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Spring '64

THE SIBERIAN IRIS



Published

By

The Society For Siberian Irises

March 1964

C O N T E N T S

Volume 1, Number 7

March, 1964

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M E M B E R S H I P _ R E Q U I R E M E N T S

All members of this Society residing in the United States and Canada shall be members of the American Iris Society. Dues shall be \$1.00 per year.

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

You all have by now your copy of our Handbook of Judging Standards for Siberians. I don't know how you feel but I am as proud of it as if I had done it myself. Heartiest congratulations and thanks to Dr. Bill McGarvey and his Committee and to Charlotte Withers for putting it through the press in such fine style. It will be available for sale to all who are interested at 75¢ a copy. It seems to me that it should be of interest to a great many people outside our Society. Certainly all AIS judges should have a copy; so should the judges accredited by the Garden Club organizations; it will be a helpful guide to gardeners who want the finest Siberians for their gardens even though not sufficiently interested in them to join us. It will certainly help our pollen-daubers in deciding which of their seedlings is worth introducing. If you know anyone who fits into any of these categories, bring the Handbook to his attention and tell him where he can get a copy - at present from our secretary, Charlotte Withers.

Now, if I may change hats quickly - I would like to point out that until sale of these Handbooks reaches the point where cost of mailing and printing is covered by receipts, we will be running on a tight budget. Charlotte and I can't write each of you - too much postage - asking for articles, news items, and so on. So will you take this as a personal plea to send in reports this summer, on what varieties you saw and liked this spring, on how your seedlings did, on the crosses you made - and which ones took. We really do want these reports; if you don't feel you can do a 'writeup' on your seedlings, how about something simple like this:

Cross A - White Swirl x Royal Ensign, 17 seedlings, 11 bloomed:
3 light pinkish lavender, 1 smooth light red, 7 reddish
violets. 3 numbered, 8 discarded.

Cross B - Gatineau x Llewellyn, 33 seedlings, 23 bloomed: 5
lavender-blue selfs, 10 lavender veined, 8 bitones. 2
numbered, 2 kept for second look, 18 discarded.

Of course these I'm making up - I wish I had such crosses coming along! But perhaps this will give you an idea of a possible way to report? And a simple listing of names and numbers would do for the seed crop report. Describing the varieties you liked would be a little more complicated - you should tell why you liked them and something of what they look like. But it really isn't difficult to do. How about it? Remember, you won't find much of this in the AIS Bulletin - here in The Siberian Iris is the place for it.

Now back to the other hat - we have received a very nice gift from Dr. Sherman Preece - a set of color slides of the Plates in Dykes' The Genus Iris which deal with the Apogons, including the Siberians. It is very interesting to compare the Siberians with the other Apogons and see how they differ from one another. Because of the white background of the Plates it may be a bit difficult to project them for large audiences, but I have found them very satisfactory at distances up to 18 feet - which is as far as I can separate my projector and screen, being the length of my livingroom. Our sincere thanks to Dr. Preece.

Have a good summer, everyone.

Peg Edwards

RECENT REGISTRATIONS

M. E. Kitton

The development of the species within the sibirica sub section is as yet in its infancy and I have no hesitation in saying that the new introductions of today can only be the opening words of a work of many volumes. If this seems too far fetched consider the history of the bearded iris and what has been achieved from a beginning not so promising as is provided by the sibiricas.

The sibiricas have been almost entirely neglected but as soon as a few interested people begin to sow seeds, select and hybridize, the advances can be enormous and the 'new' plants of today will become little more than interesting historical relics.

In the hope that this will be encouraged I have written the following notes on plants that have recently been named and registered.

28 Chromosome group.

BICKLEY CAPE (BLUECAPE x 28 Chromosome seedling)
CANFORD (BLUECAPE x BLUECAPE)
JIMMY'S GEM (BLUECAPE x ERIC THE RED)

There are no striking colour changes in these three plants and their main merits are good substance allied with size and good form. All these have received show awards and stand well on the show bench.

WHITE HORSES (alternative WHITE ROLLERS)
COURT WHITE RUFFLES
JAPANESE WHITE
WHITE RABBIT
WHITE MAGNIFICENCE
WHITE CAPE (alternative WHITE BARBARA)

These six plants have been registered in the United Kingdom and are now awaiting confirmation from the AIS. It may be that some change of name will be required.

