

# NEWSLETTER



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

B.I.S.

The SIBERIAN, SPURIA & JAPANESE GROUP. ( including PACIFICAS and WATER IRISES.)  
of the BRITISH IRIS SOCIETY.

Newsletter No. 33.

July 1993.

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The Objects of the Group.

1. Communication 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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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 Road, RADCLIFFE-on-TRENT.  
NOTTINGHAM. NG12 2HY.

Hon. Newsletter Editor.. Mrs. Joan Trevithick, address as above.

Hon Seed Distribution Officer.....  
Mr. David Trevithick, 86a, Grantham Road, RADCLIFFE-on-TRENT. NOTTINGH  
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Hon. Librarian..... Mrs. Jennifer Hewitt, 'Haygarth', Cleeton St. Mary.  
(SIBERIAN SPECIALIST). CLEOBURY MORTIMER. KIDDERMINSTER. DY14 0QU.

JAPANESE IRIS SPECIALIST. Mrs. Anne Blanco Whittr, 72, South Hill Park, LONDON. NW3 2SN.

PACIFIC COAST (PACIFICAS) SPECIALIST....  
Mr. Ray Wilson, 'Daleshead', 100, Blackburn Road, CHORLEY. Lancs  
PR6 8TJ.

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Regional Representatives.

Eastern Area..... Mrs. Shirley Ryder, 'Toadshole Cottage', Old Rd. FEERING.  
COLCHESTER. Essex. CO5 9RN.

London Area..... Mrs. Anne Blanco White, address as above.

North Western Area..... Mr. Ray Wilson, address as above.

Southern Area..... Mr. Adrian Whittaker, address as above.

West & Midlands Area..... Mr. Philip Allery, 199, Walsall Rd. ALDRIDGE. Nr. WALSALL. Staf  
WS9 OBE.

Our Regional Representatives keep us in touch with their areas, as well as giving us information on how the Irises they grow in their own gardens or in their area, have progressed in the past 6 months. Members find this of great value, and we do thank them for their efforts.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1993 ARE NOW DUE PLEASE ..... STILL MAINTAINED AT £2.

Prompt payment enables us to keep the present £2 stable... This together with your seed and plants (when possible) help us to make this Group of ours successful.....

Cheques should be made payable to 'The S. S. & J. Group B.I.S.' please and sent to the Treasurer at the above address. (For security, please omit 'Treas.' from the address.)

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Articles and items for the February 1994 Newsletter should be sent in by the 20th January 1994 please, as I have said before, it helps to make a much better Newsletter. Thank you!

Editorial.

'The Task' by William Cowper.

Friends, books, a garden, and perhaps his pen.  
Delightful industry enjoyed at home,  
And nature in her cultivated trim  
Dressed to his taste, inviting him abroad -  
Can he want occupation who has these?

I have reprinted this by kind permission of Judy Hollingworth, the Editor of 'The Siberian', Judy also goes on to say that it is her own good fortune to stay at home, tend the garden, enjoy iris friends, and edit the T.S.I. (The Siberian Iris). Something she has been doing for 7 years, very well too may I say, in congratulating her. Sometimes it is not an easy task.. For myself, I have to apologise to Evelyn White the new Editor of the Japanese Iris Society Review, in my introduction in the February Newsletter, for some unknown reason, I called her Evelyn Jones, so sorry Evelyn, I do hope it has not caused you any embarrassment. I am glad to see I got it right in the Contacts Overseas List. All good wishes to you...

What unusual weather we have had during the last six months, sometimes very hot days, but mostly very wet, dull and overcast. One menace it has brought is the dreaded 'slug', many big, occasionally small, all deadly, not even the blackbirds, frogs and hedgehogs could keep them down. We have found whole heads of the P.C.I.'s eaten off, just as they were coming in to full bloom. We tried 'slug pubs'(shandy in a margarine tub), I did notice they also collected under the container, so concluded they like plastic. This got rid of a lot, but still they came, after every storm...

The sun has come back again, and most of the Irises have recovered. 'Holden Clough' has flowered itself silly this year, I am anxiously watching the seed pods to see if they are swelling. I.pseudacorus 'Bastardii' and 'Golden Queen' have bloomed well and now we have 'Gerald Darby'. The first buds of I.versicolor fell to a hail storm and the slugs, but there are more buds to come out.

We re-vamped the Sibirica bed last year, so we had only one or two blooms, but they loved the rain. Now I am looking at I. sibirica 'Sparkling Rose' and also 'Shirley Pope'(what a beauty), oh! and 'White Swirl' all new acquisitions.

This year the Carpenteria Californica bush has produced its beautiful single anemone-shaped white flowers, and the Fremontia Californica with golden yellow waxy blooms in profusion, both have loved the really hot sunny days. I sometimes wonder if our weather is changing, when I see these flowers, but then we get a solid wet day, so it may not be so. On the Iris scene, I still think the Water Irises come through all weathers with flying colours

Certainly I.pseudacorus, and there are now many forms, Cream, Ivory, Primrose, Pale yellow, the rich bronze of 'Holden Clough', and the new 'Roy Davidson', seem to escape the attention of the dreaded slugs, which thoroughly recommends them.

Congratulations to all this year's Award Winners, it cannot have been easy to bring blooms to peak condition for showing.

Our message seems to be getting through, there are more catalogues listing Beardless Irises at long last. Some even have the latest cultivars, so look out for them.

The only thing left to say is 'carry on growing, mulching and feeding, then you will have even better plants and blooms next year, even good enough to put them in the Shows!

All Good Wishes to you all.

Joan.

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Chairman's Letter.

Adrian Whittaker.

Some of you may have seen 'Holden Clough' commented on during the television coverage of the 1993 Chelsea Show. It is perhaps a sign of increasing interest in such plants now, and there are also talented breeders around the world engaged in the deliberate interbreeding of selected species within the genus. Not all the resultant plants are desirable, and some are merely stepping stones, but in the end they provide a more diverse choice for the gardener.

How we feel about them is a matter of personal viewpoint, but I think we are likely to see an increasing number of such experimental hybrids on the scene.

The challenge is, I believe, to look at each individual offering, or new race of plants, as it appears to see if it makes a real contribution, or is a short term novelty.

I hope you all have a rewarding gardening year. Best Wishes.

(Thank you Adrian for your timely warning, so many plants do not live up to expectations.)

We extend a warm welcome to the following New Members :-

Mr. Peter Brooksbank 4, Queens Rd. BRIDGEWATER, Somerset. TA6 6BG. Peter joined our Group just as the February Newsletter went out, later in March he sent for seeds, giving some idea of his interests, which were Sibiricas, Ensatas and P.C.I's, maybe later, when he has the time, he will write and tell us how they have progressed please.

The Hon. Mrs. Mary Chawarth Musters, 'Felley Priory' Jacksdale, Notts. NG16 5FL. Felley Priory has a most beautiful, old, walled garden situated around an Elizabethan House. It is situated just off the M.1. Motorway. There is an orchard planted with daffodils, numerous herbaceous borders containing quite a few Irises, as well as a very large pond. Pat, together with the Staff run the comprehensive Nursery, containing some unusual plants, I would even go further and say intriguing plants and shrubs and trees, including one of the most delightful tree paeonies I have ever seen, large parchment-shaded blooms. We have added to their Iris collection with P.C.I's, Sibiricas and Water Irises.

Mr. Peter Hall, 'Dunham Massey Hall' (National Trust). ALTRINCHAM, Cheshire. WA14 4S. (just off the A56) Peter is the Head Gardener in this 20 acre ancient site, with its moat lake, mount and orangery. Mature trees and fine lawns, shrubs, herbaceous borders and many waterside plants. Peter is in the process of trying to restore Spuria Irises to their original area. You will find his request under 'Member's Wants'.

Mrs. Marie Lowe, 'Rose Cottage', 82, Main Rd. UNDERWOOD, Notts. NG16 5GN. Marie has a garden of approx. 1000 square yards, with ponds, shrubs, hardy plants and greenhouses. Newly developed from a field, Marie is a Flower Arranger, so the garden already contains unusual plants and shrubs. We are extending this with Irises, particularly for the Water Gardens. Oh there are some animals including a goat named 'Isabel'!

Mr. John Whitaker, 10, Laggary Park, RHU, Dumbartonshire. GR4 8LY. John wrote in June that he is interested in growing Japanese Irises, one in particular 'Geisha Gown'. We were able to help immediately, because I put him in touch with Norman Payne, who has 'Geisha Gown' in his latest catalogue, and who will be able to guide John in the intricacies of growing ensatas..

Dr. J.A.Beal, 'Ashleigh', Barnsley Road, SCAWSBY, DONCASTER. DN5 8QE. Introduced by Philip Allery, Dr Beal is the new Show Secty. for the West & Midland Group. John has grown and shown some attractive Spuria seedlings, he is also interested in Japanese Irises.

Dr. G.Curtis, 'The Mill', Locks Lane, WANTAGE, Oxfordshire. OX12 9EH. Graham has been introduced to our Group by our Chairman Adrian Whittaker, in his letter he says that he is solely interested in Water Irises, and would like to hear more about them. We will do our best to include these easy to grow, beautiful and stately Irises when possible. I have already written about the ones I grow, and have grown for 30 years, in the Editorial, but we will do more in future, as I say they are so easy, you only have to show them a patch of water and away they go. Well! if they do grow rather big, from experience, I do not have any difficulty in finding a Member who wants to beautify their pond!

Mr. Dale Hamblin, 152, Idlewild, MUNDELEIN, ILLINOIS. 60060, U.S.A. Dale has joined through the good offices of our Librarian, Jennifer Hewitt, who met him on her trip to the Siberian Convention in June. (More about that in the Newsletter Reports.) Dale has kindly sent us eight packets of Sibirica seeds, which you will find in the seed list, they look very interesting, and are the result of crosses.

We hope you all enjoy reading our Newsletter, and will take part in our Group efforts by writing in and letting us know about your Irises and how they grow!

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#### In Memory.

