

Request for Beardless Guest Irises 2026 AIS Convention NJ-NY



The American Iris Society is happy to host the Annual National Convention the week of May 18th, 2026. Convention attendees will tour four gardens: Presby Memorial Iris Gardens, Rutgers Gardens, and Gary Slagle's garden in New Jersey; also Brooklyn Botanic Garden in New York City.

Guidelines for Sending your Irises

Please observe the following guidelines when sending beardless guest irises, as only officially submitted rhizomes will appear in the AIS convention booklet. Up to 2 rhizomes of each beardless variety will be accepted between April 15 and April 30, 2024 (we would appreciate it if you ship as early as possible on these dates.)

Please ship plants to:

George Hildenbrandt
4245 Lovers Lane
Slatington, PA 18080
phone: (814) 571-6839
email: grh3@psu.edu

The package should clearly be marked "AIS GUEST IRIS." The name of the variety or seedling number should clearly be marked on each plant. In addition, the following information should accompany each variety on a separate packing list:

1. Hybridizer's name and address
2. Name or seedling number of variety
3. Type of iris
4. Height, color, distinguishing features (photo if possible)

5. Year of introduction if applicable.

The packing list should include the hybridizer's email address to receive an electronic receipt.

If the guest seedling is later named, it is the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the guest iris chair no later than January 31, 2026.

Disposition of Irises

Because these gardens don't have personnel or volunteer staff to dig and mail rhizomes back, we're asking hybridizers this time to donate their iris. We're hopeful that because three of the gardens are open to the public, they will display your irises for years to come. A fourth garden owner is a member of AIS and is also a hybridizer.

No guest plants will be returned and all unregistered seedlings will be destroyed by the host gardens. The Convention Committee will assume authority over all guest plants beyond two rhizomes per variety in all host gardens. A plan is under development to retrieve and sell some of those plants by auction or other means to raise funds to defray Convention expenses.

The convention committee and the owners of the host gardens will strictly adhere to the code of ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook.

The convention committee and the host gardens will not be responsible for losses beyond their control. However, hybridizers will be given the opportunity to replace lost plants up to one year prior to the convention.

If you have any questions, please contact Convention Chairs:

Committee Co-chairs

Gary White
Jill Bonino
Andi Rivarola

Committee Members

Howie Dash
Debi Chowdhury
George Hindenbrandt, Guest Iris Chair