These plants stem from the recessive white in GATINEAU and the first of the line to which a B.I.S. award was given some years ago was SNOWFALL. This was never introduced but was used for crossing with other white seedlings derived from the same source and also with white seedlings coming from selfed BLUECAPE (which also contains a recessive white). By selection and further crossing of unnamed seedlings and a cross with WISLEY WHITE, the present series were obtained and although it ill becomes me to say so, there was not a really bad one in something like a hundred plants (up to then the question had always been to find one or two reasonably passable plants out of a hundred). The six named are a selection from these and each was chosen as the best representative of a different quality e.g. size, branching, form, ruffled effect, etc. Although all the plants are white each is quite distinct and will

I hope prove useful for further hybridizing. The substance of all of them is quite good but could undoubtedly be improved.

40 Chromosome group.

OYSTER BIRD (delavayi/forrestii line)
CAPE DAZZLE (" " ")
* COPPER ELF (" " ")
* YELLOW COURT (" " ")
* WHITE NET (" " ")
* YELLOW APRICOT (" " ")-awaiting confirmation of
name
BARBARA'S CHOICE (delavayi/wilsonii line)-awaiting confirmation
of name

* These were all from the seed pod.

These plants arise from a line of breeding from the original crosses of *I. delavayi* with either *I. forrestii* or *I. wilsonii* as shown. A process of selection and crossing between seedlings was followed and sufficient progress seemed to have been made to warrant naming some plants. The plants are not all from the same crosses within the lines and more than once pollen of Eric the Red was used with quite mystifying results. It would make these notes too long to attempt to describe this particular aspect and in any case I am quite unable to explain it.

Similarly it would take up too much space to describe each flower in detail but I extract the following from my notes on three of them: OYSTER BIRD. "A difficult flower to describe - lower part of fall off white faintly etched with bluish veins - upper part of fall strongly flushed apricot with bluish veining of more pronounced blue. Standards almost white with the faintest possible blue vein etching. Style arms apricot/buff with a faint blue shadowing above the stigmatic surface."

YELLOW COURT. "A soft saffron yellow throughout with only very slight variations in colour between the parts. Slight brown striations in the upper part of the fall."

BARBARA'S CHOICE. "Almost white based flower - slight lemon shading in the haft - fall has violet etching in centre part continued into outer part but much fainter - standards almost white with least suspicion of violet etching - style arms white with violet shadows. Falls slightly pinched in the middle of their length when fully opened - standards twisted. The whole effect is something akin to a *plicata*."

I should perhaps add in support of my opening remarks that I now have seedlings from both the *forrestii* and *wilsonii* lines that appear to me to be better than those I have referred to here but they must be grown on for a year or two to see how they do. In addition I have numerous seedlings from crosses with OYSTER BIRD which should bloom this season and give some idea of its value and effect as a parent.

COURT VIOLET. This is the only plant of *I. chrysographes* parentage

that I retained when I abandoned that line of breeding. Its colouring is good - if not remarkable amongst so many other blues and violets - but in height (about 3 feet) size (comparable with a good 28 chr. plant) and poise it was unique so far as I was concerned. The falls are flaring and of good substance. My intention was to cross it with other lines in the 40 chr. group but owing to limitations of time and space I have not yet done so.

MOONSCAPE. This plant is from a cross between a delavayi/forrestii seedling and a 28 chr. white seedling. It is sterile but quite outstandingly vigorous and floriferous and makes a large clump within a year or two. The colouring is hard to describe but consists of soft pastel shades of blue/grey on a yellow base.

For my own purposes I try to keep measurement records of selected flowers and although it is difficult to make these as complete as I should like (there is so much to do during the blooming season apart from trying to earn a living) they are very useful for comparison. To give an idea of the relative sizes of some of the flowers mentioned I quote the following (all measurements in inches) -

| | <u>Height</u> | | <u>Falls</u> | | <u>Standards</u> | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | <u>Leaves</u> | <u>Flower Stems</u> | <u>Width</u> | <u>Length</u> | <u>Width</u> | <u>Length</u> |
| ERIC THE RED | 36 | 40 | 2 1/10 | 2 | 1 | 1 9/10 |
| JIMMY'S GEM | 40 | 46 | 2 | 2 1/10 | 9/10 | 1 8/10 |
| WHITE MAGNIFICENCE | 30 | 48 | 2 4/10 | 2 3/10 | 1 | 2 3/10 |
| OYSTER BIRD | 12 | 21 | 1 3/10 | 1 9/10 | 6/10 | 1 8/10 |
| YELLOW COURT | 15 | 28 | 1 1/10 | 1 6/10 | 4/10 | 1 5/10 |
| BARBARA'S CHOICE | 20 | 36 | 1 3/10 | 2 | 5/10 | 1 6/10 |

* * *

DUES - DUES - DUES

We are sorry to again ask you to send your dues (\$1.00 per year) in to the secretary. We find our treasury in the hole due to the recent printing of the Judging Standards. Help us out by sending your dues as soon as possible to:

Mrs. John Withers, Secretary
Society for Siberian Irises
Route 1, Box A-10
Mandan, North Dakota

WHERE, OH WHERE DOES MY IRIS GROW?