It is with great sadness that I have to tell you of the death of Harry Foster. We send our deepest sympathy to Maureen and family. Currier McEwen (U.D.A.) joins us in saying that he will be very much missed by Siberian Members on both sides of the Atlantic.

My own personal memory of Harry is when he brought two vases of his beautiful Siberian Irises to our Stands at the R.H.S. and Moulton Shows. We will miss him.

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My Irises.

by Artur Winkelmann, Zieglerweg.  
Germany.

I have been growing Irises for about thirty years. Mostly bearded at first, but recently more and more beardless, always on a very small scale.

These Sibiricas grow quite well with me ; 'Blue Burgee', 'Blue Pennant', 'Dear Dianne', 'Dewful', 'Ewen', 'Fourfold White', 'Lavender Light', 'Marshmallow Frosting', 'Lavender Bounty', 'Breiter Start', 'Niklassee' and 'Viel Schnee'.

I only have two Spurias, 'Marilyn Holloway' which flowers every year and 'Imperial Bronze' which flowers some years.

With P.C.I's I am not lucky, I think it is too cold here.

Ensatas, I grow two clones with double flowers for nearly 20 years, always in normal soil.

The first Siberian cross which became most important to me was 'Thelma Perry' x 'Royal Ensign'. I selected one seedling of this cross and named it 'Fliederfee' because it has the colour of a lilac. From crossing 'Fliederfee' with 'Ruffled Velvet' came some interesting things in violet, red and pink. One of the red seedlings I registered in 1992 as 'Dorffest'. The rest of the good ones I will observe.

I got some seedlings from 'Red Passion', one with intense colour, I registered as 'Roter Prunk'.

To try something new I crossed 'Dreaming Yellow' with a wild sibirica, which I collected in Slovenia. The seedlings were tall and well-branched and clear blue. The shape was like a wild sibirica, but, I think, very pretty. I then crossed 'Dreaming Yellow' with one of the seedlings - result a little bit disappointing. Some of the seedlings have had blue flowers and are of an agreeable shape, but some were small and narrow and cream colour. It would seem to be inbreeding, perhaps this line would bring an improvement with other yellows.

'Orville Fay' x a seedling of 'Mrs. Rowe' gave me a nice variety of median blue with a pleasant shape. I thought it was tetraploid like the seed parent, but it proved to be a diploid. The chromosomes were counted at the Botanic Institute in Munich. It was registered as 'Gute Laune'.

In 1983 I found an interesting iris among a bed of seedlings of I. sibirica 'Niklass'. The seed came from our own garden and was open-pollinated. In Spring 1983 one seedling struck me because of its yellow leaves. In the middle of June most seedlings came into flower. Nearly all of them were blue-violet colour and were like the seed-parent tall and strong. In shape they also resembled the seed-parent, but the yellow-leaved seedling was outstanding. Its colour was more red, and the substance was not so heavy as the sister seedlings. The stems were about 120 cm. tall and did not stand straight up, but the flowers had a nice shape, quite pleasing. When I saw this plant, with its outstanding blooms, I thought it must be a hybrid with another species, so I had to think about another parent. In the garden when I harvested the seeds I also grow I. versicolor 'Claret Cup', so I came to the conclusion the latter must be the pollen parent. The following year I compared the plants and segments of the flowers and I think it proved that this must be a hybrid. A further examination made by Dr. Christine Williams at the Reading University supported the fact. The seedling produced the phenol magniferin. I. sibirica contains no phen. mag. but I. versicolor has it in the leaves. The counting of the chromosomes gave a count of  $2n = 68$ . It was registered in 1985 as 'Neidenstein'.

I did some crossing on the hybrid with pollen of different apogons but most failed.

Only with pollen of the tetraploid sibirica 'Ewen', 'Blue Pennant', 'Dear Diana' and 'Marshmallow Frosting' did I obtain a few seedlings. After 1985 I got a few self-setters and I grew these until they flowered. Some of them had intense colours and nice shapes. Last Summer a seedling of 'Neidenstein' x 'Marshmallow Frosting' was very light blue in colour.

Success came once with pollen of 'Neidenstein', the seed parent was 'Fourfold White'. Five seedlings flowered in 1988 (FWH 1 - FWH 5) for the first time, they more or less resemble each other. Although it is a cross-back with a tetraploid sibirica, the seedlings look more like I. versicolor, but the flowers are larger and they stand, mostly, above the yellowish leaves. In 1989 I got one seed from the plant with the number FWH 3 and it germinated and flowered in 1992 for the first time. Disappointment! the hope that it is fertile has not been fulfilled until now. One of the seedlings that I think is best number FWH 4, I registered in 1992 as 'Aindling Libelle'.

Some of the 'Neidenstein' seedlings were pretty, but they are lazy to flower. So I have to find out which are nice and flowery and look good in the garden. In 1992 I registered three seedlings 'Aindling Goldauge', 'Aindling Morgenstimmung' and 'Aindling Rohrsaenger'. I hope to write more about my hybridising later...

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My Work with Irises.

by Nasr. A. El-Emery. Egypt

I have known Irises since my Ph. D. study in Japan (1972-1976). At the same laboratory, a Japanese friend was studying the chemistry of some Japanese Iris species. The study was very interesting to me as a Phytochemist.

After returning back to Egypt in April 1976, I have started to search for local Iris spp., at that time I could only get three species, mostly introduced plants: Iris germanica var. alba; I. pseudacorus and I. tingitana.

In 1989, I saw, quite by chance, the nice book by G.E. Cassidy 'Growing Irises', from this source I could get the addresses of Iris societies in different parts of the world. I sent letters to most of the mentioned addresses to ask for seeds, bulbs or rhizomes and an information concerning Irises. Some of these societies replied, and others did not, but I was able to obtain a suitable background about the subject.

As I am a phytochemist and not a florist, looking only for the growth and beauty of the plant, but looking mainly into its chemical components and medicinally valuable substances, my interest was to choose some pure species of Iris and not for hybrids, to be more reliable chemical constitution, and partially to report on the botanical characteristics of the studied plants.

In fact, I am indebted to Mr. Bruce Richardson, who helped me so much, and played an important role in introducing me to AIS and SIGNA, and through his efforts I became a member of A.I.S., and also the B.I.S.

During last year, Mr. Richardson sent me two parcels containing about 48 types of rhizomes and 3 bulbous Irises. On the other hand I have received about 50 other types from the B.I.S. (including the S. S. & J.) and SIGNA in the form of seeds. According to the excellent information in your Newsletter and in the AIS Bulletin, I had planted all the seed and rhizomes received by mid-September 1992.

Now, 52 species are growing well, but of course those growing from seed have not bloomed this year, but they may in the next season. From the rhizomatous Irises, 3 species bloomed this year, namely, I. pontica, I. daesistensis and I. pallida and I will be informing Mr. Richardson of this happy news, especially, as you know that we have drastically hot Summers in Assiut, with temperatures reaching up to 46 degrees C. in August.

I am very grateful to you and to the B.I.S., SIGNA seed exchange department and to Mr. Bruce Richardson for the indispensable help he has given to me.

(Nasr is a Prof. of Phytochemistry at Assiut University, Assiut. Egypt. We thank him for his interesting account of his work, and wish him all success in the future. We hope to hear more

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News of Denver Botanical Gardens, Denver, Colorado.

Solange G. Gignac, who is the Librarian at Denver Botanical Gardens, kindly sent the beautiful and comprehensive Brochure, telling of their large and thriving Complex of buildings, gardens and a list of the Instructors and administrators, who cover many subjects, including Orchids, Hemerocallis, Cactus, Carnivorous Plants, Organic Gardens, Herbs, Roses, April Violet, Dried Flowers, Bonsai, Rock Gardens, Water Lilies and Aquatic Plants and Antique Flowers.

Of interest to us is the Iris Section, which is in the charge of David Miller a former Vice President of the American Iris Society. David has been growing Irises for 15 years. In the lists which Solange enclosed I counted 70 different Sibiricas and no less than 120 different Spurias, what a wealth of Irises, and how beautiful they must look when they are in full bloom. I see that on June 6th. they had an Iris Show and Sale.

We send all good wishes to you, and hope to hear more in the future, and thank you for letting us know about your gardens.

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NOTICE OF A FUTURE EVENT.

On the 25th. September 1993. The British Iris Society is holding a ONE DAY SEMINAR and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. at the PYM HALL, HADLOW COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE. HADLOW near TONBRIDGE. Kent.

For information and the Application Form, please write to:-

Mrs. Mary Tubbs, Secretary of the Kant Group,

9, Lingfield Road, Wimbledon Common, LONDON. SW19 4QA. (Tel 081-946 2010).

Lectures and Events have been planned from 10am. until 6pm.

A DAY OUT IN THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND.



by Currier McEw  
U.S

This year was highlighted by a new convention - that of the Society for Siberian Irises. Our Japanese Iris Convention has been thriving for some eight years, but there had previously been none specifically for Siberians, because they can often be seen at the large AIS conventions. However, the Siberians are usually so poorly grown in the AIS toufgardens, most of which are concerned only with tall bearded irises, that at long last our Society for Siberian Irises decided to have its own convention.

Indeed, it was a great success. Some 200 people travelled to East Lansing Michigan where the convention was held from June 11 to 13, with the Kellogg Center of Michigan State University as headquarters. There were two days of garden tours, where hundreds of guest irises were at peak bloom. Particularly impressive was that of Robert and Judy Hollingworth where we saw, in addition to the guest plants, literally thousands of their own seedlings in full bloom. It was a breathtaking experience. Among the guests from overseas who attended were Jennifer Hewitt from England, Tomas Tamberg from Germany and Ho Shidara and Hiroshi Shimizu from Japan. All of these distinguished guests spoke at the various dinners and Group meeting. The weather was perfect, the flowers superb and the friendship a joy to remember. The whole convention was a great tribute to Judy and Bob Hollingworth who organized it!

