Blue, about 1 1/2" in diameter and held on stalks about 12" tall. It came from a cross of 'BABY SISTER' and Sarah Tiffney's 'SNOW PRINCE' ('90).

Finally, I turn to the 40 chromosome Siberians. Among these 'PRAIRIE WARBLER' ('81) remains unique (with its three branches plus terminal and eight buds) in this group of Siberians, most of which have no branch and two buds. Using it and others I have been trying for years to obtain tetraploids, but thus far have failed. I have several of Eckard Berlin's tetraploid or chimera seedlings. He reports failure in obtaining viable seeds from them, and to date my experience has been the same. I will keep trying.

Many of the new cultivars mentioned here will be in the tour gardens for the 1993 Convention in Michigan, where I look forward to seeing them bloom along with those of other hybridizers. What a great experience that convention will be !!!

(Underneath Currier's most interesting account of his absorbing programme, there is a heading 'Treasure Hunt', it contains the following desperate plea: 'Does anyone grow the old Siberian 'VIOLET REPEAT' (Brummitt '67). Pocket gophers got into mine and I have lost it completely. Please contact Jim Onnenga, 1621, N, 85th St. OMAHA, NE 68114. Can any Member help? I just could not resist this appeal...)

Over to SPURIAS now.

Seed Color.

by Dave Niswonger.

Spuria iris seeds vary in color from black to near white with shades of brown and pink in between. I have often wondered if the color of the seed could predict in any way what shade of flower would grow from that seed. I have envisioned that perhaps, if the seed came from a yellow or brown iris that the dark seed could very well be dark brown and the lighter shades of seed could be various shades of yellow, perhaps with a lighter seed being a lighter yellow. In the dark purples, blues and whites, I have wondered if the darker seed would turn out to be dark blue and the lighter color seed would turn out to be white.

It could very well be that some Spuria hybridizers, or even other types of hybridizers for that matter, could have thought of the same question and may have experimented with it? If so, it is my hope that that person will write to the Editor of the Spuria Newsletter and give a report on the outcome of that particular experiment.

(cont.)

Last year as I was shelling seed pods from 'BLUE LASSIE' which were chance pollinated, I noticed that some were dark brown and some were very light pink. I split the two groups of seed into light and dark and have planted those seeds so that the seedlings should be lined out in the Spring of 1989. Hopefully, I will have some report to make to see if there were any groupings of colors by separating the dark seed from the lighter colored seed. In the past, chance pollinated seed of 'BLUE LASSIE' has produced both whites and various shades of blue. It will be interesting to see if the lighter colored seeds come out to be whites and the darker ones blue. Only time will tell. Again, if anyone has experience in or observed this particular idea, a letter to the Editor would certainly be appreciated.

(Printed by kind permission of the Editor of the Spuria Iris Society Newsletter, B.Charles Jenkins, 418-A Cayuga St. SALINAS. CA. 93901. U.S.A. This account intrigued me because, I am a seed sower too, and had noticed the colour variation in the Spuria seeds, perhaps you had too, if so write in and we will print your letters, to help Dave Niswonger in his research. You could, of course write direct to Charles Jenkins I have given you his address. The results, although they will take time should prove of great interest to all Spuria growers. J.T.)

An Update on the Spuria Iris Society.

B.Charles Jenkins.

Charles writes that he is glad to hear that Members are enjoying the seeds he sent, and that, providing they survive the Winter, they should flower next year... he considers this is the most exciting time. He will gladly send more seed this year... (My answer is Yes Please Charles, we have practically sold all that you sent last time.)

He has selected more spuria seedlings, and on June 10th. completed another round of crossing. Also a lot more crosses among Pacific Coast Natives were made.

Last Fall he sent three rhizomes each of 130 spuria seedlings for growing in Shepard's Iris Garden in Phoenix, Arizona. The ground was not ready for planting, so the rhizomes were stored in a refrigerator for the two months before they could be put in their space. Charles went to the Spring Regional in mid-April and to everyone's surprise they were blooming a month ahead of everything that was in the ground or planted without refrigeration. It gave me a chance to evaluate my seedlings under two different conditions. Because of our extreme cold weather in Salinas last December, my irises have bloomed up to a month later than normal, and some, which had not bloomed in three years received enough cold to trigger flowering for the first time.

Unfortunately his plans to establish a Display Garden including Old Cultivars, and an area for his hybridizing efforts have received a set-back, due to a change in circumstances in the planting area.

Charles reports that the Spuria Society has decided to issue their Newsletter in SUMMER and WINTER from now on. If possible the next issue will be in late July.

All Good Wishes to our British Colleagues.

(Thank you Charles for the seeds and your good wishes, we look forward to your July N/L. Sorry to hear about your disappointment, we do hope you will soon have better news. J.)

Over to Japanese Irises..

My Pink ENSATA.

By Currier McEwen.

(Reprinted by kind permission of Lee Welsh Editor of 'the Review of the Society for Japanese Irises. U.S.A.)

I write this article to correct any misinformation I may have caused regarding the pink Iris ensata which came from seeds I had received in 1984 from Joan Trevithick. In that year I had joined the British Siberian, Spuria and Japanese Group (BIS) of which Joan Trevithick was (and is) treasurer and editor of the newsletter. In accordance with her practice, she kindly sent me, as a new Member, some seeds from her pool garden in Radcliffe-on-Trent, NOTTINGHAM. She sent me two packets of seeds which I understood had all come from her plants of the wild, red I.ensata species and so planted them together. Twelve plants resulted, eleven typical examples of the wild red species with similar flowers, though differing strikingly in height (from 24 to 60 inches) and the twelfth was a charming pink. I was not only enchanted by the lovely color, but was excited that it apparently had come as a sport from the usual red ensata. I was particularly interested in it as a possible example of what might have been the origin of 'ROSE QUEEN'; that lovely pink Japanese iris that has been around for so many years, but whose origin still remains a mystery. I therefore took it as an I.ensata sport to the annual (cont).

Beardless Auction in Concord, Massachusetts where it created a furor of interest and bidding.

Subsequently, I have learned from Joan Trevithick that the two packets of seeds she had sent me were different, one containing seeds from the typical red species ensata, and the other seeds from a pink Iris ensata growing in the same small pool. That plant had come from seeds she had obtained from the British Iris Society's seed distribution program through Sidney Linnegar, who said they had come from New Zealand as seeds of 'ROSE QUEEN'. My own first plant of 'ROSE QUEEN' had come to me in 1970 from New Zealand. Since then I have had two others: one from Clarence Mahan and the other from Eberhard Schuster in Germany. Those two and the earlier one from New Zealand are clearly the same cultivar, but my pink ensata is different—about the same small size, but perhaps closer to true pink and of different form. I am so fond of it that it will be registered and introduced. Joan Trevithick has kindly said I may name it after her.

To return to the point I must make regarding this charming flower, it is not a sport from the wild red I. ensata as I once supposed but, is a seedling derived from 'ROSE QUEEN'.