I have grown and loved the Siberian iris for a goodly number of years, first as an integral part of my gardens for pure pleasure and later as a valuable adjunct for my commercial gardens, both retail and wholesale. Interest has always been just about "fair to middlin'" in the Siberian and Spuria section but the past two or three years has seen a keen demand for both types, especially the Siberians. This is no doubt due to the awareness of the possibilities of the Siberians in a general garden plan on the part of the home gardener and to the increased publicity which has been given to this type of iris in the garden magazines and related literature such as the superior bulletins of the Society for Siberian Irises.

During the years when I grew the Siberians for personal pleasure, I had what one might term an "over-growth" of many of the older standard varieties and so gave them away with utter abandon. When I turned from growing for pleasure to growing for profit (the latter has thus far eluded me) I tried to restock my gardens with some of the later and newer varieties but without too much success. The gradual increase in popularity of the Siberians gradually decreased my supply of the better varieties until I found myself limiting my customers to small divisions or, in many instances, refusing to sell certain varieties until such time as I could build up a sufficient quantity to again place it in my sales list. Quite naturally, if one is to sell a product at a profit it is necessary to have built up a sufficient stock to fill all orders, both retail and wholesale, or be able to buy sufficient stock from a reliable grower for purposes of filling orders at a reasonable price. To date, I have failed to reap any profits from my sales when I am forced to pay retail prices to other growers and then sell the same product to my customers at the price I paid for it. In such an instance two plus two does not equal four, but three. There must be a solution to the problem and I am sure that there are other growers who are also seeking the answer.

Quite often I read of a new variety which has been introduced, or will be introduced in the very near future. My customers also read about it and make inquiry as to the availability of this particular iris. I do not have it nor do I know where to turn to secure it. I write to this large wholesale grower and I write to his competitor in the business and get the same answer in every instance, "we, too, have heard of it but have been unable to secure it", or "we do not grow Siberian irises, therefore we are unable to supply you." This, then is my query, where, oh where does my iris grow? Somewhere, some place there must be growers who will part with the new introductions so that I, as well as others in my predicament, may be able to fill the needs of customers who have developed a love for the Siberian iris.

At present, I grow about 400 varieties of the Tall Bearded irises and 18 varieties of the Siberians. There is an ample supply for the TB through the large growers but there seems to be no source of supply for the Siberians. Could I start a new field and grow the new, as well as the old varieties for both the retail and the wholesale customer? Could

I induce the originators of the new Siberians to permit me to introduce the new varieties, under their name and at their prices? In short, could I establish a sort of "Central Distribution" garden where the lovers of the Siberian could secure the new and beautiful originations, limiting sales for the present to members of the Society for Siberian Irises. Your comments will be appreciated.

Towne R. Abercrombie
Abercrombie's Iris Gardens
7781 Livingston Rd., Cincinnati 39, Ohio

A FOOTNOTE TO MR. ABERCROMBIE'S LETTER

It seems to me that this letter brings up an important point. This is the matter of finding sources for many of the newer introductions. There are not, at this time, many commercial growers who carry Siberians, and of those that do, few are interested in the time, labor and expense involved in acquiring and propagating new registrations to the point where they can be listed in the catalog or price list. We all hope that this situation will change for the better before very long; but in the meanwhile?

I wonder if it would be possible for members registering new varieties to notify this publication as soon as sufficient increase is available for sale, that stock may be ordered direct from them, giving the price per division and the address. Or perhaps we could accept ads for a fee of so-much-per-line--this would of course have to be decided by the Board of Directors--offering a mimeographed price list to those interested. Alternatively they could get in touch with Mr. Abercrombie or some other commercial grower who does take an interest in Siberians and work out some financial arrangement advantageous to both. I am sure that the originators of good new varieties know that their registrations must be offered in commerce before they become eligible for any awards above the level of H.C.