Due to geography, the Japanese Iris Convention, which was held in Virginia Beach, Virginia came before the Siberian one, from June 3 to 5. Because of the very first ever Siberian Convention coming only six days later, the attendance was about 60, somewhat smaller than usual, but in many ways this made the Convention all the more enjoyable. Unfortunately, the season in Virginia was late this year, so there was somewhat less bloom than would have been ideal, but this was more than made up for by the festive atmosphere of friends gathered to see and discuss these magnificent flowers, and to enjoy and learn from one another. At the opening dinner, Mrs Libby Dufresne gave a slide talk on the Japanese garden at the Brooklyn (New York) Botanical Gardens, followed by a demonstration of the Iketana type of flower arrangements. At the closing dinner, Dr. William Ackerman gave an excellent talk on his experience in hybridizing.

(Congratulations Currier, also Judy and Bob, on the success of your very first Siberian Convention, it is a Landmark, I, for one look forward to seeing photographs in your next issue of 'the Siberian'. Well done, may there be many more!!!)

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### The First Siberian Convention.

Jennifer wrote on her return and brought back some most acceptable seeds for the Seed Bank from a New Member, Dale Hamblin, Illinois. She had had a wonderful time, good weather, lovely irises and great kindness and hospitality everywhere. She also brought back 30 irises (3 times more than she expected) which have taken time to plant out, so her full account will no doubt, be in the B.I.S. Year Book.

(We send thanks to the Members in U.S.A. who sent good wishes to our Group.)

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### A NEW WAVE OF POPULARITY.

by John Coble (Michigan)

(Reprinted by kind permission of John Coble, and with acknowledgement to the AIS Bulletin.)

There is a new and growing interest in Japanese irises and a growing popularity - mainly among perennial plant growers that have not been told that they are difficult to grow. Beginners with Japanese irises are having more success than those gardeners who have a history of raising bearded irises. Beginners are planting and raising J.I. according to cultural instructions. Long time bearded iris growers often have it in mind that an iris is an iris is an iris! Tain't so with many of the beautiful beardless irises. Siberian irises are the most adaptable of the beardless classes and grow well in a wide range of cultural conditions. Japanese irises should be grown just the opposite of your favorite bearded groups. Japanese irises need an acid soil (5.0-6.5 pH), they want to be kept moist all year (not the myth of just through bloom time), they like a high nitrogen fertilizer, and lime or superphosphate can be lethal. Sound just like the opposite of TB's? You're catching on!

Beginners often have greater luck because their flower beds have not been previously dusted with lime for TB's and their flower beds are 'virgin soil' to Japanese irises. Japanese irises (like most others) do best in soil where they have not been raised before.

(cont.)

If you transplant Japanese irises back into <sup>soil</sup> from which you have just dug a 3 or 4 year old clump, the new division will not grow as vigorously as your first planting in that soil. The same site can be used for J.I. again, but they will do better after it has rested a couple of years, with annual applications of composted manure. Try growing them like rhododendrons that need at least six hours of sun. Afternoon shade is probably beneficial in the southern zones of 8 and 9 with mulch to help keep the soil cooler and help hold moisture. In zones 4 and 5, full sun helps to make the strongest plants in this shorter growing season area. Organic rich soil, below pH7, is beneficial wherever they are grown. If the rains don't keep the soil moist, they need to be irrigated. In areas with little rainfall, the necessary irrigation (with its usual high pH) probably will require annual applications of iron sulphat to keep the soil pH below 7.

There is concern (contraversial) that Japanese irises should not be underwater during freezing weather -- plant them on the pond bank, not in the water. The opposite, winter damage can also be lethal, where the soil completely dries out and severe cold temperatures can freeze-dry the rhizomes. The same situation can happen here in the Midwest when a mole tunnels under a plant in late fall!

There is an increase in popularity and sales (and repeat customers) of Japanese irises in the U.S. Most of this popularity is outside of AIS. The gardening and nursery business in the U.S. is growing faster now than has been seen before in this century.

The popularity of Japanese irises has come in waves. First was their discovery in the mid 1800's. The Japanese had selectively bred the species into the multiple colors, patterns and modern forms that we know today, by 1850! By the turn of the century enough publicity of these exotic oriental flowers made them sought-after by gardeners and estate owners. Most perennial catalogs presented fantastic engravings of their enormous blooms and Child's Nursery on Long Island had acres of Japanese irises in propagation. The Depression and W.W.I. hurt many things, probably including a gardener's budget for flower purchases. This drove many nurseries from existence. Many estates had to reduce the staff of gardeners that maintained large diversified landscape plantings. Japanese irises have to be 'maintained' in most of our climates. Older bearded and Siberian irises can survive several years of neglect in a perennial garden, but J.I. can be lost in one drought. The older and larger a clump gets its demand for water is greater, and its susceptibility to drought is greater. Japanese irises need to be divided, watered and cared for. For a continuation of healthy plants, dig and divide every three years -- right after bloom. A healthy plant will require 'two' strong gardeners and 'two' shovels at age four!

The second wave of interest in Japanese irises began in the 1950's with the color catalogs of Walter Marx and his national advertising. He began by offering the public 144 cultivars imported from Japan. This was followed through the 1960's with 150 introductions from his own hybridizing program. And at this time, Airlie Payne introduced 170 introductions from his hybridizing program begun in the 1940's. Arthur Hazzard began introducing his 85 varieties in the 1960's and The Society for Japanese Irises was founded in 1964. But the public interest and attention again waned from 1970 to 1985 with the loss of national magazine advertisements and color catalogs from Marx. It appears that even the public attention to Japanese irises needs to be 'maintained' and 'cultivated'!

We are presently in the third wave of Japanese iris popularity, thanks mainly to several dedicated iris growers that have written articles on J.I.'s and have had them accepted by national gardening magazines, illustrated with beautiful color photos. At this same time, there is a fortunate increase in the number of commercial gardens offering Japanese irises and an increase in hybridizers that should help 'maintain' the public's interest with exciting colors, patterns and forms on vigorous plants.

The varieties that have survived the intertidal lull between the waves of popularity are probably some of the most vigorous, or else those maintained by hybridizers for their breeding stock. Some are still with us thanks to the dedication of a few serious gardeners. One of the most famous early imports used by several American hybridizers is 'WARRAI-HOTEL' (from Kotaka gardens before 1900). This is a large double with wide horizontal petals of dark purple veins on a lighter background, a nest of dark purple styles with flaring crests accenting the center of the 8" blooms. The form of the flower is as modern as any introduction of the 1990's! 'HAGOROMO' (from Seiko gardens before 1940) has maintained its popular appeal with 9 white falls delicately brushed with blue across the center of the petals. 'HISAKATA' (Chugai 1928) has been used by several hybridizers for its full form, late blooming habit, and deep purple color. Two early American introductions are still available and popular: 'GOLDBOUND' (Hallock 1885) a double (6 falls) pure white, and 'MAHOGANY' (Hallock 1893) a double of rich mahogany-red.

(cont. over).



Some of the vigorous varieties that have done well in gardens since their introduction during the 'second wave' and still popular with beginners and connoisseurs are 'WORLD'S DELIGHT' (Marx 53) and early pale lavender-pink double, 'CRYSTAL HALO' (Marx 59) a double with red-violet petal centers and petal edges of crystal white, 'DRIVEN SNOW' (Marx 61) six full falls of pure white, 'FROSTED PYRAMID' (Marx 60) a 12 fall peony type of pure white that has seen no equal since its introduction. 'IKE-NO-SAZANAMI' (Hirao 56) ruffled double white with blue brushing on the petal centers, 'CONFETTI SHOWER' (Payne 50) six falls of light ground veined and shaded violet on petal centers and edges with a center nest of multiple purple styles; 'SWIRLING WAVES' (Payne 51) blue veins wash across the lighter ground of all six falls from multiple dark blue styles; 'THE GREAT MOGUL' (Payne 57) is still one of the largest the fall varieties in solid maroon, 'STRUT AND FLOURISH' (Payne 64) six falls of light blue violet, shaded darker in the center of the falls -- the first Payne Award winner in 1966; 'PRAIRIE GLORY' (Hazzard 72) single, three falls, with red-violet standards and white falls with red-violet veins, 'PRAIRIE CHIEF' (Hazzard 72) unique double of silvery blue.

Now, if I were asked to list some of the new and exciting cultivars being introduced, I would first have to say that I have not seen all of the new introductions and don't mean to slight any hybridizer or new cultivar. Also, my attentions may be influenced as a hybridizer rather than a showbench enthusiast. I am very much influenced by the vigor of the plant and may disregard a beautiful bloom on a weak plant (as we should with any kind of iris).

A couple of the newer and darkest colors we've seen are 'PUTTLE PARASOL' (McEwen 77) a six fall variety of dark purple; and 'MIDNIGHT STARS' (Aitken 88) a very dark red-purple. 'SOUTHERN SON' (McEwen 90) is a new double in clear light blue. 'HEIRA' (Innerst 86) produces some of the largest blooms with six falls of white with sharp dark blue veins. 'JOCASTA' (Innerst 88) is a double of ruffled petals with multiple shadings of rose-violet radiating from a blue halo. 'GEISHA OBI' (Rich 89) is a double of white petals all edged in rose-purple ruffles. 'CASCADE CREST' (Aitken 90) is a double of white with all petals edged in a delicate, yet contrasting, blue-violet and a center crest of dark blue-violet styles. 'CASCADE SPICE' (Reid 89) is a double of white petals all edged in rose-purple ruffles.

There is new and exciting work today with tetraploids, dwarfs or miniatures, multi-petal forms, and interspecies crosses. Variegated foliage will be showing up in the future as well as some new novelty forms. True pinks have already been achieved by hybridizers and will be more readily available as soon as these plants can be imported from Japan. In fact, one of the most exciting aspects for the future is the fruition of cooperation between The Society for Japanese Irises and Japanese nurserymen to import some 200 varieties that are in commerce in Japan but not obtainable by western gardeners.