Note. Clarence Mahan has recently registered 'ROSE QUEEN' for the Society of Japanese Irises.

(Thank you Currier, as an inveterate seed-sower, I am more than pleased to have been a part of your programme. Sorry I did not mark the envelope more plainly, but happy that this ensata, which I thought at the time was beautiful, and of which, I now only have a photograph, will continue to be cultivated. I only hope it proves to be a 'survivor' like me... Many thanks, Joan.)

Culture for Japanese Iris.

Bob Bauer and John Coble.

(This is a reprint taken from their catalogue by kind permission of Bob and John.)

We think that no other iris is influenced to as great a degree ^{by culture} as are the Japanese Iris. Good culture will increase height, branching, flower size, quantity and quality of bloom. No other factor will be a greater influence than water and its quality (pH and/or salts). A lack of moisture will stunt the plants and produce miniature blooms. An abundance of water and manure can produce five foot tall bloomstalks! Not enough sun will yield no bloom. J.I. Need 6 hours of mid-day sun.

The native habitat of the species are the marshes of Japan and northern China. Many catalogs suggest that Japanese Iris do not require any special watering after bloom. This is a big mistake and the main reason many people see their plants dwindle and disappear. They require ample moisture, especially up to bloom time, and you will be rewarded with much healthier plants and bloom next year if the plants are kept watered all summer long. Depending on your soil, 1-2" of water and/or rain per week is recommended; older clumps may need twice as much water! They do very well near water or where the water table is a short distance below the surface, as beside a stream or pond.

Japanese Iris prefer a rich soil with ample organic matter. The organic matter will help in water retention as well as adding nutrients. The soil pH should be slightly acid, ideally between 5.0. to 6.5. They will tolerate a wider pH range, but growth and bloom may not be as good. Attention must also be given to the pH of your irrigation water, which can gradually raise the pH of your soil. An indication of too high a pH is the gradual yellowing of the leaves. The soil can be lowered by the addition of granular ferrous sulphate (iron sulphate) or agricultural sulphur.

Japanese Iris are heavy feeders. A liberal application of a balanced fertilizer in spring and just before bloom is beneficial. Most soils require more nitrogen. Weak plants showing light green foliage will be invigorated with a bi-weekly foliar and drench application of a water soluble acid fertilizer such as Miracid. The preparation of your iris bed with composted manure will be a good start for your J.I., but do not use granulated fertilizer until they are established.

The rhizome should be planted 2 to 3 inches deep, depending on the heaviness of the soil. Plant them in a depression which will help catch and hold more water; fill the depression with organic mulch. Since new roots form above the old roots, you can add more soil as necessary as the plant grows toward the surface. Actually, by the time the crown grows to the surface and the roots can be seen, it is time to dig and divide the plant. Plants under good culture require division every 3 to 4 years.

Japanese Iris can be transplanted almost anytime from spring until fall if you can keep the transplants wet. The best time is a combination of your climate and your gardening practices! Mid-spring to shortly after bloom is the best time for us. Hot and/or dryer regions may have better luck with fall planting. When dividing, cut back (cont.)

$\frac{3}{4}$ of the foliage and plant 2-4 fan divisions. We find that larger divisions do not grow vigorously, and just require dividing again in two years!

(In another section of their catalogue Bob and John write the following:-)

We can't stress enough how Japanese iris do best in damp, cool soils, especially transplants. Please consider this in your request of shipping dates, especially if your area is under watering restrictions, or temperatures are above 90 F. Many gardeners are having good luck with artificial bogs or 'bogettes': plastic-lined beds 14-16" deep.

'Bogettes' are planting holes lined with a garbage bag for just one plant: these 'low-drainage' planting holes will allow you to raise any moisture-loving plant in your perennial border that doesn't get the optimum 2" of water per week. Also note that you will not lower the soil pH just by using an acid fertilizer (like Miracid). Miracid is just a fertilizer for acid loving plants. We recommend using iron sulphate to lower pH.

(Thank you both for allowing us to print your most useful instructions on how to grow these beautiful Irises, I think this is the most detailed one to date, and should help Members who are anxious to try growing them here in Great Britain.

John has asked me, to ask you, to send in your comments on the culture, and how you change them to suit your particular needs of soil and climate. You can either write in to the Newsletter or direct to:- 'ENSATA GARDENS', 9823, E. Michigan Ave, GALESBURG, Michigan. 49053. U.S.A.)

On Growing Ensata Iris in Pots.

by Philip Allery.

A Member, on reading Philip's mention of growing ensatas in pots has asked to know more about it, so here is Philip's account of his methods:-

I started growing Japanese Irises in pots in 1983, with seeds sent by the late Dr. Shuichi Hirao, and I have found this method of cultivation to have several advantages providing a constant source of suitable water is available. A new bed for Japanese Iris had not been completed, so as I had a south-facing patio, backed by the brick walls and glass of the kitchen and conservatory, giving reflected heat, it seemed an ideal position for this type of cultivation.

The advantage of outdoor pot cultivation can be summed up in one word... flexibility. It is an excellent way to grow on seedlings, it allows mobility of location, gives maximum effect during the bloom period and a greater degree of control if hybridising is planned.

Whether you choose pots, window-boxes or decorative patio planting, pools or pool-side planting, it is necessary to give them adequate winter protection. If the pots are sunk into the garden an 8" mulch will protect them from frost. Alternatively, kept in an unheated greenhouse, garden frame or peat bed, they should be covered to a minimum depth of 4". The risk is freezing of the crowns, do not over-water at this time. With imported plants, I provide slight heat protection for the first winter. Be on your guard for an aphid infestation in February and March, it soon weakens the plants.

At first I used ericaceous compost mixed with horticultural grit, and added a top dressing of dried cow manure. Once the plant was well established I used a suitable granular fertiliser in addition to a liquid one. This treatment gave me healthy and vigorous growth. I took two pots to the Annual Show of the West Midlands Group, some years ago.

Now I have some 30 plants growing in pots, they bloom in the second half of June and early July. I have an outer container which is the permanent reservoir, it is a source of rain water, backed up by tap water which has been suitably treated to ensure the pH is not too high. Of course, in drought conditions tap water is better than none at all. J.I's in pots should receive approx. 2" rainfall every week and should always be kept moist. They will certainly die if the roots are allowed to dry out.

The inner pot should be of reasonable size, I use 3 or 5 litre Optipots, and line the bottom of the pot and the first $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the wall with fine greenhouse shading mesh plastic. This prevents washing out. I do not know, but I believe the Japanese use smaller pots, I imagine this restricts the root growth and they will need to be re-potted each year.

Remember 5.8pH is your target for growing medium, although 5.5-6.5. produces good results. I am using two of the four soil or soil-less composts. At the moment I am experimenting with some special organic products which have been given a favourable report in 'Garden Which', also with fibre compost (peat alternative). Beware, sometimes there is an alteration in the composition of manufacturer's mix.. regular testing is important, a reliable meter is essential.