In any case, it is advisable to arrange with friends in different parts of the country whose gardens are regularly visited by judges to grow divisions and report on their behavior and the comments of the judges before deciding to put the Pride and Joy on the market.

We would like to hear from breeders with seedlings they would like to see in commerce and from other commercial growers who are looking for new things worthy of introducing, and Mr. Abercrombie indicates that he would like to hear from you too. Don't let your charmers remain in obscurity - get them into the trade.

One word of advice, though. If you do arrange with a grower to take your stock of that precious seedling, and after a couple of years he notifies you that he doesn't quite feel it is worthy of introduction, don't feel too outraged. He probably has many varieties to compare it with, and more than average experience in judging; he also knows what is marketable. Your pet may be a lovely thing but just too slow to

SIBIRICAS IN NEW ZEALAND, 1963
Lucy Delany

Spring this year was much drier than last. September was a beautiful month and I was very much occupied with seedlings of dwarfs and medians flowering for the first time. They were so different and so beautiful that I forgot there were such things as Sibiricas, till one day I woke up, weeded madly, gave some dried blood and water, and hoped I wasn't too late. They are very accomodating plants and they responded beautifully. I have promised them better treatment next winter.

This season, I've taken particular notice of style arms. They seem to me to have the significance a beard does for dwarf and median irises. I had such a variety of colours and patterns; some orchid, some wine red, orchid with a blue ridge, rosy red with a blue ridge, rosy pink, blue with a turquoise ridge, pale turquoise, and purple with a bronze influence. Some were short; some long enough to hide all haft markings. One white seedling had yellow hafts that were completely hidden by the white styles. A very dark blue appeared to be ALL dark blue because the long styles covered the bronzy hafts.

The seedlings of Eric the Red were some of my favourites again this year. The pinks and reds were such a rosy colour and the blues are soft pale blues. They are much shorter than the other sibiricas, and they have rounded falls.

A sanguinea seedling also had rounded falls, colour deep blue, ruffled, with a lacy white blaze on the fall. Standards and style arms overlap. This is the form that appeals to me most of all.

Some white seedlings opened properly at last and one had very large flowers. A seedling of chrysographes looked more like a seedling of a Pacific Coast iris. It was a vivid rosy orchid purple, falls deeper with a black 'spot', oval form and most attractive.

Seedlings of Mirza Citronella flowered this year, some for the first time. They were most unusual but I don't know whether I liked their 'speckles'. One had deep lavender standards with pale edges. The falls were cream with a gold 'spot' and the whole fall speckled with the same colour as the standards. Styles were purple with a bronzy influence. Another much better, I thought, had standards and styles of deep wine red, falls velvety wine red, veined gold, but all parts were very narrow.

My favourite was an unknown one, which appeared to be a seedling of Clarkei. It was very blue with plenty of branching - one stem flowered a very long time - its standards were ruffled, the falls overlaid deeper blue, signal patch cream, marked and dotted blue. The falls were broad and rounded, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches x $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Seedlings of Mirza that I like particularly are very velvety violet blue with varying gold markings and signal patches.

Nora Distin and Mandarin Purple did NOT flower, and Moon Moth will NOT set seed. It appears to have distorted style arms that prevent any

insect from getting to pollinate it and it has no pollen. I thought I had a pod of seed forming but it did not come to anything - that was pollinated by Nelson Blue. Moon Moth also is apparently not so free flowering in colder districts but I have had better reports of Nelson Blue. I have been told that it caused a sensation at one flower show.

Our New Zealand Iris Society Convention in Alexandra - Central Otago - was a failure as far as irises went. They had a snowstorm three days before, followed by a very destructive frost. We were a whole day late arriving, owing to gales in the North Island that prevented our plane arriving to pick us up, but the organization was so good that we caught up on all the trips we had missed, including one to two lovely lakes and I enjoyed every minute of the whole Convention - just talking! One member I met, Mrs. Gordon of Southland, is very interested in Sibericas. She has seedlings that she hopes will flower next spring, from overseas seed. We plan to exchange, seedlings and notes. She was very interested in my copies of The Siberian.

I nearly forgot to mention that at last I have made an attempt at some hybridizing, mostly selfing ones I liked and the new Mirza Citronella seedlings. I noticed that pods that came from my attempts were larger than the bee pods.

Dorothy Spofford very kindly sent me seed from some of her introductions and some of these have germinated already. I enjoyed the first round of the Robin and the slides included in it - another step forward.

(The Robin referred to in this article is an International Robin which has now completed its second round. Excerpts from it are to be found elsewhere in this issue.)

