

Twin City Iris Society

-News and Views-

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October, 1964

October--the month of chrysanthemums, beautiful fall coloring, brisk winds, Indian summer (we hope) and last but not least, the annual meeting and banquet of the Twin City Iris Society.

The banquet this year will be held at the Heidelberg Cafe, 66th and Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis--in the Golden Heart Room--on Thursday, October 15, 1964, at 6:30 p.m.

The menu consists of your choice of the following entrees:

Baked Ham	\$2.75
Fried Shrimp.	2.75
Roast Sirloin	2.75 or
Filet Mignon at	4.25

with starter and all the trimmings. Reservations must be made not later than Monday, October 12, 1964, by calling:

Mrs. George Sutton - 529-3412
5144 Lyndale Avenue North
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55412

Those of you who were at the September meeting made your reservations at that time and need not make another one but if any of you did not sign up at that time, choose your entree now and call Mrs. Sutton--or send a post card--this is the meeting of the year!! The program is outstanding and features one of our members as speaker, who is always entertaining as well as informative, the Reverend Paul Folkers of Anoka, our 2nd Vice President.

Reverend Folkers joined the T.C.I.S. in 1952 while living in Owatonna, so he is almost a charter member. He had a large and showy iris garden in Owatonna, and has grown iris for many years. Four and one-half years ago he moved to Anoka, where he is pastor of the Methodist Church there. He brought many of his iris with him and still dotes on growing his "favorite" flower. He is one of our enthusiastic hybridizers with many promising seedlings blooming in his garden. His talk will be about gardening in general and some of his experiences with his hobby.

The meeting is also the annual meeting of the Society and there will be an election of officers for the coming year. Everyone will find it a most rewarding evening so make your reservation now.

The committee also wishes to inform you that you should come to the Heidelberg by way of 66th Street as Lyndale is torn up and impassable.

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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The autumnal equinox has brought rain, wind, storms and cool days. Sumac has turned a vivid red and crimson. Colorful leaves are beginning to fall, yet the woods are a fairyland, displaying the gold, yellow, red and brown with green pines

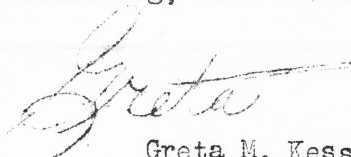
intermingled throughout. Such coloring is indescribable. It makes one think of the beautiful Blends of iris in June, together with the Selfs, Fancys, Bi-colors and Variegata's with the Signal Spot of Contrasting Color

Tribal Indians have gathered the wild rice. Bittersweet hangs heavily from the long slim vines that curl among the bushes and trees. Wild ducks are flying in a Southerly direction and the honk, honk of the geese can be heard as they fly in a V formation to their winter refuge. The yard has been full of the sleek blue black grackle, feasting on acorns, as they migrate to a warmer climate. Today, October 1, I was hoping for more of these beautiful birds as the acorns had to be removed from the border garden before the final cultivation this fall.

The zinnia, marigold, ageratum, salvia and petunia are continuing to respond to the weather and are all a riot of color. The calla lillies are at their best. The colorful leaves of the Coleous intermingling with the bright starry-eyed flower of the impatiens makes a beautiful picture. Most of my time is spent in the iris beds and the border garden is neglected, regardless, it is now the annuals turn, to take over. The chrysanthemums deserve every adjective in Webster's Dictionary to describe their beauty. It is truly a magnificent sight to see the mums bloom in all their glory.

We know it is nearing the time when the iris needs the attention for winter. It is wise to check every iris clump--clean the beds--and cover with leaves or hay, before it snows. Check the drainage. A small trench between the clumps will be sufficient for the spring, when the snow melts. (May we be fortunate and get a good snow covering.)

Christmas catalogues are being received in the mail. It seems early, but before we know it the rush will be on. As a Christmas gift this year, nothing is more enjoyable than a good magazine or book on cold days or for a relaxing half hour in the busy summer. Why not join the American Iris Society. You will receive four illustrated bulletins or magazines a year. The Society is up-to-date on the new varieties of Iris. There is information on iris culture, suggestions to hybridizers and planning your garden. Soil conditions are discussed as well as diseases and control. You have the privilege of voting on the popularity poll of 100 favorite iris. The dues are \$5.00 a year or 3 years for \$12.50. Make your check payable to: "The American Iris Society." We will send it in for you. Hope to see you all on October 15 - 6:30 p.m. at the Heidelberg, 66th and Lyndale Avenue South, in the Golden Heart Room.



Greta M. Kessenich
President

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GROWING BETTER IRISES

Can irises be grown successfully year after year in the same ground? To answer this I would like to quote an article by Bob Schreiner in the October 1963 A.I.S. Bulletin entitled, "The Garden of Donald G. Waters."

Here is a garden that would gladden the heart of any iris fancier, laid out in the confines of an ordinary city lot, yet the growth of the irises was lustrous. Mr. Waters' culture of his favorite flower is achieved, indeed.