A mixture of good loam (some clay deposits in it are excellent), peat, horticultural

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grit, with trace elements and cow or horse manure (rotted for at least 3 years). Take care, some commercial cow manure composts are good, but horse manure is not always suitable. Do not add granular fertiliser at the mixing stage, as this can cause root damage, watering in later is safer. The compost should be 2" below the level of the rim of the pot, and the crown of the roots 2" below that.

Suitable containers are a matter of choice, some enhance the flowers and others can house more than one inner pot. I use the tall black bucket-type obtained from a local florist, who sells me those she receives from her Dutch suppliers. The unattractive rim can be disguised by using ground cover plants. They can be sunk into the border or at the edge of the pool. The height of these containers is not less than 6". J.I.'s must have 2" of water. If taller ones are used, bore a side drainage hole approximately half the height of the inner pot. Take care, when growing within the margins of the pool, not to contaminate the water... I always adopt the over-wintering procedure from November to March.

Avoid shaded areas, a minimum of 6 hours sun daily is desirable. Wind can play havoc with the diploid petals, the tetraploid varieties are less delicate and more durable.

I hope I have tempted you to have a try. A good buy at the moment, to begin with is Norman Payne's un-named seedlings, I have been using them for experimental work over the past two years..

Happy Iris Gardening.

(Thank you Philip, I am sure that Members following these suggestions, together with Bob and John's idea for a 'bogette' will be giving their ensatas every chance to grow, even if ~~their~~ soil is difficult. Ever since I lost all my plants in 1987 (frost), I have been growing them this way, so I can vouch for it. One more word, Norman recommends transplanting in August in this country, and we will have some of his seedlings in our Plant Scheme later this year. J.T.)

The Romantic Japanese Iris.

This is the title of an article written by our Member Clarence Mahan from McLean Virginia, for the American Horticultural Society's official publication. Unfortunately I am unable to reprint it, due to copyright, but I can tell you that Clarence is to be congratulated on its excellence in describing how the Japanese Iris came to America from Japan, where they had been growing since early times. He tells of the pioneers who brought them over and later did their own hybridizing, together with some beautiful colour plates it is a thoroughly interesting and entertaining article. Well done....

Back Home now.

'Anne is Always There'

Anne Blanco White, the President of the British Iris Society will be retiring from this arduous Post in September, we pay our own tribute to her for the work she has willingly performed over the years, as our way of saying... Thank you Anne!

Once upon a time, way back in the 60's the Iris Show at the R.H.S. Hall was ALL irises with magnificent displays of spikes by Waterers, Whiteleggs, Kelways etc. etc. At these shows a barrage of tables was formed under the clock behind which a group of iris ladies, usually wearing black, cleaned the trophies and tended to intimidate the general public. Anne was not there then but she was charmed by Effie and Gerald Osborne (Gerald was Show Secretary at that time) into joining the B.I.S., she must have been in a gym slip, I guess!

She remained a Member and it was some time later when the demands of looking after a husband, and bringing up a son and daughter were less demanding that she came on the B.I.S. scene in a more dominant role.

Anne's first official job as Secretary was from 1970-79. She was elected President in 1983, with a second Presidency due to terminate in September. These are the facts, but the dates and offices do not convey the continuous volume of work she does for the British Iris Society. As Publicity Queen, Anne is always there, for several memorable years as Win Tallack's team-mate, where she is in constant touch with the public, encouraging their interest and answering their enquiries, they all get a welcoming smile whether they buy a 20p. postcard or want to know why they can't grow T.B's in a wood or swamp successfully! You'll find her on the B.I.S. publicity stand at Westminster, Wisley, London's Mansion House, even on one occasion Windsor, in or out of town, Anne is always there. Her knowledge of irises is phenomenal, with two gardens, one in London and one in Sussex, Anne is an expert on the joys and problems of growing innumerable

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species iris, battling against many adverse conditions, some of them furry, some feathered.

She is a valued and active Member of the Species Group and to add to all this, her talents as a speaker to Groups, Conferences, writer of articles, her knowledge of her subject is fantastic, and delivery of her talks crisp and clear.

Visitors from all over the world are entertained by Anne and her husband Thomas, and I am sure that can't be a simple task, also when a language barrier also arrives on the doorstep of No. 72, South Hill Park.

How much poorer the British Iris Society would have been if 'Anne hadn't been there'.

Eileen Wise.

(We couldn't agree with you more Eileen, let us not forget that Anne is also part of our Group as well, she is the Japanese Iris Specialist, also our Regional Representative for LONDON.)

Here is Anne's Report:

Regional Report for the LONDON AREA.

by Anne Blanco White

It isn't really necessary to labour the point that this season is markedly different from the last two, although the year started in much the same fashion, but any comments about iris growth can only serve to underline the fact. Frost and hail have been the main troubles this time round.

Some of us had severe frost in the New Year. In my Sussex patch the temperature went down to 8F while Ray Jeffs over in Surrey hit 0 F. Rather extreme for southern England. Inadequately established plants were lost and others damaged. But it was the alternately warmish weather and sudden frosts which produced the nastier effects: half-grown fans killed off, though not necessarily the growing points where fresh green leaves can be seen poking through the debris now, making clumps look very messy and almost diseased; quite well developed flower spikes killed off around the edges of large clumps, while the inner spikes were of variable heights, from severely dwarfed to normal. This was particularly noticeable in the sibiricas. The spurias seem to have been affected to a lesser extent, but my impression is that the flower spikes will be shorter than usual. At Wisley there have been interesting effects in the trials where on one plant, or on one side of all three plants, have been affected. Here and there one whole clump is in excellent condition while the others may have been damaged. The whole effect is of icy, mini-whirlwinds cutting through, and sometimes collapsing on, a plant.

The ensata plants in the experimental bed at Wisley seem to have been less affected. It is near the top of the Portsmouth Field and has some protection from Battleston Hill and nearby large trees, but there are still indications in the leaves that there may have been micro-local damage.

There has been some distortion of foliage in many plants as a result of alternating periods of growth and stagnation through the year: particularly horizontal concertina-pleating, where a leaf-tip has caught in an older leaf, and heavy vertical ridging.

Not surprisingly, the shows at Wisley and in the New Hall were dominated by bearded irises with few sibiricas at either, and those from the West Midlands. In the main, very few spurias at the late show and positively no ensatas. These last are very much back to normal timing this year and there was literally only one flower when we looked at them on 26th. June. On the other hand, the established plants are going to flower well and mainly show good branching with plenty of buds.

Pacific Coast irises, in contrast, seem to have done very well this year and to have been virtually unaffected by the weather changes.

Unpleasing as this summer is so far, the extra rainfall immediately after flowering should help to give a good growing-on season and better blooms next year.

(Thank you Anne rather a disappointing time again, from the Show point of view, maybe next year things will improve.)

Report from The WISLEY SHOW.

by Ian Smith.

This year the season is late, very late here in Dorset, so the emphasis, as Anne has said was very much on Tall Bearded, Cy Bartlett producing some super seedlings of his own raising.