* * *

NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST ISSUE

It is always a pleasure to list the new members. We hope that membership in our Section of the American Iris Society will prove a source of mutual help and enjoyment.

Towne R. Abercrombie, 7781 Livingston Rd., Cincinnati 39, Ohio
Mrs. John Bozievich, 6810 Hillmead Rd., Bethesda 14, Maryland
Mrs. T. E. Davis, 505 North Iuka, Pratt, Kansas
Hazel Dodd, Route 2, Box 63, Dos Palos, California
Mary Pat Engel, 136 Pickford Avenue, Kenmore, New York
Mrs. Claude Gore, Route 1, Box 315, Mexia, Texas
Bryce Phenix, 1673 Calado Court, Campbell, California
Mrs. Frank Prosky, 160 Indianola Road, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Mrs. F. W. Walther, 474 Upper Mountain Avenue,
Upper Montclair, New Jersey
Mrs. Elsie Zuercher, 121 East Union Street, Portland, Ind.

* * *

SMALL SIBERIANS
Peg Edwards

There seems to be quite a little interest in dwarf forms of Siberians. I know of two people who are working on their breeding, and I've been thinking about it myself. I have no doubt that there are others. Maybe, for the benefit of those actually working for them, and also for anyone who might turn up a couple in a batch of seedlings, we should come to some sort of agreement on what should be considered a dwarf.

I'm sure nobody would want the term 'dwarf Siberian' or 'miniature Siberian' to be attached to something with a 4" flower on a 10" stem, this would be badly out of proportion. And a flower of suitably small size on a 20" stem would be equally unsatisfactory. From the few I have seen in bloom there is quite a range of sizes that could properly be called dwarfs, and I offer as a suggestion and a basis for discussion the following:

That a dwarf Siberian should be between 8" and 18" in height (in normal growth) and that the flower on such a plant should be in scale with the plant and not exceeding 2½" in width. That flower shape, branching, foliage and floriferousness be consistent with the lower height of the plant and the resulting difference in angle of vision; that is to say, a flower form best seen in profile would not be satisfactory on a plant so low that it is seen from above; on the shorter plants one branch would be the maximum if bunchiness is to be avoided, though on the taller end of the range two branches might be effective; foliage should be short and rather stiffly erect so that in looking down at the plant one would not get a background of a lot of sprawly leaves just below the flowers - or even worse, above them; and while more stems per clump would be desirable this should not be carried to the point that the individual flower is lost in a mass of petals.

Opinions, please?

In connection with this I would like to talk a bit about possible lines of breeding. Among the standard-sized varieties there are a number which have flowers almost too small for the length of the stem, but which would be perfect on a short stalk--Summer Sky and Mrs. Rowe come to mind. Crossed with some of the available dwarfs such as Acuta, Blue Charm, Sibirica Nana, Orientalis Nana, Skeena--the true form; there is a taller variety going under the same name--and others, these should produce some dwarfs, if not in the first generation at least in the second. Many cultivars which are not in themselves small enough to be called dwarfs may carry a gene for this characteristic and, when selfed, might give a fair number of dwarf seedlings. As far as I know it is not known whether dwarfness is a dominant characteristic, a recessive, or the effect of blending. It might be a help to our research committee if some brave soul would make various types of crosses aiming at dwarfness and keep good records of the results for two or three generations, and report on the results. But in any case those who are working on this type of Siberian could be helpful if they would report on their results as they go along. *My own Velvet Night, and my Star Wheel, were both registered as small--about 20", which is how they grow here though I under-

stand they are taller in other places. I crossed them and have had one seedling bloom from this cross, which was also short, if anything a little smaller than the parents. Another cross of several years back, whose label was lost, gave three small plants, one only about 15" tall; as these seedlings germinated before I had ever bloomed a named variety they have to come from previous seedlings and I know that I had none under 20" so apparently one or more of these taller ones has the ability to produce dwarfs. It seems likely that this characteristic is present in other named varieties, and it would be helpful if anyone turning up dwarf seedlings from their crosses would report the parentages of the crosses involved. Even where parents 30" or more tall produce a few in the 20-25" range this might indicate that a gene for dwarfness was present in one or the other parent. If a list could be assembled of varieties known to have produced small offspring it would give people wanting to work in this field the opportunity to choose from such a list those parents that carried other characteristics wanted for some particular result. For example, someone wants to produce a good clean dark violet dwarf; he checks the list to find one or two good clean dark violet tall, and crosses these; his chances of finding the desired seedling are better, results would be likely to come faster, than if he had to cross any good darks with any other good darks, and probably about twice as good as if he tried crossing a good dark tall with a light or white dwarf and then recrossing the best small offspring with the best dark offspring.