The inevitable question arises: How can it be possible that the irises have been grown in this same spot for 30-some years? Does not the soil 'run out,' and how can a person grow over 260 clumps of the most attractive new iris as if they were being grown in ground that never had iris on them before? The soil in Mr. Waters' garden is what one would call a good average garden soil. He does carry on several cultural practices that I believe are pertinent. First, all his beds are raised for good drainage. Many an iris garden has started with grass paths and iris beds, but within a few years the grass paths are higher than the iris beds. Not so at Elmore. The grass paths are lower and they provide the drainage system. Iris like drainage, good, sharp drainage.

There is no one panacea that Mr. Waters possesses. He nourishes his garden with inspiration and devotion and he does apply agricultural gypsum with a profligate hand. He uses it to dust his foliage to keep leaf spot from starting, he uses it liberally on the soil. It is not a fertilizer but the irises seem to relish it, and should an iris rhizome start to soften he packs any open wound with--more gypsum. What a pity that this fine material is not more readily available all over the country. It is one of the finest materials to use to add a mineral content of the nature irises seem to like.

But this is only part of the story. A neighbor in the country has a source of good fertilizer and late in fall an application of this material not fresh but spent in its freshness, is applied as a surface dressing, and it is heavily drenched with gypsum too, as if one were adding raisins to a fruit cake. The action of winter weather and cool temperatures seems to be a happy method of handling the organic material in the iris beds. Then, too, one final material is added. Gardeners have heard about the use of minor elements in many fertilizers and ES-MIN-EL, which is manufactured in Atlanta, Georgia, is a special garden preparation that contains these minor elements in a formula that is helpful. A teaspoonful per clump per year seems to be the diet that the irises are happy with. These are the 'secrets,' if any, of these garden.

In our February 1960 News & Views, Mr. Schreiner related his own experiences with Esminel. "I like to use minor elements a small amount it is true but the use of ES-MIN-EL is one of the finest things I have ever come across. Very little is needed for the ordinary garden. It is applied at the rate of 1 teaspoonful per clump, and you need not worry if you accidentally got too much on as the plants seem to be able to take up only what they need and leave the rest."

What is ES-MIN-EL? ES-MIN-EL is a mixture of the ESsential MINeral ELEments required by all plants for optimum growth and vigor. ES-MIN-EL contains manganese, copper, zinc, iron, magnesium, boron, and traces of other elements in such a form that it is readily available to the plant. ES-MIN-EL looks like mixed fertilizer, but does not contain any nitrogen, potash, or phosphates and should be used in addition to your regular fertilizer.

Can ES-MIN-EL be used on flowers? All plants require ES-MIN-EL. Excellent results have been obtained on roses, gladiolus, chrysanthemums, and other flowering plants. For small pot plants a solution of ES-MIN-EL may be used. Dissolve 1/2 table-spoonful of ES-MIN-EL in 4 quarts of water. Use this solution sparingly and apply to the SOIL ONLY, or put the solution in a pan or saucer in which the potted plant is placed.

Up until recently ES-MIN-EL has been available only from the East Coast in five pound size or larger, but it is now available locally in amounts as small as one pound.

Millie Stover

IRIS TERMINOLOGY

Amoena - White standards with colored falls.
 Bi-Color - Standards light colored, falls a different, darker color.
 Blends - Combination of two or more colors.
 Falls - The three lower petals of the flower.
 Fancy - A riotous mixture of several colors.
 Neglecta - Light blue standards, darker falls.
 Plicata - Stippled, dotted or stitched margin color on light ground.
 Self - An iris of one solid color.
 Signal - A patch of contrasting color at the tip of the beard.
 Standards - The three upper petals of the flower.
 Style Arms - The small, stiff segments just above the beard.
 Substance - The thickness of the petal.
 Texture - The surface character of the petals--sheen, etc.
 Variegata - Yellow standards with deeper falls of brown, purple or red.
 Sib - Sister seedling.
 H.C. - Highly Commended (an award given an unintroducted iris or new seedling by the American Iris Society. Judges, signifying that they consider it good enough for introduction.)
 H.M. - Honorable Mention (first award for an introduced iris).
 A.M. - Award of Merit (only fifteen iris to receive this award each year).
 Dykes Medal - This medal is given to the best eligible iris each year.

CULTURAL QUESTION

Do ashes put on garden soil do any good--or any harm?

Answer: In reasonable amounts they will do no harm and they may help heavy soil by loosening or "conditioning" it. They have little fertilizing value. Wood ashes contain lime and a little potassium.

"Minnesota State Horticultural Society"

The chrysanthemums are beautiful this year. Of particular interest to those of us in Minnesota should be the University of Minnesota introductions. The new ones Zonta and Gold Strike are outstanding. They are very much alike in growth habit, being of medium height and very bushy growth, forming a mound of color. Zonta is more a bronzy gold while Gold Strike is yellow.

Minnesota Autumn and Minnesota Pink, former introductions of the University have never been more beautiful. The rich color of Minnesota Autumn is gorgeous! Those of you who have never grown these "mums" have a treat in store for you when you see them in your own garden.

Remember: Reservations for the Banquet must be in by Monday October 12. This is your Society and will be successful in proportion to the interest each and every member shows in it. Come, enjoy the fellowship and good food, help elect your new officers, and learn and be entertained by our accomplished speakers! SEE YOU THERE.