However, there were entries in the beardless classes and for once there was a good showing of P.C.I.'s. Bob Wise showed two of his seedlings, a dusky pink (no. 6/89) and a dark rose (no. 1/88) both of which were of good shape and size. Maureen Foster also showed some good varieties, eye-catching were 'Simply Wild' (pale biscuit and

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raspberry), 'Welsh Amber' (mid-amber with darker striping) and 'Mission Santa Cruz' (dark ruby-red). Also attracting attention was 'City Hall' (dark reddish mauve) shown by Jennifer Hewitt.

The Sibirica Classes suffered badly from lack of entries but Harry Foster just about managed to stage 15 spikes in 3 varieties to win the Spender Challenge Trophy. His was the only entry in this Class, but a worthy winner. Harry also won Class 25 (5 spikes in 2 or more varieties) and among the other varieties shown were seedling (82/105), a nice lavender colour and a good tall branch. 'Windwood Spring', a mid-blue violet with a large white patch on each fall-most distinctive, and seedling (T684/106) which was quite yellow and with a good branch.

Nobody managed to show any water irises or chrysographes and I can only hope that these will be very much in evidence at the Late Summer Show in London.

(Sorry Ian, it was the same sad story, as you will have seen in Anne's Report, however thanks for sending it in, at least there were some of our Irises on show. J.)

Regional Report for the NorthWest.

by Ray Wilson.

A peculiar spring, at least in Lancashire, with sufficient brightness to give quite good bloom on D.B's and Pacificas, and the pleasure of having I.lactea in bloom for the first time in my garden, leads me to hope for a season in which our gardens will remain floriferous for many weeks longer than they did in last year's heat.

Sibiricas and spurias seem so far from bloom that they are best forgotten, this time round. Together with the Japanese irises, they all look healthy but lacking in growth, whereas the Pacificas have come on very well; they seem to have been unaffected by the cooler weather and bear up well with a lower rainfall than average.

Pacifica seeds; I found germination to be much better when the seeds were exposed to our normal winter weather, some frost, a fair amount of rain and no cossetting.. They were held in a propagator at 16 to 20 degrees C. and watered to maintain a moist atmosphere. With the colder regime the rate of germination was more even and the rate of growth smaller, but, in total, the results were many more seedlings. Hybrids were better than the species.. The seedlings grow away more strongly if kept in a cold greenhouse for the first few weeks, but they then benefited by being outside.

Pieces from Pacifica plants were found to grow better when taken in September than in spring; they were also easier to propagate when kept in fine fibrous peat and kept moist - too much water was detrimental, a temperature below 8 degrees C too. Plants purchased from Broadleigh Nurseries have done particularly well; eight out of nine varieties bought and planted last October have flowered this year. I have yet to try again with Joe Ghio's plants.

Pacifica seedlings from previous years have done very well with a lot more bloom and vigour. Using B.I.S. seeds from several sources - I have grown a good variety of sizes, shapes and colours from white through creams and yellows and blue-purples to reds, one of which is a self-colour, R.H.S. colour 59A to 187A with the venation quite obscured, but not very vigorous. Indeed I find these seedlings to be better than the ones I bought from Broadleigh Nurseries. The many species seedlings from SPCNI will I hope be large enough for offer next year and bloom the following year.

To-day the weather forecast has been right (2nd. June), it is cold, raining and with little wind.

Good iris growing to you all.

(Ray's arthritis, he tells me, is responding to the treatment (Feldene), so pleased for you Ray, hope that it will continue to improve. Keep up the good work. J.)

Regional Report from the South.

by Adrian Whittaker.

Spuria Notes.

In spite of the cool Spring, the Spurias in my garden are already starting to bloom (mid June). In a year when most of my T.B's have been turned into a soggy mess by the weather, the Spurias and Siberians are more welcome than ever, not only because they are weather-resistant, but, to me, they remain so elegant for a long time, and do not need any staking.

There is a continuing discussion on the best height range for Spurias in the average garden. I personally do not believe that it is desirable for any breeding trend to be developed which may have the effect of reducing the range of heights which are already seen in gardens. Variation is a most important feature of the species and adds to the interest. A clump of tall growing Spurias can be a feature in one part of the garden, but equally the more delicate dwarf forms are in scale, in company with other

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low growing plants. They look good when placed near a wall in the sun, or even in a space in a flagged area.

Charles Jenkins has very generously sent a significant amount of Spuria seed for our seed distribution, from his up-to-date varieties, this offers a tremendous potential for raising excellent cultivars. I do hope those of you with an interest will take advantage of this opportunity. If the seed is placed immediately on receipt in a sandy compost, using a 4 inch pot, it should germinate within a year, providing it is kept damp and in a sheltered shady spot OUTSIDE. Spuria seed can be quite variable in its germination, the amounts of chilling and temperature variation all have a bearing on this. If the seed germinate in the Winter, as they are quite likely to do, it might be preferable to provide some additional shelter for the emerging seedlings, especially if it is cold and frosty for a lengthy period. A cloche or cold frame is quite sufficient. Above all the seedlings and young plants must never be allowed to dry out.

The main problem arising next is when to transplant... Generally Spurias do not like to be moved, even in maturity. It is therefore important to try and minimise the odds in your favour. Spring and Autumn are the obvious choices for most of us, when the soil is workable and there is sufficient rain. I prefer the Autumn, if there is a choice, since in the U.K. the chance of a long dry period over the Winter is low, and winters are not usually severe enough to damage a well-grown Spuria seedling.

Choose a sunny spot, somewhere the sun can reach, even in mid-winter, and also where the plant will not have to be disturbed again. It has been said that the Spurias are heavy feeders: undoubtedly, they will benefit from regular feeding with a balanced fertiliser, better flowering and growth will result. However, I think this is secondary compared to the availability of adequate water during growth periods, and sufficient sunshine getting to the plants. The variation in the genetic makeup of individual cultivars can be reflected in variable summer dormancy patterns between plants, and so the optimum feeding times are largely a matter of observation of the growth cycles.

Let none of this put anyone off. Raising Spurias from seed can be full of interest and very rewarding --- why not try?.

(Thanks Adrian.. we still have some of the collection kindly sent by Charles Jenkins in the Seed Distribution, but not very many of certain items, so it will be a case of first come first served, best to hurry. J.)

Regional Report from the South West.

by Mary Ramsdale.

Last summer's drought passed into a pretty miserable winter, with no chance of much gardening, so spring found us with a lot to do. We, too, suffered from that really bitter cold snap, and a lot of damage resulted. The hardy irises shrugged it off however, and although blooming was later by a week or so, this was, to my mind, an advantage, as early flowers are often damaged by frosts.