In case you can't wait for such a list to be assembled here are a few suggestions. Choose as parents varieties that have short, thin, healthy foliage, slim wiry stems, side branches that do not grow as tall as the main stem; clean and vigorous growth habits--no sprawling fans, no thin roots that can break easily and let the plant heave out in winter, no stems that fall sideways in the first gust of wind after the flowers open. Try to choose flowers that have clear, clean color. Having eliminated from consideration all plants that do not fit these qualifications, pick from the rest those that have the smallest flowers, the shortest stems, or both. Cross tall stem with short and large flower with small, if you can't find both combined in one plant! If you do have any real dwarfs do try selfing them, if they are not too deficient in the qualities suggested above. You may find, of course, that some variety that would be excellent material will not cross with other potential parents in your planting--pod or pollen sterility does exist among the Siberians. In that case you may have to use as one parent a plant that is not fully satisfactory--coarse foliage, thick stem, etc., This will probably mean an extra generation of breeding to get good working stock. But this might take no longer than buying more suitable material and waiting for it to become established.

Which reminds me--it would be helpful if our pollen-daubers would tell us what crosses took for them and what didn't, not only in this area of breeding for dwarfs but in all lines of breeding. If a particular variety turned up on several lists as not podding and on none as having podded, we'd know to steer clear of it; and if a variety turned up on many lists as having podded readily or pollenized other varieties freely--that, if it had good characteristics for breeding, would perhaps become the Sable of the Siberians.

EXCERPTS FROM INTERNATIONAL ROBIN

The International Robin #3 is on its third flight and we thought you would like to eavesdrop on the first two rounds. Here are some of the comments.

Charlotte Withers, Director:--"It is unfortunate that some varieties have a tendency of the foliage to 'flop' both during blooming season and after which makes for a very messy looking garden. Do the same varieties react the same in all areas of the country? What do you suppose would prevent this or is it a habit of growth and not growing conditions?"

Steve Varner:--"I like wide parts and self colors with as little haft veining showing as possible. 'Siberians transplant best in late fall or early spring and right after blooming is a poor time. How about their growing habits in your areas? I am having fun with some tall bearded seedlings that resemble the Siberians in form. One, a white self has a reverse flare on the upper half of the standards, and hold this form stiffly for the life of the flower. Another is a clear yellow and both come from in-breeding, but from unrelated lines."

Fred Cassebeer:--"I hope that the standards set by the committee (on judging) will not be rigid as to preclude many variations in form. I really don't think any of us have made up our minds as to just what constitutes good form in a Siberian. The different views as to this held by the participants in this robin is in itself proof of that. ---floppy foliage is a point that should be taken into consideration when judging Siberians."

---"I have shipped Siberian plants successfully early in the spring when the foliage growth is just beginning and the leaves are not more than a couple of inches long. Personally I think that early spring is the very best time for transplanting Siberians. If kept watered well for a brief period, they seem to take hold immediately and not even appear to know that they have been moved."

---"I have named and registered #824 as PIRQUETTE, and shall introduce it this year. It gives the effect of a bicolor with its broad contrasting style branches. The wide rounded falls and the short, erect standards of PIRQUETTE are the same uniform shade of clear medium blue, while the style branches are pale blue."

---"I feel that 'breaks' appear relatively infrequently and that a very large number of seedlings must be grown in order to have any chance of achieving a 'break'."

---"I do not think that enough consideration has been given to style arms in the past in judging Siberians, and I consider them of greater importance than the standards, and almost of equal importance to the falls. They can add contrast both in color and in form and sometimes serve to hide disturbing reticulations on the falls near the haft."

Dorothy Spofford:---"I have two seedlings with that plicata look. One is the violet purple SALEM WITCH in which the plic trait is more pronounced but it does have light veining--the other is SAILOR'S DELIGHT, a blue which is considerably larger flowered, the blaze is a little smaller but still quite large and is pure white without veining. I'm considering crossing the two and see what happens."
---"my favorite is MILDRED PECK with its soft lavender color."
---"I have been toying with the idea that possibly the chromosome count of the 28 Siberians (and the 40s for that matter) might show some variation. I gather that very little has been done in accurate determination. Could variation explain why some varieties will intercross where others will not."
---"Many varieties which do not set bee seed readily have lovely pollen--Violet Flare is one of these. Eric the Red defies me to cross either way but does set bee seed."