Overcome your reluctance to try Japanese irises that will extend your iris bloom seas beyond the tall bearded. Prepare an acid soil bed, a bog, or a garbage bag 'boggette' for just one plant. Begin with 'tried and true' or be confident with one of the new. Discover why more and more gardeners are finding beautiful pleasure in growing Japanese irises and help 'maintain' the wave of popularity into the next century!

( Thank you John for such an interesting and informative article, I am sure Membets will read it with pleasure, and take your advice to heart. We printed Bob and John's 'Culture for Japanese Iris on Pages 8/9 in the Newsletter no 29. July 1991, in this they gave a detailed account of how to make a 'boggette'. I have two already, and they work very well indeed. What I want to ask them, is there some magical element in that Michigan soil that it takes 'two' men and 'two' spades to lift a four year ensata, I have been growing them for some 30 years, and have not been able to get them to that size, in fact they very ofte struggle here. Perhaps it is what you put underneath them that does the trick. You certainly have some beautiful photographs in your catalogue, and we wish you well in the future.)

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#### Letter from Kentucky.

by Mark Cook, Lexington.

Mark writes to say that the weather caused delay in clearing up his flower beds. In January it tended to be much warmer than usual, daytime temperature betwee, 50 & 60 degrees sometimes 65 to 68, it was most unusual. In February it turned sharply colder, and on Valentine's Day and the day before, it snowed, 1.0 in. and 7.2, in. The low temperature stayed until the 19th, then on the 21st. it turned much warmer again with a very severe storm, this included a tornado which blew across Lexington from one side to the other. After this it turned cold again until Feb. 25th. when we had 10ins. snow again. It was cold right through March.

The big storm affected about one fourth of the United States and parts of Canada. It  
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Brought snow from Northern Florida to Maine, blizzards affected the Eastern half of Kentucky. Here at home we had slightly over 13 ins. of snow, but 10 miles west they only had 5 ins. Whereas 70 miles away (west) they did not have snow at all, locations to the East had more than 13 ins. In the mountains of the far East of Kentucky it was 55 ins. deep with 15 ft. drifts. Temperatures were as low as -4. A very cold storm!

The continuing cold spell kept most of my plants dormant, and the snowfalls protected any new shoots, so it would appear that the blizzard has not done any damage, but far more good to the flowers.

We are having a good bloom season this year. Today, (May 13.) 98 per cent of the bearded Irises are in bloom. Sibiricas are in bud, some showing color, and the Water Irises are coming into flower. Spuria and Louisiana Irises are in bud. It is still too early for the Japanese Irises to form buds, but the Water Irises that I raised from the seed that you sent in early 1991 are full of bud stalks, I am looking forward to seeing them flower. Also several of my Siberian seedlings are budding.

A hot spell came, with days being in the 90 to 95 degree range, bringing the Irises much quicker than expected, but cooler weather yesterday and today should slow things a little. The Iris Show here is on May 22nd, I am wondering if anything will be left to enter. I think I will have a few!

Are you familiar with a plant called South American Walking Iris? The latin name is *Neomarica bicolor*. It is a tropical Iris that can be grown in pots outside during the warm part of the year, but must be grown inside during the winter. The flowers are purple and white bicolor. They are very fragrant. I find it quite interesting to grow.

I hope Members have a good Iris season!

(Thank you Mark, we saw some of your dreadful weather, on the T.V. I have looked up *Neomarica* for you, I can find *N. caerulea*, which is frost tender, evergreen, rhizomatic, light blue flowers with white yellow and brown central marks. 3 ft. Also I see that *N. northiana* is listed in the B.I.S. seed list. No mention of S.A. Walking Stick. Perhaps a Member will know it also?

Pleased to hear that our seeds are making progress, thank you for the *ensata* seed you kind sent, I have sown a pinch and they are coming up. The '*brevicaulis*' I am not doing so well with, are these the corky seeds which float down the Mississippi river and seed in the bank? Cannot supply them with these conditions!!!)

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Report on the B.I.S. Show, Wisley 5th. & 6th. June 1993.

by Ian Smith.

(First let me give you Ian's new address, which he moved to, with, he tells me over 700 pot of Irises. Well done! His address is:- 8, Wicket Road, KINSON, BOURNEMOUTH, Dorset, BH10 5L. We wish you well Ian, and hope that you have managed to transfer them successfully. J.)

The Show as a whole was not one of the best, due to the very early season and the bad weather during the preceding fortnight. The bearded classes were not so well supported due to Maureen Foster's absence. (I send her my most sincere sympathy.)

In the beardless classes, one very much missed Harry and his super exhibits. However good quality display of Sibiricas in classes 24 and 25, were shown by Bob Wise, who won both classes. His 5 spikes of 'Harpswell Happiness' in class 24 were, by far, quite outstanding and together with 'Berlin Ruffles' and 'Cambridge' made this a thoroughly worthy winning entry. Cy Bartlett and Jennifer Hewitt came 2nd. & 3rd. respectively. Cy showing 'Berlin Ruffles', 'Cambridge', & a seedling HHBR, a lovely-purple, with a darker sheen on the fall. Jennifer showing 'My Love', 'Laurenstuhl' and 'Exuberant Encore'.

In class 25, Bob Wise had a lovely selection of 5 varieties, namely 'Reddy Maid', 'Ruffled Velvet', 'Ian', 'Dreaming Yellow' and Tomas Tamber seedling 8414, a large mid-blue-violet. Peter Maynard came 2nd. with spikes of 'Dreaming Yellow' and 'Cambridge', Ra Jeffs got 3rd. with 'Sally Kerlin', 'Silver Edge', 'Ruffled Velvet' & a white Tomas Tamber seedling. In class 28, a fine exhibit of the Cal-Sib 'Fine Line' gave Peter Maynard first place with Mary Tubbs showing 'Holden Clough' & Anne Blanco White showing 'Regal Surprise' coming second and third respectively.

Ray Jeffs won class 29, with a fine collection including various forms of *I. pseudacorus*, *I. laevigata*, *I. versicolor* & *I. graminea*. I felt very sorry for Jane Cole, who put up a lovely exhibition in this class, only to have it disqualified because she included one variety in her collection which was not a true species. What a pity!

(Congratulations to all who took part in these difficult weather conditions. J.T.)

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South of Watford.

by Anne Blanco White.

There is no doubt that last autumn/winter's rains were good for the spurias in general. By Easter, the largest hybrids had leaves about a metre high and have gone steadily on to greater glories. Except at Wisley, where all too many are suffering from, what Cy Bartlett describes as the 'Lurgi', but I will come back to that. On the whole Wisley plants flowered well, and a rather curious discovery was made by the J.I.C.: There are three plants which are difficult to differentiate if you only have the flower to look at: *I. orientalis* (*I. ochroleuca* of gardens), *I. 'Shelford Giant'* and *I. ochraurea*. Now 'Shelford Giant' is distinctive. It stands around six feet tall. If you are in doubt round up the nearest six-footer of your acquaintance and stand that person alongside the flower spike. If the spike only comes up to their shoulder level, then it isn't 'Shelford Giant'.

Long and long ago, when I first joined the Society and we could still fill the R.H.S. Old Hall with irises, I had trouble with *I. ochraura*. What really was the difference? Aveling Day did his best, but he was a T.B. man, and we never did solve the problem. Between then and the time when I became Secretary the species world deteriorated and 'ochraurea' disappeared without my ever really noticing. All right - this spuria trial has been in progress for some years now and we have had, allegedly, two forms of *I. 'Shelford Giant'* in the trials. We did notice that the sizes were markedly different, but the smaller one had been sent in by the late G.E.Cassidy, who was a past Secretary, and a knowledgeable irisarian, so everyone had assumed that it was true to type. Only this year did it seriously occur to us that there was something odd. We had two forms of 'Shelford Giant' and there was a marked difference in their heights! Alright, one could have been a seedling which had been passed on as the named form. (This is one of my particular hobbyhorses - all too many selected forms of hybrids and species are not true to the original plant simply because seed has been set, the seed-pod has been unnoticed and a seedling resulted at the periphery of the plant and, being slightly out of line has been given away as the real thing.) All the same, there is a distinction between a true species at up to four feet tall, a named variety at around six feet tall, and a hybrid at around five feet. The trouble is that we don't really distinguish between 4 - 5 ft. and 5 - 6 ft. I think a little more work is needed here. Can anyone offer an *I. ochraurea* with a guaranteed history?

The sibiricas did reasonably well in the trials, although many suffered from too much rain at a critical time when the buds were showing colour; the petals were so battered that they had trouble in unfolding. They are due for replanting this year.

The ensatas have been replanted and seem to be doing well. One point is worth raising here: I sent plants of the Ellis hybrid 'Chance Beauty' and although they flowered the flowers were very poor, and they did look rather like *I. pseudacorus*. This worried another member to whom I had also sent plants. As it happens his plants had come straight out of the ground and flowered properly, while the Wisley ones had been potted up last summer. It rained long and hard in the south of England during the autumn and winter, and the pots were rather small, so that any nourishment the plants had failed to take up had been leached out, and by the time they reached Wisley they were suffering from sub-acute starvation. There is a moral here for any of you who have plants in containers for any reason. If there is a really wet season you must compensate for what the rain washes out when the plants are doing any growing at all, and most of our plants grow in the late autumn. And when they start into growth again in the spring, they will need topping up with a vengeance. Still, the thrips problem seems to have been overcome as the replanted cultivars are in good form. The unreliable summer weather has underlined one point - it is important to be sure that your seedlings will survive the summer rain in the flowering season. One white flowered ensata looked quite dreadful after rain had left its mark on the petals. To describe it as a wet handkerchief is an understatement, while a comparable seedling from Philip Allery was in excellent condition. It is important that flowers as well as plants stand up to our climate.

The display of P.C.I.'s was good, too. Again, they seem to have enjoyed the wet autumn weather and aren't fussed by a wet spring. Just be careful when you transplant them.