We have been here for nearly three years now, and at last I'm beginning to feel the garden is mine. I know where my plants are without turning up labels, seedling plants are coming along nicely, and I know, more or less, what I can expect of the weather and soil, and adjust accordingly. The weather this year has not been at all promising, it has not rained for four weeks, we've had a cold May, and unbelievable, here in Devon, frost on June 4th, fortunately not actually here, but far too close for comfort. There is a forecast of rain for tomorrow, I hope they are right, I will then be able to mulch.

For mulching we are using any garden waste I can find time to shred, leaf mould - I bag the leaves in the Autumn, its quicker than composting - also mushroom compost. There is a disadvantage with the latter - although it is good bulky stuff, it has a residue of added chemical fertilisers and insecticide, I'm not happy about that, but the benefit to our poor bony, stony soil is obvious, so on it goes.

This year the P.C.I.'s, which had made sizeable ^{plants} but produced few blooms, have excelled themselves, a wonderful experience for me as never have I been able to grow them before. Needless to say, I'm now popping in seedlings wherever I can, the clumps are quite big enough to split, but transplanting is difficult because of the dry, thin soil.

This year too, all my sibiricas are budded or blooming, some for the first time here, not yet the large clumps I long to see, but lovely to have old friends again, and they certainly aren't complaining about mushroom compost, it, and a dusting of 'SeaGold' seems to be very acceptable. This year, courtesy of the B.I.S. Plant Scheme, I shall be adding one or two more modern Siberian varieties to my small collection. Also I had some very pleasant flowers on seedlings this year, which I'd like to keep. I've had a little slug damage, though nothing to worry about, but ants are a problem here. I lost a transplanted

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Sibirica last Summer, ants had nested in the roots, and this year I've had to wipe the majority of my clumps free of Blackfly, which the ants put there and tend.

Two severe droughts have retarded, but certainly not prevented the establishment of plants. In Essex I did not find *Spurias* particularly easy or floriferous, but they seem to be doing better in this warmer climate and lighter soil. Certainly *I. kerneriana* and *I. rudskyi* bloom well and steadily increase. *I. orientalis* (*ochroleuca*), 'Shelford Giant' and varieties of the species are well budded this year.

Happy Gardening to you all.

(Thank you Mary, I do hope you manage to conquer those ants, there is always something for us to tackle isn't there. Good luck. Joan.)

Regional Report for the West Midlands.

by Philip Allery.

The extreme cold of February reluctantly gave way to a blustery, warmer March, lovely Spring-like days. Early April, some sunny warm days followed by the coldest May on record, and almost the driest. This put paid to hopes of Irises for Show Dates. June is showing little improvement, but we have had much needed rainfall to compensate for the Autumn shortages. All this was reflected on the Show Benches at the Malvern Hills Festival. I cannot recall any entries of beardless Irises.

The West Midland Iris Group Annual Show in June also suffered to some degree. The venue was Treasures, the Clematis Specialists of Tenbury Wells. Their much improved facilities were a great improvement on previous years, and proved to be very satisfactory. The judging of Beardless and Species was in the good hands of Mrs. Anne Blanco White the B.I.S. President, who is also our Japanese Iris Specialist and The Group's London Representative. Public support was excellent, and the Show was a financial success.

In the division for Beardless and Species Irises, the class for 28 chromosome or tetraploid *Sibirica* cultivars was won by Harry Foster with 'Cadiz Idris', 'Creme Chantilly' and two seedlings. Jennifer Hewitt came second with 'Lavender Light', 'Ewen', 'Laurenbuhl' and 'Jewel of Happiness'. I was placed third with a collection of older 28-chr cultivars. My tetraploids did not bloom until some ten days later. In the class for Pacific Coast hybrids a first place was not awarded. I won second place with a vase of 'Banbury Beauty' (Brummitt) and Ghio cultivars including 'All Around' and 'Big Money'. Jennifer Hewitt was placed third with 'Blue Ballerina', 'Broadleigh Lavinia' and a seedling.

No entries in the *Spuria* class, but in Class 11, for beardless cultivars not covered by other classes, there were two entries, Sue Winspear won with a vase of 'Holden Clough' spikes, with Pat Foster in second place, also with a vase of 'Holden Clough'. Harry Foster won Class 15, for beardless seedlings, with an attractive *Sibirica* R. 58/87. Most of my Japanese Irises had yet to bloom.

I must send my most sincere apologies to Anna Mae Miller and also to Shirley Pope for wrongly describing Anna Mae Miller as President of the Society for Japanese Irises, whereas this is the office currently held by Shirley Pope. Anna Mae Miller is the President of the Siberian Iris Society. I hope I have not caused any embarrassment to you both. (This was in my February Report.)

(I must add my apologies to Philips; I should have noticed this. Sorry. J.T.)

The Group Library.

Now that the Library has been extended, it is time to set out some guide lines for the use of the Books and publications. Also to give you some idea of the weight of the heavier items.

The Library service is free to Members who reside in the U.K. only.

Members are required to pay the Postage on borrowed books.

The weight of heavy items has been shown in grammes to give you some idea of the Postage that will be required.

The Books etc. are sent by First Class Post, where possible in Jiffy Bags to protect. A delay of a few days means that the Book is 'on loan' and will be sent as soon as possible.

Borrowers are asked to open parcels carefully please, so that the packing can be re-used.

A loan is limited to 14 days. If an extension is required please send a request to Jennifer, accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Books must be properly packed and returned Carriage Paid please.

(cont.)

Publications.

- Alphabetical Table and Cultivation Guide to the Species. (B.I.S.) (56gr.)
- Cult of Irises. (Beardless). (B.I.S.) (56gr.)
- Guide to the Pacific Coast Iris. (B.I.S.) (113gr.)
- Irises for the Water Garden. (B.I.S.) (56gr.)
- Know Your Irises. (New Zealand Iris Soc.) (75gr.)
- Raising Irises from Seed No.2. (B.I.S.)
- The Genus Iris. Sub-section Sibiricae. (B.I.S.) (56gr.)
- The Spuria Irises-Introduction & Varietal Listing 1985. Ed. James.J.Foreman (USA)(252gr)
- Journal for the Siberian Iris Society.(U.S.A.) (Twice a year.)
- Newsletter of the Spuria Iris Society.(U.S.A.) (Twice a year.)
- Review of the Society for Japanese Irises. (U.S.A.) (Twice a year.)

All Back Numbers of the S. S. & J. Newsletters.

Books.

Siberian Irises by Currier McEwen. (U.S.A.) (175gr.)
 Growing Irises by G.E.Cassidy and S.Linnegar. (Gt. Britain.) (420gr.)
 The Japanese Iris by Currier McEwen. (U.S.A.) (780gr.)
 The Iris by Fritz Fritz Kohlein. (Germany. English Translation.) (990gr.)

You are continuing to contribute to the Book Fund, so, by request, our next acquisition will be Brian Mathews' 'The Iris', that is as long as you kindly add a little extra to your subscription please.

Send your request for Library Books to:-

Mrs. Jennifer Hewitt, S.S&J. Librarian, 'Haygarth', Cleeton St. Mary. CLEOBURY MORTIMER.
KIDDERMINSTER. Worcs. DY14 0QH.