Maurice Kitton:--"I have tried various methods but find the most satisfactory method of seed sowing is using bottomless boxes with the sides about 4 inches deep. The boxes (about 3" x 12") are sunk in the open ground and the garden soil cleared from the interior to a depth of 4". The interior is then filled with a mixture of sterilized loam, peat, and wood ash (2:2:1 by volume) and well firmed. The seeds are then sown in rows with one inch between each seed and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch between the rows. Finally the seeds are covered with about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the same mixture and again well firmed down. Germination is good and the seedlings are planted out into beds for blooming when about 5 or 6 inches high, usually about the end of June or July depending on the season. Sowing is done as late in the autumn as possible - if done too early some germination will take place before winter sets in and (with me at least) seed germinating then will not survive the winter."
---"I have never done any good with Helen Astor as a parent but perhaps I never tried the right cross. Eric the Red on the other hand has been just the opposite. It has plenty of pollen and with me that pollen has been peculiarly potent if somewhat mystifying in its effect at times."

Lucy Delany:--"I also find seed grows better in bottomless boxes. I use brick for seed boxes - sunk in the ground for sibiricas and built up for bearded. It doesn't matter here if there is any germination before the winter as our winters in Nelson are not severe enough to damage the seedlings. I get severe frosts which melt as soon as the sun gets to them. From some seed received here in January 1963 and sown as soon as I received it, one seedling-bearded- flowered September 16th and two others - pumilas - flowered in November. None of this seed had had the winter cold that was thought necessary to break the inhibitor for germination. I don't know whether this line is worth following up with sibiricas but seed Dorothy sent me in December has germinated and some seedlings look as if they will flower next spring."

REGISTRATIONS OF SIBERIAN IRISES, 1962

- BETH ELLEN (G. Knock, R. 1962) Sdlg 551. 34", M. B 1, hyacinth-blue self. Snow Crest x Eric the Red.
- BONNIE BLUE RIBBON (D. Spofford, R. 1962) Sdlg DS-003. 40", LM, B 1 L, light blue self, self style arms. Parentage unknown.
- BRIGHT SHADOW (D. Spofford, R. 1962) Sdlg DS-001. 36", 1m, V 1 D, purple self veined white blaze, gold at hafts, blue-white style arms. Parentage unknown.
- CARRIE LEE (G. Wiswell, R. 1962) Sdlg 1933, 24", M. R 1, rose self, light spot, deep rose veins on falls. White Empress x Pink Emperor.
- DARK MARINE (G. Knock, R. 1962) Sdlg 55-20. 33", m, V 3. S. dauphine violet, F. methyl violet. Snow Crest x Eric the Red.
- MANDY MORSE (D. Spofford, R. 1962) Sdlg MP-001. 40", M. B3. S. medium blue, F. lighter blue, small white blaze, gold hafts, white styles. Parentage unknown.
- MILDRED PECK (D. Spofford, R. 1962) Sdlg MP-002. 36", M, V 1 L, lavender pink self, self styles, gold haft. Parentage unknown.
- MOON MOTH (L. Delany, R. 1962) Sdlg 2. 30", B 1 D. Navy blue self, resembles small Japanese iris. Dragonfly x unknown.
- NELSON BLUE (L. Delany, R. 1962) Sdlg 1. 36", B 1 F. Deep blue self, large peacock blue spot. Caesar x unknown.
- PLACID WATERS (Cassebeer, R. 1962) Sdlg 724. 30", M, B 1 M. Light medium blue, light blue style arms, cream patch at deeper blue haft. Parentage unknown.
- SAILOR'S DELIGHT (Spofford, R. 1962) Sdlg DS-002. 36", 1m, B 1 M. Medium blue self, large white blaze, self styles. Parentage unknown.
- SALEM WITCH (Spofford, R. 1962) Sdlg MP-003. 40", VE, V 1 D. Reddish purple self, large white blaze, self styles. Parentage unknown.
- SEA TURN (Spofford, R. 1962) Sdlg MP-004. 30", M, W 1. Oyster white self, gold at hafts, self styles. Parentage unknown.

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The CHECKLIST OF SIBERIAN IRISES was published in the May 1961 issue of The Siberian Iris with additions printed in the November 1961 issue. If you wish to obtain a copy of the complete list please send 50¢ to the secretary.