Now, to explain the 'Lurgi'; this is a rather odd international phenomenon. An apparently healthy plant - P.C.I., sibirica or spuria - quite suddenly starts to die back. This may occur at any time during the active year. The leaves turn brown from the outside of the fans and gradually the whole plant deteriorates until it has obviously 'died off'. The process may take a year or it may take a lot longer, but the plant dies in the end. Oddly, neighbouring plants do not seem to be directly affected, and there is no way of

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predicting which plant will fail next. Wisley has hunted hard for a pathogen over many years without success. It has been suggested that this may be due to the rape-seed beetle.

Have any of you suffered from this phenomenon &, if so, have you found a cure or can you suggest an alternative cause. I have a theory, but I think I would like to know if there are other more plausible ones first?

(Thank you Anne, I am sure that Members will respond to your request, and write in, so that we will all know if there is anything to be done about this 'Lurgi'!! J.T.)

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#### North West News.

by Ray Wilson.

We have just returned from a holiday in West Scotland (June 13th.) Except for one day we had lovely weather, beautiful scenery. Once back home we were confronted with masses of Pacificas in bloom, and so far it is a good gardening year.

Within recent months I have been most surprised to hear so many gardeners who, whilst admiring Iris blooms, can find little in favour of the plant. An old complaint, but one I hoped was going away; 'the short bloom season' it hardly bears thinking about, when you consider the many plants which have a very short period e.g. daffodils or rhododendrons. To the same people have vapours about reticulatas and danfordiae. A serious problem noted in many public gardens is the condition of the foliage after flowering, and in particular the T.B's, happily the beardless irises are not so prone to spotty leaves, although the Pacificas need care to remove the dead leaves. A difficulty is, I suppose, that we are considering early flowering plants, and then comparing them with herbaceous plants which flower, say, in August.

Looking at the superb beardless Irises currently available, there can be no doubt that the B.I.S. needs to adjust its sights to recognise the 'other irises'.

Generally the amount of bloom this year, and the early bloom period have given us a wonderful display. The Pacificas, overall, have been in flower from late April, and today 'Broadleigh Emily' has come into flower, also more Sibiricas are showing colour, and the ensata buds are fattening up. It is an exciting time. I like to think that, at last, the enormous effort to bring up the humus level of the originally very sandy soil, at last, it is paying off, because, not only irises but every other plant is doing so well!

A couple of weeks ago at the Hunters Plant Fair at Tatton Park, the National Trust property near Stockport, Chris Morris, a fairly new B.I.S. member from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, staged a stand for the sale of plants, proceeds going to the B.I.S. It was a good first effort, and one worth building on. Its future does, however, depend upon B.I.S. members help with plants and probably in manning the stand.

We were very sad to hear of the untimely death of Harry Foster. He had done so much for the B.I.S. and his efforts in hybridising were bearing fruit.

(Thank you Ray, so pleased to hear that you and Joyce had a good holiday. J.)

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#### Regional Report from the West Midlands.

by Philip Allery.

Reference has already been made of the sad loss to both the National and West Midlands Iris scene caused by the untimely death of Harry Foster. His illness had not been widely known, until it was mentioned in our last Newsletter. That Harry should pass away so soon after his retirement, was a personal tragedy, that has deprived his widow Maureen of a loving and supportive husband, and an active partner in their common photographic pursuits, which have given us all so much pleasure. We have lost a colleague and friend, who was setting a very high standard in hybridising Siberian irises. He will be remembered for his very fine introductions. Whenever I look at my J.I. 'Aldridge Parasol' I will recall his kindness in encouraging me to register this seedling!

The extremely dry weather in a mild February was followed by some Spring-like days in March. Rain showers in early April were followed by some drier, warm days which encouraged my P.C's into early bloom. 'Big Money' was particularly vigorous with excellent bloom, contrasting well with 'Gone Native' and 'Pescadero'.

The colder conditions returned, with the wettest May on record. Slugs became a nuisance; calling for at least two patrols nightly. June's weather to date, shows little improvement on May. It is likely to be the wettest June for many years, and recent heavy rains with hail accompanying thunderstorms have caused severe damage to blooms. Apart from one clump sheltered by a tall Lavatera shrub, with deep blue flowers showing up well against unusual foliage: Recent bad weather extensively damaged my Siberian irises which

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were in full bloom. A pool-side clump of *I.orientalis* which provided blooms for display at Ebbw Vale last year, and had promised a repeat of their imposing beauty, also sustained extensive damage to its blooms.

The Malvern Hills Spring Festival in May gave the West & Midlands Iris Group an opportunity for more publicity, and their new display stands were used to great effect, with table-top displays of blooms.

Entries in the beardless iris classes of the West Midlands Iris Group's Annual Show in June, reflected the prevailing weather conditions, but good blooms of Siberians and *Spurias* were on show. Treasures, the Clematis Specialists of Tenbury Wells, was the venue for this year's Show. Their much improved facilities are very satisfactory. There was good public support, and the Show was a financial success.

As I write this report the W. & M. I. Group's Chairman, Mrs. Jennifer Hewitt, is attending the Siberian Iris Convention, in East Lansing, Michigan; a district which I visited when I attended a J.I. Convention in Portland, Maine. in July 1990. Her report on this visit should be interesting.

Last year I completed a new bed for an additional 16 Japanese Irises, and I am eagerly awaiting their first bloom later this month. This bed is south-facing and has, at least eight hours sunlight daily on good sunny days. As it is in a sheltered position this bed provides ideal conditions for Japanese irises, which benefit from a sub-surface watering system fed from a rainwater tub. Liquid fertiliser is fed through this tub, so precise quantities can be measured.

I have reduced the number of J.I. plants growing in pots, as I suffered some unaccountable losses during the winter. Once I have established the cause of this loss I will let you know.

I am experimenting with coconut fibre as a pool-side planting compost, as an alternative to peat. This should prove interesting because of its high water retaining properties.

A soil-based compost, and one which should give excellent results, is a mix of equal parts by volume of a good loam; peat or coconut fibre and horticultural grit. If the loam is obtained from an area with clay deposits so much the better. Loams vary in pH. so a minor adjustment in the mix may be necessary to achieve the ideal pH. target. The incorporation of trace elements and well-rotted cow or horse manure (composted for at least three years) is beneficial in both soil-less and soil-based composts. Some commercial cow-manure based composts are excellent, but take care with horse-manure based commercial composts as several are not suited to lime-hating plants. Resist the temptation to add granular fertilisers at the mixing stage, as these can cause root damage if applied before the plant has established itself. Watering in at a later stage is safer.

(Thank you Philip.) Happy Iris gardening!

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### Spurias in Southern England.

by Adrian Whittaker.

(Last year Adrian gave us a detailed account of how he became 'hooked' on *Spurias*, now he has continued to tell us more about the way he cultivates them!)

When raising *Spurias* from seed, some difficulty and losses may be experienced at the time when the sprouted seeds need to be repotted, and after planting out.

Even moisture at every stage seems to be one of the major factors. Assuming that you have 20plus sprouted seeds in a pot, they will need to be potted up singly at some stage. I've had reasonably poor results by putting the seedlings straight from the communal pot into the ground, and have gone back to the intermediate one to a pot stage. Most *Spurias* resent being moved, so it's very convenient to be able to plant out a reasonably large seedling plant straight from its pot into the final position.

I generally repot from the communal stage the first autumn after germination, overwinter under glass, if possible with regular liquid feeding and keeping the compost moist, but not wet. Any reasonably open J.I., similar or peat compost seems quite satisfactory.

Depending on the growth which has been made over the winter, the choice, in the British Isles would then be to plant out either in April or Sept/Oct. The latter gives more chance of damp weather for a longer period after planting out - but it's largely a matter of looking at your own situation.

Above all, it's the same problem after planting out, that is the need to prevent any dryness and keeping the plants fed and growing on, as well as you can. It should, ideally, be the last move the plants make before you assess the first flowering. Best garden

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Positions are undoubtedly a sunny, warm spot which you are able to keep moist. Against a south facing fence or wall is generally ideal.

Spurias flower better when they get the maximum sun and also, don't forget that with the hybrids the period of dormancy may vary tremendously. Some have an immediate period of dormancy after flowering, others stay green most of the year. So, spring/summer warmth, sun moisture and good feeding, also lack of disturbance are the keys.

Do try a few from seed, its very rewarding! All good wishes.

(Thank you Adrian, I have followed your advice and my Spurias look so much better in their new position, I really do think they will flower now.J.)

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### Around the Nurseries.

Congratulations to John Carter, Rowden Gardens, Brentnor, TAVISTOCK. Devon, I hope you all saw the Gardening Programme on the 9th. June. John showed his excellent ensatas. It was too fleeting to fix the names, but I hope John will have time to write and tell us. We were also shown how to make a bog-pond, which was very useful. Allgood wishes John.

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Graham Spencer, Croftway Nursery, Yapton Rd. BARNHAM . BOGNOR REGIS. Sussex PO22 6BH. has sent his catalogue and writes that life has been chaotic! They received a Gold Medal at the Surrey County Show on Bank Holiday Monday, their third time in exhibiting. Their exhibit included a couple of diploid Sibiricas - 'Tropic Night' and 'Perry's Blue'. They are now stocking a wide range of beardless irises, including I.ensata cultivars, I.sibirica 'Ewen', 'Orville Fay', 'Perry's Blue', 'Ottawa', 'Snow Queen', 'Tropic Night', 'White Swirl', 'Dreaming Yellow', 'Little Blue', 'Silver Edge' and 'Ruffled Velvet'. They have extended their system to include Postal orders. Among the other beardless irises Graham has included I. lactea, I. japonica, I. lazica, I. milesii, Ipseudacorus x versicolor, I. forrestii, I.chrysographes rubella, I. sanguinea x laevigata, I. versicolor x laevigata and I. ensata Higo strain.

Congratulations to you Graham, not only on winning a Gold Medal, but also on the increasing number of beardless Irises you are now stocking. I love to hear this, more strength to your arm, and keep on growing. Well done!