Treasurer's Report.

The Balance in Bank is £195.80p.(including Book Fund.) in Reserve £72.82p. From this will be taken the cost of this Newsletter, and now we are facing, not only the increase in V.A.T. but ~~now~~, in September the Postage is going up, not a lot on Inland, I am glad to say, but I dare not ask about overseas... However... we will manage, a little more re-use of envelopes, re-cycled paper etc. as long as we can keep our seeds and plant sales going, we will survive. Can I also persuade you to help by paying your Subscription promptly please, we do make a small amount in interest, and we try to keep this 19 Page Newsletter going twice a year.

Thank you to all seed donors, also for the plants sent in they are a most welcome aid.

I mentioned that we had been offered Currier McEwen's Book 'The Siberian' at a reduced rate, by courtesy of the Siberian Iris Society (Judy Hollingworth), but I did not, at that time follow it up, mainly due to lack of space in the February Newsletter. I am able to tell you now that, requests have been received, there will be a little delay, but we should be able to bring it to you at the price of £4 inclusive of all Postage. The currency fluctuation and the fact that I do not know, at this stage, exactly what the Postage will be, means that if it works out less, you will receive an adjustment in stamps.

We have the following B.I.S.Publications for sale:-

A Guide to the Pacific Coast Irises. (2 only).

Irises for the Water Garden. (2 only).

The Cultivation of Irises (Part 11 Beardless Irises.) (2 only).
do (Part 1 Bearded Irises.) (1 only).

The Genus *Iris*. Subsection *Sibiricae*. (4 copies).

An Alphabetical Table and Cultivation Guide to the Species of the Genus Iris. (2 only).

The following Back Numbers of the Newsletters are available:-

The Original 1976, 20p. July /81 40p. Feb./82 40p. Feb. 85 50p. July/86 50p. Feb/87.50p.
Feb./88 50p. July /88 50p. Feb./89 50p. July/89 50p. July/90 75p. Feb./91 75p.

Please do not forget that SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE. £2 from July 1st.

Send to:-

Mrs. J.Trevithick, 86a, Grantham Rd. RADCLIFFE-on-TRENT.NOTTINGHAM NG12 2HY.
Make cheques payable to ' S.S & J. Group. B.I.S.

Thank you, J.T.

Member's Wants..

John Russell (B.I.S.Treas.) on receiving our seeds, soaked and chitted them, half of each type (*spuria*) were put into pots in the garden and left to get on with it. The other half were mixed with damp vermiculite and put into the fridge. They were forgotten, until the fridge broke down, they were then planted in pots and placed near to the others, 'I noticed a few green shoots coming up, so you can imagine my pleasure!' (We can John.) Tales of imported parcels of plants being received looking like brown jelly, have made him resolve to try and go to the U.S.A. next year and bring some back. Meanwhile John asks can anyone help out with the following:-

I. spuria 'Harvest Shadows' (Whittaker), 'Evening Dress' (Ghio), 'Son of Sun' (Wickenkamp), 'Cinnamon Stick' (Niswonger), 'Lucky Devil' (Ghio).

If you send any or all of these through the Group we will pay postage, otherwise send direct to:- 47, Station Rd. NEW BARNET Herts. EN5 1PR.

All Secretaries have been asked by the British Iris Society to support the National Garden Festival at EBBW VALE in 1992. Maureen and Harry Foster are in charge of the plantings to be made for the 5 month period May--September 1992, and Usk College of Agriculture has undertaken to look after them. If you would like to contribute, please get in touch with:- Mr. & Mrs. H. Foster, 56, Darren View, CRICKHOWELL Powys. NP8 1DS.

I see in 'The Review' of the Japanese Iris Society that our Member Trevor Nottle in Australia is asking for seed of the following Japanese Irises..

'Tupim', 'Japanese Pinwheel', 'Popular Acclaim', 'Hue and Cry', 'Wounded Dragon', 'Cascade Crest', 'Frilled Enchantment' and 'Shin-Asahi-No-Yuki'. It would be nice if we could help. His address is: * Trevor Nottle, 'Walnut Hill', 5, Walker St. STIRLING.

S. Australia. 5152.

Don't forget a Green Label appropriately noted. All the Best Trevor. J.

Member's Letters, Communications etc.

On June 20th David and I had the great pleasure of meeting Helen Grier from Yorba Linda California for the first time. She had come to England on a 'Rose Tour', and this included the gardens of Flintham Hall owned by Mr. Myles Thoroton Hildyard, which is close by. Here we had a conducted tour of his most delightful display of 'old fashioned' roses, with Helen's friends and colleagues from California. We saw his conservatory full of exotic plants (this is the finest example of a Victorian Conservatory in the country.) In the long border a large clump of *Spuria Iris orientalis* was just coming into flower together with Tall Bearded (Dodsworthe).

After a refreshing cup of tea in the beautiful Drawing Room, and a photograph session we waved good-bye to Helen and her friends and she continued on her way, touring the rose gardens of England. It was lovely to meet her, and I am now waiting to hear more about it, that is if she is not too tired, and has the time to write. The weather wasn't too kind, but it relented on the day we were at Flintham.

Vicki Wong of Powell River Columbia, wrote in May to say that her T.B's, P.C.I's, Arilbreds and Sibiricas are all coming into bloom, and how excited she was that her Japanese Irises will flower this year, she has 15 new ones. She is also expecting a visit from Members of her Garden Club. Best Wishes Vicki. J.

Phyl Olver of Angley Park Kent tells of the loss of many of her Irises and other plants, however she mentions that a large patch of *I. japonica* 'Ledger's Variety' is growing well in a warm corner of her vegetable patch, (I remember it Phyl, you sent a photograph years ago, pleased to hear it is still going strong.) We have been able to help out with some seedlings and hope to send more when we have them available. J.

Evelyn Sharland Farnborough Common Kent has had losses too, but has added new Siberians recently. The 1987 hurricane destroyed some of her trees, so there is much work to be done, Gradually she is getting together her old collection of Irises. Bravo! Evelyn, let us know if we have any that will help.

Our Vice-Chairman Hilda Goodwin and her husband Don are gradually getting their new garden more like the Loughton One. As well as bearded irises they have *I. fulva*, *fulvala brevicaulis*, *tectorum* (blue & white), *setosas* (various), *spuria maritima*, *laevigata*, *lazica*, *sintenisii*, *confusa*, *versicolor* and *ensata* seedlings, besides quite a few P.C.I's and *sibiricas*. It has surprised them how well they have grown, and with help they are

(cont.)

back to the old gardening ways again, Masses of bulbs in the Spring, and they now have a pond together with an attractive summer-house. After removing the slabs they found a swampy area and are now planning to grow more ensatas. In the greenhouse Hilda has planted some Louisianas, and, in pots hoogiana and stolonifera, which, when she wrote in April were beginning to grow. Altogether Hilda and Don are enjoying their new garden, it must have been a wrench to leave their lovely old one in Essex, but this will be a compensation.. We all wish you well. Joan.