GENERAL SOURCES FOR SIBERIANS

Once more we will print the list of available sources as we know them. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE OTHER SOURCES.

PLANTS:

| | |
|--|---|
| Abercrombie's Iris Gardens | 7781 Livingston Rd., Cincinnati 39, Ohio |
| Brown's Iris Gardens (Closing out) | 14920 Highway 99, Lynnwood, Washington |
| Cassebeers Iris Garden | 414 Strawtown Road, West Nyack, N.Y. |
| Chautauqua Flowerfield | Greenhurst, New York |
| Englerth Gardens | 4652 Division Ave. S. Grand Rapids 8, Michigan |
| Fairmount Gardens (Catalog 20¢) | 166 Fairmount St, Lowell, Mass. |
| Franklin Gardens (Catalog 10¢) | Big Springs, Nebraska |
| Gurney's Seed and Nursery (Tycoon, Mt. Lake, Sn. Egret) | Yankton, South Dakota |
| Mrs. Herman E. Knock | Rte 2, Box 185A, Sioux Falls, S. Dak. |
| Lamb Nursery | East 101 Sharp Ave, Spokane 2, Wash. |
| Melrose Gardens | Route 1, Box 466, Stockton, Cal. |
| Patricks Garden | 717 North G St., Muskogee, Okla. |
| Shinkle's Timberline Gardens | 3227 Old Salem Rd., Dayton 15, Ohio |
| Shoemaker's Gardens | 8134 W. 78th St., Overland Park, Kan. |
| D. Steve Varner, Illini Iris, (Tealwood) | Rte 1, N State Rd., Monticello, Ill. |
| Walter Marx Gardens (Catalog 50¢) | Box 38, Boring, Oregon |

SEEDS:

- Pearce Seed Company, Moorestown, New Jersey (Also some plants)
- Thompson and Morgan, Ltd., Ipswich, England (Send a U.S. Quarter,
25c, for catalogue)
- Mr. Gale Whitsett, 125 Franklin Avenue, Newark, Ohio

WHERE TO SEE SIBERIANS ON WAY TO CHICAGO

Your Editor is not trying to list all of the gardens where our beloved Siberians are on display but some of those in the Chicago area where members attending the AIS Meeting in Chicago can LOOK.

| | <u>Number</u> |
|---|---------------|
| CANADA: | |
| Mrs. Alberta Richardson, R.R.2, Hannon, Ontario | 40 |
| ILLINOIS: | |
| D. Steve Varner, Illini Iris, N.St.Rd, Monticello, Ill. | 20 |
| INDIANA: | |
| Mrs. Cleora Detamore, 122 N. Main St., Andrew's, Ind. | 52 |
| Eugene M. Myers, 17800 Madison Road, South Bend, Ind. | 31 |
| IOWA: | |
| Mrs. Raymond B. Craig, 609 6th Ave.E., Oskaloosa, Iowa | 30 |
| KANSAS: | |
| Mr. Ted Sherman, 1029 E. 8th St., Pittsburg, Kansas | 33 |
| MICHIGAN: | |
| Dr. David L. Reath, Vulcan, Michigan(Make Appointment) | 35 |
| NEBRASKA: | |
| Franklin Gardens,Hazel & Vivian Grapes, Big Springs, Nebr. | 36 |
| Mrs. Eugene Parsons, 2635 South 9th, Lincoln, Nebr. | |
| Mrs. Lillian M. Leddy, 3124 North 78th St., Omaha, Nebr. | 25 |
| OHIO: | |
| Towne R. Abercrombie, 7781 Livingston Rd.,Cincinnati, Ohio | 18 |
| Mrs. Frank L. Balzer, 120 N. 10th St., Miamisburg, Ohio | 15 |
| Shinkle's Timberline Gardens, 3227 Old Salem Rd., Dayton,O. | 40 |
| Mrs. Harry Wilkie, 302 N. Main, Bellbrook, Ohio | 12 |
| SOUTH DAKOTA: | |
| Mrs. Herman E. Knock, Rte 2, Box 185A, Sioux Falls, S.Dak. | 50 |

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TO ALL MEMBERS

If you are willing to open your garden to visitors at iris bloom season, please drop me a note giving the number of varieties, best time for best viewing. If you are a commercial grower give that information too. Don't hide your Siberians from public view!

REMEMBER -- Send this information to:

Mrs. John Withers, Secretary
Society for Siberian Irises
Route 1, Box A-10
Mandan, North Dakota

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