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Pauline Brown, (V.H.Humphrey), Westlees Farm, Logmore Lane, WESTCOTT. DORKING. Surrey RH4 3JN. has also extended her collection of Spurias, Sibiricas and Pacific Coast Irises. The Spurias include 'Adobe Sunset', 'Archie Owen', 'Betty Cooper', 'Dawn Candle', 'Janice Chesnik', 'Lydia Jane', 'Redwood Supreme', 'Suspense', 'Shelford Giant', 'Violet Zephyr', and many more. Siberian Irises 'Anne Dasch', Anniversary', 'Blue Mere', 'Friendly Welcome', 'Mrs Rowe', 'Nottingham Lace', 'Polly Dodge', 'Reddy Maid', 'Showdown', 'Wisley White' and many more. The Pacific Coast Irises, Pauline has stocked, 'Amethyst Crystal', 'Arnold Sunrise', 'Banbury Beauty', 'Banbury Fair', 'banbury Fair', 'Banbury Melody', 'Big Wheel', 'Blue Ballerina', 'Ivor Knowles', 'Las Olas', 'Sugar Candy' and quite a few more. as well as species irises I.foetidissima & citrina, 'Holden Clough', 'Gerald Darby' and I. chrysographes delavayi Didcot. An excellent collection you will agree!

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### Overseas.

'The Iris Pond', (Clarence Mahan), 7311, Churchill Road, McLean, Virginia 22101. U.S.A. Clarence has introduced Japanes Iris 'Admetus', 6 falls, White with bright rosy, near red centers, which bleed and lighten as the color progresses towards the edge of the flowers, (sounds absolutely fabulous Clarence!). Also 'Abraco', Red-violet stripes and dots, mingled with blue over white ground. Small 1/2 in. rim of blue all around the petals. Further introductions are 'Shirasagi', white with pale yellow ridges, white style arms with violet centers. Very slight fragrance. Identified as authentic by A.Horinaka. 'Bridge of Dreams' (short description) S. purple with darker veins and small white rims. F. white with a blue halo, heavy blue-violet sanding & veining. 'Ryuko Hirao', 3 falls, new white single, standards are uniquely cupped, styles creamy white, yellow signals have a greenish cast. conspicuous center ridge that bleeds into falls, covered with diamond dust. Named for Dr. Hirao's widow by the S.J.I. 'Shining Prince', An iris of grandeur and great beauty, in Japanese classical literature the 'shining prince' is Genji, hero of Lady Murasaki's 'The Tale of Genji'. Deep violet color with shining blue halo and white veins 'washed' blue. White styles for additional contrast. Such beautiful poetry Clarence!!!



'Joe Pye Weed's Garden', (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks') 337, Acton Street, CARLISLE. MA.01741  
Marty and Jan have introduced a Siberian Seedling No S86-45-1. called 'Bridal Jig', 1 has pure white flowers with a small crescent-shaped deep yellow signal. Full rounded falls which hang like a bridal gown in heavy soft ruffles. But this bride knows how to kick up her heels - the plant is vigorous & forms a beautiful airy clump with well branched stems holding the flowers high above the foliage.

'Mar-Jan' is a versicolor Seedling No SI-B-U-10-E. The best wine-red versicolor yet! The smoothness of the color of both standards and falls is unique, and is enhanced by neat round white signals, veined deep red. The stylearms are pearly white with a wine-red central stripe, much darker in the heart and fading towards the curly crests! Sounds absolutely beautiful. Marty and Jan...

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'Ensata Gardens', (Bob Bauer & John Coble), 9823, E. Michigan Ave. GALESBURG. MICHIGAN.4905

Bob and John's new introductions are two of their own seedlings and one of Jill Copelands. First, 'Bellender Blue' No. J82A-25. 3F.early mid-season 50", two branches sometimes three. Standards, stylea & falls are dark blue-violet. Avery vigorous grower. 'Blue Embers'No. J83J-1. 3F. very early, 38" with 1-2 branches. Standards light blue with violet rims, styles white with blue crests; falls light blue-violet with white halo & short rays. In shade or twilight, the blooms radiate a bright, light blue. 'Pink Dace' (Jill Copeland) No. 86-12. 6F. Early mid-season 36" with 1-2 branches. Nice full form, ruffled white with delicate pink-lavender sanding between the white rays, white halo, white styles.

Their catalogue gives an amount of information on the terms used in describing Japanese Irises, as well as their culture, but above all, some really excellent colour photographs of their Irises, they really are 'out of this world'. Allgood wishes!

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'Seaway Gardens', (Dr. & Mrs Currier McEwen,) with ' Eartheart Gardens' (Sharon Whitney) South Harpswell. ME. 04079. ( As in recent years, 'Fieldstone Gardens' - 620, Quaker Lane Vassalboro. ME. 04989-9713 - will continue to sell our previous Siberian introductions through their separate catalogue) Members will know that Shirley Pope, for reasons beyond her control, has had to give up growing Currier's irises.

Here are their New Japanese Iris introductions:- 'Howard D.Brooks', diploid, 6 falls 30". Rich violet 8" flowers with many delicate white lines, white styles tufted lighter violet and with rich yellow signals. A handsome strikingly different flower. Named after a good friend and colleague in hybridizing daylilies. 'Purple Plus', Diploid, 9 + falls, 32". EM-VL & repeats modestly. Very round 6" flowers with 9 falls augmented by very tufted styles, giving a neat compact flower. A self of rich, velvety, dark bluish-purple.

New Siberian introductions, 'Harpswell Moonlight', Tetraploid, 28", EM-LM. Large semi-flaring flowers with 2½" creamy white falls, darker crimped edges and greenish lines. Very wide (1½") tufted styles and white standards form an attractive cup. 'Sassy Kooma' a miniature diploid, 18", M. Sounds the way our daughter Kathy, pronounced her name at age 4. Round, compact, flaring, 3" creamy white flowers with crimped edges highlighted by large, rich yellow centers. Only 2 buds, but continuing scapes provide a good bloom period. A darling!. 'White Prelude', Tetraploid, 36". VE-VL. & RE. The first white to bloom at Seaways and also one of the last. The 5½" flowers have an open form contrasting nicely with the round compact Siberian so common today. Wide ruffled and crumpled falls. Very long bloom season.

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'Shepard Iris Garden', (Don & Bobbie Shepard), 3342, W. Orangewood. Phoenix. AZ. 85051.

Don and Bobbie provide a list of Spuria Irises by Charles Jenkins, Larry Johnson and Floyd Wickenkamp. Their 1993 introductions include:- 'Amber Gleam', (C.J.) SPU-42"-L. Glowing amber self. 'Beesee', (C.J.) SPU-45"-EM, elegant purple, with large creamy signal patch fading into the falls. Heavy Bloomer. 'Clara Ellen', (C.J.) SPU-40"-E. This early prillific grower is a light shade of purple. A medium size yellow signal with narrow purple lines accents the crimped purple edges of the falls. 'Irene Benton', (C.J.) SPU-40"- M. Very ruffled and dainty lavender bloom with a large yellow signal, edged faintly in lavender. 'Lemon Dilemma', (J.), SPU-48"-ML. Stands are blue-violet and falls are bright yellow rimmed narrowly with veined light blue-violet. 'Midnight Rival', (J.), SPU-48"-M/I Blended shades of dark amethyst purple give an appearance of black self. Very small yellow signal. Ruffled. 'Popped Corn', (C.J.), SPU-36"- M. Short, petite, rounded & ruffled creas white, with deep yellow falls and a distinct border of white.

(cont.)

'Proud Moment', (C.J.), SPU-38"-ML. It was indeed a proud moment when this ruffled and laced creamy-white was found in the seedling patch. The falls are accented with a yellow signal and very laced white edges. 'Purple Concerto', (C.J.), SPU-40"-M. Large blended purple and ivory, yet each color is distinctive. 'Snow Giant', (C.J.) SPU-42"-M. Large pure white self, small narrow point yellow signal. Ruffled. 'Sonoran Skies', (F.W.) SPU-43"-M. Strong upright pure sky-blue standards. Large yellow blaze on sky-blue falls. 'Sonoran Sunset', SPU-41"-M. Wide flared stands accent full red-brown self. Ray pattern yellow blaze.

Pleased to hear about the Irises from Charles Jenkins and Floyd Wickenkamp, I am afraid I do not know Larry Johnson, perhaps you will bring him into the S. S. & J. Group.

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#### A Letter from Arizona.

by Charles Jenkins.

( I think this should have been included with the 'My Irises items' but I thought it would link up with the description of the Spurias which Charles and others supply to the Shepard Gardens. J.T.)

Charles moved to his new address, which is :- 9426, East Topeka Drive, SCOTTSDALE, Arizona 85255. (I believe I put E. Tapaka Drive in the N/L, sorry Charles, I am always mixing my e's and a's, but we have got it right now.) As he goes on to say, that when he moved there was an unusually wet winter, breaking 100 year records. In spite of this they are enjoying their new environment and wonder why they didn't make the move sooner.

Several years ago when I became more and more involved with spurias, I had drastically reduced my collection of TB's. With our recent move to Arizona my hybridizing activities among spurias has been severely curtailed, but since I have been in contact with Don & Bobbie Sheperd, who have the largest list of spurias in the country, I have expanded my work in hybridizing again, and I have been able to plant a total of 100 seedlings and cultivars in a back yard on the desert. It remains to be seen whether they will acclimatize to the extremely harsh conditions.

I thought my interest in FCN's would have to be forgone entirely, and before I left Salinas last Fall, I turned my entire stock over to the Monterey Bay Nursery to sell as potted plants. On a trip back to Salinas in late January I had the opportunity of bringing 32 cultivars to try, in a microclimate between houses against a west wall. They are exposed to direct sun for less than two hours each day, and just might survive with a little tender loving care! In fact one put out its first bloom on February 21, and the second on March 2, the day of our Sun Country Iris meeting. Since that time there have been different ones blooming almost daily, and it looks like, at least 75% will bloom this first year. I may be starting a new trend in iris ecology! My spurias are blooming also, but that is because they were held in cold storage before planting. The same thing is happening over at Shepard's. It seems that the ones that were latest in Salinas in Salinas, without cold treatment, are the earliest here, when they have been stored in the refrigerator before planting.