Roderick Woods, Great Shelford Cambs. writes that he has been very busy and that he has had a heavy infestation of vine weevil, a real plague, the grubs have ravaged his Sibericas, but rarely climb the Spurias. However, he is hoping that he has caught most of last years adults before they have laid their eggs. Looking it up in my old book Roderick, it recommends soot or paraffin, and for weavils.. wash in Jeyes Fluid. Seeds should be treated with carbon bisulphide. Hope this helps, but as they say.. you the Members may know of other remedies.. please write in if you do???

Jennifer has answered the same query sent in by Jean Harris and Ide de la Hayze Jean of West Bridgford and Ide of Middleburg Holland, thus:- The crinkled leaves and short stems on recently planted Siberians is, almost certainly, that the plants were planted recently, and were, therefore, under some stress. Leaves are crinkled, usually, because they have not been able to expand fully upwards, their tips or, perhaps a little lower down, their edges have been caught between the edges of the next leaf in the fan. Quite often they free themselves, but the crinkling remains for some time. (The iris leaves are in fact 'double', being folded in the middle, with the two outer edges looking like the inside edge, i.e. on the inside of the fan.) I have noticed that this seems to happen more often with plants which are small or under stress for some reason. And plants which flower soon after planting almost invariably do so on short stems. Would anyone feel like producing a full-height stem after being moved around and probably being busy growing new roots. They should be normal next year. Although lack of water would certainly do them no good, I rather doubt if this would be the sole cause, as it happens even when transplanted plants are kept well watered. I hope this will be helpful.

Mark Cook of Lexington Kentucky also answered the same question, saying that dry weather, especially warm to hot dry windy weather can cause such effects on newly planted Siberians. Here in Kentucky, I have noticed that a hard frost or freeze can cause those symptoms on not only Siberians, but on any Iris unfortunate enough to be caught by such cold weather at the wrong time.

In the 1989 bloom season, the described symptoms were especially severe. Early on the morning of May 7th. 1989, a light dusting of snow fell, along with a low of 23 degF. Two weeks later, when the Siberians started blooming, all of the newly planted ones had the mentioned symptoms. This past bloom season, the same plants performed beautifully, producing show quality stems, some of which I entered in the Bluegrass Iris Society Show. Jean Harris and Ide de la Hayze probably can expect similar recovery, unless drought, hard frosts or freezes occur at the wrong time this year.

There you have it Jean and Ide, let us know how things are this year if you have time, do hope it is good news. J.

Mark has since sent leaflets of his lovely Lexington Bluegrass County, home of thoroughbred horses, also the quarter horses, which are frequently seen there, they are very fast. This county is subjected to heavy thunderstorms from Mid-March to late August, many cloud-to-ground lightning strikes. Tornadoes usually miss Lexington, but they are still visible, and they bring blustery rain-squalls and flash-flooding. The storms in September and October may bring a normal month's rainfall in one day.

Snow can accumulate any time from mid-October to early May. but mostly from December to early March. In colder winters it can last for two months as a white blanket. Average is about 24 inches a year.

Freezing rain, an ice-glaze is quite common in winter, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick. A deep low pressure system and passing cold front brings a day with 40 to 60 m.p.h. wind about 4 times a year (winter), sometimes it is higher.

Here Mark has included a chart of his rainfall, which you will remember from his letter in February seemed remarkably high, but the beautiful photographs he has also sent of the Irises growing in his garden, shows that despite these weather conditions Mark can grow quite a few varieties of our Irises. Thank you Mark I only wish I could reprint them for you, but they have gone into the album. J.T.

Mary Fraser, King's Langley, Hon/Secty of the Species Group also says that her P.C.I.'s are growing well between the lawns and the stone path. After seeing a 'forest' of *I.orientalis* (ochroleuca) growing in a friend's garden, she is going to try more Spurias. She too has had the 'jelly syndrome' with imported plants, but has also has had success with ensatas, they arrived safely, and in good condition. We hope to hear more Mary. J.

Eileen Wise, Iwer Bucks, Enrolment Secty. of the B.I.S. writes that they have had a lot of bloom on their T.B's and the few established clumps of Sibiricas. The P.C.I.'s have been a joy, and they have had two selected for trial at Wisley. Although Spurias do not grow well for them, this year *I.orientalis* (ochroleuca) had two buds, a miracle. Well done Eileen, its a great thrill isn't it, I get just about the same results here.

List of Nurserymen and Women in our Group.

Mrs. P.Brown (V.H.Humphrey), 'Westlees Farm', Logmore Lane, WESTCOTT. DORKING. Sy. RH43JN.
 Mrs. D.Cook, 'Southwell Garden Centre', Fiskerton Rd. SOUTHWELL. Notts.
 Mrs. V.Cook, 'Stillingfleet Lodge Nursery', STILLINGFLEET. YORK. YO4 6HW.
 Mr. J.Carter, 'Rowden Gardens', BRENTNOR. Nr. TAVISTOCK. Devon. PL190NG.
 Mrs. M.Gladwyn, 8, Long Acre, BINGHAM. Notts. NG138 BE.
 Mr.K.Gott, 'Japanese Garden Co.' Anderton Nursery, Wallace Lane, FORTON. PRESTON. PR30BB.
 Merryweathers, Halam Road, SOUTHWELL. Notts.
 Mr. N.Payne, 'Paynes' Japanese Irises', 84, Whately Ave. MERTON PARK. LONDON. SW209NU.
 Mr.A.Robbins, 160-162, Beersbridge Rd. BELFAST BT6 8AE.
 Dr. J.A.Smart, 'Marwood Hill Gardens', BARNSTAPLE. Devon. EX314EB.
 Mrs. N.Staples, 'Coach Gap' Nurseries, LANGAR. Notts.
 Mrs. B.Timmerman, 'Timmerman's Roses', Woodborough Rd. LOWDHAM. Notts.
 Mr. D.Wheatcroft, 'Ecoplants, Shrubs Ltd.', Flawforth Lane, RUDDINGTON. Notts.
 Mr. M.Wickenden, 'Cally Gardens', GATEHOUSE OF FLEET, CASTLE DOUGLAS. Scotland DG7 2DJ.
 Mr. S.York, 'Bardills Roses', 54, South St. DRAYCOTT. Derbys. DE7 3PF.
 Dr. D.Attewell, 'Hackman's House Water Garden & Leisure Centre', Worcester Road,
 rd G. Spence Copthway Nursery, Copthway Rd. Hackman's Gate, Nr. STOURBRIDGE. Worcs. DY9 0EP.
 BARNHAM BOGNOR REGIS W Sussex. PO22 20 PH.

Many of you stock Irises, we would like to see more please. I would like to cogratulate Michael Wickenden, Cally Gardens, on his excellent packing. Also Dorothy Cook, Stillingfleet Lodge, sends her plants out packed strongly. Thanks to you both. If you send out catalogues or lists, please don't forget that, providing there is space, we will give your nursery a mention too.