Best wishes to all!

( Thank you Charles, I am so pleased to hear that you are carrying on with your hybridizing. What a tremendous effort you have made to move from California to Arizona, and how nice it is that your Irises are becoming acclimatized, especially the FCN's, we hope that you will continue to send us good reports on them later. Adrian has told us about the method he uses of keeping the seeds in cold storage, so now it seems to work with plants as well.

We all wish you well, and hope that the weather is kinder to you than it is in the Mississippi and Missouri Regions, we are seeing such dreadful pictures, and feel so sorry for the poor people who have lost their homes and everything! J.)

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#### Members Wants.

Peter Hall, who is the Head Gardener at 'Dunham Massey Hall', ALTRINCHAM, Cheshire WA14 4S. has asked if anyone has a plant of an old Spuria 'A.W.Tait', for the restoration of the Hall gardens. I have been trying to track it down, I know there were seeds years ago, because I had some, but you may still have the plant. If so will you please get in touch with Peter.

\*\*\*\*\*

Anne Blanco White is also seeking to find I. ochraurea.

### The Group Library.

This service is free to U.K. Members only. Sent 1st. Class, Members pay postage. If the books are already 'on loan' they will be sent as soon as possible. Limit of loan, 14 day. Send request if extension required. Books must be properly packed and returned Carriage Paid to:- Mrs. Jennifer Hewitt, S. S. & J. Librarian, 'Haygarth', Cleeton St. Mary, CLEOBURY MORTIMER. Worcs. DY14 0QH.

(Any correspondence please send S.A.E.)

### Publications.

Alphabetical Table and Cultivation Guide to the Species. (B.I.S.) (56 gr.)  
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 Society). (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. (J.J. Foreman, U.S.A.) (252gr.)  
The S. S. & J. List of Pacific Coast Hybrids - 1990.  
The Cumulative check List of Siberian Iris. (U.S.A. 1989.) (2 copies.)  
A Revision of the Pacific Coast Irises. (Lee W. Lenz, U.S.A.)  
Hybridization and Speciation in the Pacific Coast Irises. (Lee W. Lenz, U.S.A.)  
Prof. Dr. N.A. El Emery's Papers on I. pseudacorus and I. germanica var. Alba.  
Journals for the Siberian Iris Society. (U.S.A.) (Twice a Year.)  
Newsletters of the Spuria Iris Society. (U.S.A.) (Twice a Year.)  
Reviews of the Society for Japanese Irises. (U.S.A.) (Twice a Year.)  
Almanacs for Pacific Coast Native Irises. (U.S.A.) (Twice a Year.)  
All Back Numbers of the S. S. & J. Newsletters since 1976.

### 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 Kohlein. (Germany, English Translation.) (990gr.)  
'Irises' by S. Linnegar & J. Hewitt. (Gt. Britain.)  
The Iris by N. Leslie Cave. (Gt. Britain.)

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### Treasurer's Report.

The Balance in Bank is £294.36p. The Reserve Fund to cover commuted Subscriptions is £87.27p. As usual, from this total will be taken the cost of sending out this Newsletter. Your help, this year, by paying your Subscription promptly, and by sending seeds and plants in, as well as buying them, has made it possible to say that the £2. Subscription can be maintained until 1994 at least. Many thanks are due to Members who took part, and we hope that you will continue to send in, particularly seeds, this year as well, there is a constant demand.

The following Back Numbers of the Newsletters are available for sale:-

The original 1976 at 20p. February. 1985 at 50p. July 1986 at 50p. February 1988 at 50p. February 1989 at 50p. July 1990 at 75p. February 1991 at 75p. July 1991 at 75p. February 1992 at 75p. July 1993 at 75p. (one I forgot July 1988 at 15p.).

We only have one or two of some of these back copies, so if you are anxious to catch up on the information they contain, don't delay, because we will soon run out!

Please remember SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE.

If you have paid in advance you will find a slip to this effect inside the Newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

This time I will have room to print some of your Letters, for a change, so its over to the next page to read what you have to say. Rather late for some I'm afraid. (J.T.)



The first letter is actually the last to be received, it is from Jennifer Hewitt, our letters must have crossed. Jennifer explained that she would not have time to sort her notes out for a Report on the Siberian Iris Convention, but that it would be in good time for the February Newsletter. (We look forward to hearing more about this 'Historical in the Siberian Iris World, event'. Jennifer also says that the next Siberian Convention is expected to be held in 1996 in Massachusetts, and if anyone is interested in sending irises they have raised, to be guested there (Siberians, Sino-Siberians (40-chromosome cultivars) & species), will they contact her quickly, as plans must be sent this year, probably no later than SEPTEMBER.

(I would like to add that it would be nice to see one of our Members cultivars being entered for the Convention. J.T.)

\*\*\*\*\*

In March this year, David Dixon wrote that he had donated a lot of various, surplus water Irises to the 'Washington Bird and Wildlife Park'. They had planted them in the new Educational Pond, which is for children to learn about wildlife. David goes on to say that the gardener at Caley Gardens is giving I. forrestii a trial.

(How nice, David, to think that your Irises will be studied by the Washington children.)

\*\*\*\*\*

In April, Eileen Wise wrote to say that they had the rain which tended to spoil, an otherwise immaculate garden. That they do not go up to London often, but hoped to attend The Dwarf & Median Show at Wisley. Bob Wise is going to write a simple cultivation item on P.C.I.'s for the February Newsletter. (Hope you are both well Eileen.)

\*\*\*\*\*

In August last year, Jack Ashford wrote from Nairn in Scotland, to say that it had not been a good year for Irises in his area. Awful Spring, miserable and windy, plums were not fertilised, but the greengages always produce a crop, whatever the weather. Because of a dry period the T.B's gave up, but the Sibiricas gave a brilliant display, rather short though! The pseudacorus, flowered, despite man's pollution, which they always overcome.

(Hope you have had a better year in 1993 Jack, although by the weather forecasts you seem to have had more than your fair share of rain. Cheers. J.)

\*\*\*\*\*

In September last year, Gerald Goddard wrote from Chingford London, sending a huge packet of 'Silver Edge' seeds, so welcome Gerald. Hope you have had a good year this year too, we do thank you for your generosity. All good wishes. (J).

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Japanes Irises are the choice of Freda Jones Berkswell W.M. and also Madeline Bond of Medmenham Bucks. Madeline really likes the pink cultivars, so do I Madeline, can I let you into a secret, the ensata that Currier has kindly given my name is pink, and I am thrilled. Hope that the seeds you have are coming up and doing well! Let us know.

\*\*\*\*\*

Don Edwards of Taverham, Norwich, sent for Sibirica seedlings last year, I do hope they are growing well, perhaps you will let me know, I do like you to be satisfied. You will have noticed the change in Currier's Nursery arrangements, the reason, no doubt, why you did not receive his catalogue, try again. All the best. (J).

\*\*\*\*\*

In October, Jane Moore of Northwood Green, Westbury-on-Severn, wrote that she was only having one third success with Iris seeds from the Lausanne Botanical Gardens. I. sogdiana, I. chrysographes germinated well, but I. bucharica, I. vicaria, I. magnifica & I. spuria hlds. did not, at least so far. But Jane says she is not giving up. Good for you Jane! You have three Junos in that collection, and their germination rate is not good. But the Spurias, you should have no trouble with. At the end of this Newsletter I have written out my method of sowing and growing our seeds, I do hope you will find it helpful. Spurias, Adrian has already dealt with, and on several occasions there has been a mention of giving seeds a period in the 'fridge' (not freezer) which has given the start in life that they need. All the best, let us know how things go. (J).

\*\*\*\*\*

Peter Maynard, the Secretary of the B.I.S. had rather a sad tale to tell in October last year, and I know he would like me to pass it on to you, in case you get the same problem. Every established clump of his Sibiricas became infested with ants, and, of course they brought in their livestock of black-fly to feed on. He was reluctant to use ant killer because of the fish-pond. So now he has dug them all up and soaked each one in a bucket of water containing permethrin before replanting. (Hope I have got that name right Peter, have not had this problem myself. One thing I am sure a Member somewhere will be glad of this information. And I do hope that all is well this year! I have a great dislike of ants Peter.

\*\*\*\*\*

A letter written by Freda Jones (which I have come on later) tells that the seeds, which she put into a cold frame, are up, and she is hopeful of bringing them on to full plants, provided she can keep her newly acquired, and not yet trained kittens, from laying on them and basking in the sun, every time her back is turned. Hope you have managed to train them Freda and that your Irises are doing well. (J).

\*\*\*\*\*

In October Phyl Oliver wrote that her little 'Dragonfly' (Sibirica) seedling had not survived, but out of the blue, she received a fine strong clump from Jennifer, which has now been placed in a sunny sheltered spot. I have your 'Dragonfly' which you gave me years ago Phyl, such a stately Sibirica, pleased to hear you have it back again. Mine did not flower this year, weather so bad. (J).

\*\*\*\*\*

In August Mike McCarthy wrote to say that three plants we sent last year have flowered, One was 'Silver Edge', another *I. pseudacorus* and the third was an all white Sibirica. They are all doing well in spite of the weather. Mike was just setting off for a Canal holiday in Oxfordshire, and was looking forward to seeing the landscaping they have done on the banks at Milton Keynes. Hope you and your family enjoyed the trip Mike, if you have time write and let us know. You ask about Japanese Irises, we have been promised some for the Plant Sale later on this year. I will let you know when they arrive. (J).

\*\*\*\*\*

Writing on New Years Day, Roderick Woods tells that the less said about growing in 1991/92 the better. 'We have had almost continuous drought and severe water restrictions throughout the period. The spurias have done better than the siberians, but growth was small in 1992. The Siberians had collapsed in 1991, and then came into growth in September/October. This growth was then killed and 1992 started with little growth, very few flowers, but also very few died. This autumn there was no unseasonable growth, so I hope 1993 will start better. The irises that revelled in the conditions were the foetidissimas, this is not surprising as the wild form grows around here in conditions when the soil must normally be dust dry all summer and autumn.