OVERSEAS.

Herr. E.Berlin, Postfach 1155, D-7950 Biberach/Riss, Germany.
 Dr. T.Tamberg, Zimmerstr 3, 100 Berlin 45, Germany.
 Herr. E.Schuster, Post Gadebehn, 2711 Augustenhof, Germany.
 Mr. Coen Jansen, Koningsvaren 35, 7721 HM Dalfsen, Nettherlands.
 Mr. R.Bauer, 'Ensata Gardens', 9823, E.Michigan Ave. GALESBERG. MI. 49053. U.S.A.
 Mr. J.Coble, 'Ensata Gardens', 9823, E.Michigan Ave. GALESBERG. MI. 49053. U.S.A.
 Mr. C.Mahan, 'The Iris Pond', 7311, Churchill Rd. MCLEAN. Virginia. 22101. U.S.A.
 Mr. C.McEwen, 'Seaways', SOUTH HARPSWELL. Maine. 04079. U.S.A.
 Mr. B.Hager, 'Melrose Gardens', 309, Best Road South, STOCKTON. CA. 95205. U.S.A.
 Mrs. L.M.Reid, 'Laurie's Garden', SPRINGFIELD. Oregon. U.S.A.
 D. & B. Shepard, 3342 W. ORANGEWOOD. PHOENIX. AZ. 85051. U.S.A.

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 Mr. Akira Horinaka, (Pres. J.I.Society), 3-9 Tanimachi 6 chome Minima-Ku. OSAKA. Japan.

Contacts in Societies & Groups.

President of the B.I.S. Mrs. A. Blanco White, 72, South Hill Park, LONDON. N132SN.
 Secretary of the B.I.S. Mr. P.R. Maynard, 43, sea Lane, GORING-by-SEA. WORTHING. Sx. BN124QD
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 KING'S LANGLEY. Herts W148BE.
 Secty Kent Group. Mrs. M. Tubbs, 9, Lingfield Rd. WIMBLEDON COMMON. LONDON. SW190QU.
 Secty Mercia Group. Mrs. E. Wise, 197, The Parkway, IVER HEATH. IVER. Bucks. SL00RQ.
 Secty. W. Mid. Group. Mr. A. Sedgwick, 37, Cheltenham Rd. LONGLEEVENS. GLOUCESTER. GL20JS.
 Secty. Rem. Group. Mr. P. Allery, 199, Walsall Rd. ALDRIDGE. Nr. WALSALL. WS90BE.
 B.I.S. Publications. Mr. N. Watkins, 31, Larkfield Rd. FARNHAM. Surrey. GU97DB.

Seed Distriburion List.

Seeds are 25p. per packet, 2 packets sent if £2 ordered. Postage inclusive. The special selection is still available. Please send in to Seed Distribution Officer:-

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

Marked (vs) very small, (s) small, (m) medium, (p) plenty. Alternatives please on (vs)(s) LAEVIGATAE.

J. laevigata blue (vs). laevigata Alba (vs). Semperflorens, Regal & Monstrosa Mxd. (vs).

I. pseudacorus (s). pseudacorus Bastardii (p). Cream Forms (p). Primrose Monarch (m).

Versicolor (p). V. Kermisina (s). V. Cat Moussam (m). V. Rosea (vs). Claret Cup (vs).

V. White Lavender Veins. (m).

Virginica (vs). Gerald Darby (vs).

ENSATAE. (Kaeppferi).

Ensata mxd. (s). American Hybrids (s). Paynes Hybrids (m). Rose Queen (vs). Lactea (s).

SERIES SIBIRICAE.

I. sibirica mxd (s). Alba (s). White (vs). Arabian Princess (vs). Acuta (s). Carrie Lee

Clee Hills (s). Caesar's Brother (s). Fanny Heidt (s). Fourfold White. Laurenbuhl (vs).

Mountain Lake (vs). My Love (vs). Papillon (vs). Orville Fay (s). Rejoice Always (s).

Lavender Bounty x various (s). Tropic Night (vs). Wine Wings (s). Sea Shadows (vs).

Large blue Tet (m). Wild Form (s). Mixed Diploids (s). Mixed Diploids red (s).

Chrysographes x Chrysifors (s). Chrysographes Dark Purple (s). Delavayi (s).

SERIES SPURIAE.

Orientalis (s). Orientalis, white yellow falls (s). Carthalinae (vs). Halophila (vs).

Kerneriana (m). Sintenisii (m). Crocea (vs). Musulmanica (vs). Graminea (vs).

Spuria Mixed (yellow, brown & reds) (m). Bi-tone yellow hybrid x Violet Bloomfield (s).

SERIES CALIFORNICAE.

Douglasiana (vs). P.C. Brummett/Hargreaves mixed (vs). Brummett/Wise Mxd. (vs). Mixed (s).

Collection.

Spuria Crosses. Bali Bali. Barbara's Kiss. Border Town. Candle Lace. Diminuendo. Elan

Vital. Elixir. Eurasia. Finally Free. Janice Chesnik. Lenkoran. Lively One. Now This.

Penny Bunker. Purple Reign. Universal Peace. Zeal. Ethic. Kaibab Trail. Mystic Mesa.

Pacific Crosses. A Sante (vs). Bottom Line. Californian. Canyon Orchid (s). Canyon Snow

Deepening Shadows. El Centro. Las Glas. Mission Santa Cruz. Pescadero (vs). Rhett's

Memory. Spring Daze (s). B35-23 (Western Queen x Night Messenger.)

At the moment we are offering these seeds at £7. but as you will see some are running out, so they will then have to be individually priced. We have had excellent reports on them, so hurry if you want a bargain.

Foetidissima Citrina (s). Setosa (vs). Setosa blue purple (vs). Tectorum (vs).

Just a little space left to tell you that I have taken delivery of Akira Horinaka's book on Laevigatas, such beautiful colour plates, congratulations. I am so pleased that this long neglected Iris has been brought into focus. I just do not know why, they are such a lovely plant, easy to grow and not at all demanding. Thank you Akira, I am hoping to have a translation when I next see Maitreya, of the Japanese part.

Ray tells me that our New Member from Japan, Mr. Hiroshi Shimizu is a hybridist of Japanese Irises, and that he trained under Dr. Hirao. We look forward to hearing from him and learning more about his work.

To remind you that if you wish to purchase Currier McEwen's Book 'Siberian Irises' please send £4, we will only have 10 available at first, but I am hoping we can order more later, It tells you all about growing Sibiricas, and I am constantly referring to it, very useful indeed.

Plants.. nearly forgot... we will have I. pseudacorus 'Bastardii' £1. p. E. Turnip-seed £1.50p. There may be others later. Also I have a pot full of chrysographes dark form, others are showing. 25p. each. Send for list later. All the best. Joan.

Edwin Furnival's New address, 18, Parkwood Drive, RAWTENSTALL. Lancs BB46RT. (sorry).