The vine weevils are still with me! I have no good advice to offer, as the only chemical that has good results, is not available to amateurs, therefore cannot be named without apparently infringing the law, except in 'trade only' publications. Interested growers with necessary certification could be advised to seek chemicals used to control vine weevil in strawberry fields post-harvest, and in forestry stock. A final caution - some spurias really do not like the chemicals I use. As always, make a limited trial and assess phytotoxicity at least a month later.

Roderick has been working with manufacturers getting ready for the single Market. 'Various Scandinavian companies seem to have a greater sense of urgency than the U.K. It would be a nice spin-off if all the profit driven changes of Irises are able to circulate freely in Europe. My reading of the regulations indicate we should be able to import/export plants & seeds very freely. I wonder if the B.I.S. is in a position to provide a list of European growers, with notes as to what they specialise in. It would be nice to receive their catalogues without too much effort. I would not mind if a Membership List, with my name on it was circulated to the more interesting Nurseries.'

'Finally looking out of my window the *I. foetidissima* seeds blend with *Ruscus Aculeatus* berries and *Daphne Laureola* flowers. All these grow locally and often together. The *reticulatas* are poking through in the rock garden, and the spurias are up to a foot high in new growth, '93 could be a good year, nothing has gone wrong yet!'

( I sincerely hope it has proved to be so Roderick, so sorry this was not in the Feb.N/L.)

( P.S. Roderick is Dr. R.Woods, his address is, 5, Coppice Ave. Great Shelford.Cambridge  
CB2 5AQ.)

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In October 1992, Eunice Fienkal wrote, after working for 6 years, sending out over 800 B.I.S. Newsletters, she has retired and now has time to attend to her Irises. Thank you Eunice for your work, write and tell us how your garden is now. (J).

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Hilda Goodwin, our Vice Chairman wrote in November, sending also beautiful photographs of her bungalow and Iris beds. Hilda was in the process of dividing her Dwarfs and T.B's, which was quite a job, as Don has not been very well. The operation Hilda has had on her hip has proved successful, making visits to Iris friends in the Mercia Group possible. Hector Collins (New Zealand) also stayed for a few days, (Pleased to hear from you Hilda, and do hope Don is a little better. Allthe Best.Take Care,

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#### Overseas.

In January/93, Helen Grier, Yorba Linda. Cal. had a nasty fall which caused much bruising, this was followed by an accident with the car. But Helen is indefatigable, she is fighting back and has organised the cutting down 2 Brazilian Pepper Trees, which were shading her Spurias 'Joan Cooper' and 'Barbara's Kiss', they had fine blooms last Fall, but did not set seeds. (So sorry to hear about your mishaps Helen, hope things are on the mend now.(J).

\*\*\*\*\*

Mary Lynne Brown, Hamilton. Canada. wrote in March, just after they had ad their 3rd. major snowstorm. It had drifted 3 ft. outside the side door, but it does make a nice blanket for the Irises and Lillies. Last summer was cool, with lots of rain, The Japanese Iris were beautiful, it was just their type of weather. We had bloom from the end of June until mid-September. The late-blooming one was a hybrid from Currier McEwen, 'Southern Sun', a gorgeous,deep, true blue . In 1990 it had multiplied into a small fan, in summer 1992, it was a large clump. This summer I am paying more attention to see if it is a rebloomer or repeater. His 'Continuing Peasure' also put on a good late show. Last year was our first for a good bloom from the Louisiana Iris, We tried a few to see if they were hardy - they did quite well, and the bloom on 'Anne Chowning' was indescribable. Intense, dark red, so rich. We are hooked, so there are more in the garden this year.

(Thanks Mary Lynne, I hope that 'tiny person' that you have will grow up to love Irises.Joe

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Jean Peyrard, Seyssinet, France. wrote in May to say that his plants from Currier McEwen (ensatas), and other seedlings in pots standing in a dish of water, in the sun, but some other varieties were very poor, and dry out very quickly. For the last 3 or 4 years he has had 2-3 blooms on plants grown in 50cm. pots. Some P.C.I.'s from Joe Ghio have been grown in 30cm. pots, under the fence, in the same place as Louisianas, and they grow very well. Seedlings from the same origin grow normally in full earth, even in bad spots. Our winters are very erratic, often with lots of snow, or mild January and cold with less snow another year. This year he has been dividing his 'Holden Clough' and some of Curriers ensatas. (All good wishes Jean, you will see that Philip Allery has been having trouble with potted ensatas. (J)

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Editor Soc. for PCNI. Lewis. O. Lawyer, 4333, Oakhill Rd. OAKLAND. California, 94605. USA.  
Almanac.

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Seed Distribution.

Seeds are 25p. per packet, unless otherwise stated. Please send to:-  
Mr. David Trevithick, 86a, Grantham Rd. RADCLIFFE-on-TRENT. NOTTINGHAM. NG12 2HY.

Marked (vs) very small quantity, (s) small, (m) medium, (p) plenty. Please give alternatives for (vs) or (s).

LAVIGATAE.

I. laevigata blue (vs). I. laevigata semperflorens, (vs). I. laevigata (s).  
 I. pseudacorus (p), I. pseudacorus 'Golden Queen' (p). I. pseudacorus 'E. Turnipseed' (s).  
 I. pseudacorus 'Cream Forms' (p).  
 I. versicolor mixed (p). I. versicolor Assorted (vs). I. versicolor white lavender veins (vs).  
 I. versicolor Kermesina (s). I. versicolor 'Cat Moussam' (p). I. versicolor 'Rougette' (s).  
 I. virginica (vs). Gerald Darby (vs).

ENSATA.

I. ensata mixed (s). I. ensata American Hybrids (vs). I. ensata diploids mixed (vs).  
 I. ensata 'Banners on Parade' (s). I. ensata 'Agrippine' (vs). I. ensata Virginia Burton (s).  
 (white edged fuchsia red) (pink)  
 I. lactea (s).

SERIES SIBIRICAE.

I. sibirica Tet. mxd. (s), Mixed Diploids (s), 'Fourfold White' (s), Mixed Red Diploids (s).  
 'Clee Hills' (s), Large Blue Tets. (vs), 'Silver Edge' (p), 'Dance Ballerina Dance' (vs),  
 'Teal Velvet' (vs), 'Dreaming Yellow' (vs), 'Laurenstuhl' (p), 'Fanny Helst' (vs), 'Avon' vs.  
 'Alba' (vs), 'Orville Fay' (p), 'Lavender Bounty x ' (vs), 'Rejoice Always' (s), Wild Form  
 'Caesar' (s), 'Wiltrud Gissel' (vs), 'Acuta' (vs), Dykesii x Clarkei (s), Chrysographes  
 dark purple, (vs), Chrysographes x chrysofor (vs) and I. delavayi (s).  
 Special Seeds from Dale Hamblin at 30p. per packet:- (all Sibiricas).  
 (1) 9105 x 'Butter & Sugar' (white with greenish yellow). (2) 9105 x 'Wisley White'.  
 (3) 'Rejoice Always' x 'Precious Doll' (pastel Lav.) (4) 9206 'Illini Dame' x 'Illini Dame'  
 (5) 'Demure Illini' x 'Fairy Dawn' (white flushed rosy pink) (6) 'Demure Illini' x 'Wisley White'  
 (7) LW (wine red seedling). (8) 'Limeheart' x 9105 (King of Kings large white self green  
 hafts')

There will only be enough seeds for Five Members, first come first served basis.

SERIES SPURIAE.

I. aurea (vs). I. orientalis (white, yellow spot), I. crocea (golden yellow) (vs), Carthaginae vs  
 I. halophila (yellow) (p), I. kerneriana, rockery, yellow, scented. (s), I. sintenisii (white) (s),  
 I. musulmanica (blue) (s), I. sogdiana (s), I. graminea (yellow, scented) (vs). Spuria mixed  
 browns & reds (s). Spuria mixed yellows & browns. (s). Sp. mixed cream & yellow (s).  
Hybrids. 'Friendly Fire' (clear yellow), 'Now This' (mauve purply brown), 'Bali Bali' (creamy  
 yellow), 'Penny Bunker' (pale orange), 'Lenkoran' (blue), 'Color Focus' (light purple), 'White  
 Shimmer', 'Baby Chick', 'Struttin & Struttin', Irene Benton, 'Abo-Ob', 'Easter Color',  
 'Evening Dress' (blackish-blue-purple), 'Zulu Chief', 'Pieces of Eight' (ruffled yellow),  
 'Eleanor Hill' (clear purple), 'Countess Zeppelin' (mauve-red self), 'Gentry' (lavender blue),  
 'Janice Chesnik' (tawny gold), 'Zeal' (deep yellow), 'Barbara's Kiss' (violet streaked yellow),  
 'Universal Peace' (red-purple), 'Candle Lace' (butter yellow), 'Adobe Sunset' (dark brown),  
 'Elixir' (orange yellow), 'Mystic Mesa' (cream, dark violet edge), 'Lively one' (white, ruffled)  
 'Diminuendo' (lavender blue), 'Purple Reign', 'Eurasia' (yellow), 'Ila Crawford' (ruffled white)  
 'Border Town' (dark brown), 'Ethic' (blue-violet), 'Elan Vital' (cream), 'Kaibab Trail' (dk. red)

SERIES CALIFORNICAE.

P.C.I. 'Banbury Beauty', 'Las Olas', I. douglasiana, I. macrosiphon, and Mixed.  
 I. setosa blue-purple, I. setosa hondoensis, I. setosa tall blue.  
 I. brevicaulis, I. foetidissima, I. foetidissima lutea.  
 I have tested all these seeds by setting a few from each packet, now have over 200 pots of  
 seedlings, Sibiricas, Spurias, Pseudacorus and some excellent Laevigatas which came from  
 the B.I.S. seed list. Plants for sale pseudacorus cream form £1.35p. Sibiricas 6 for £3.50p.