

Twin City Iris Society

NEWS & VIEWS

Volume VIII. No. 1

January, 1960

It's 1960 and time to start a fresh New Year with the Iris Society. As I started the year my thoughts turned to the spring and summer with the hopes that our iris would live up to our expectations this year and that we'd have really beautiful display.

The next meeting of the Twin City Iris Society will be held on Thursday, January 28 at 8:00 o'clock. We are going to try a new meeting place this time at the main Y.W.C.A. at 12th and Nicollet in Minneapolis. We are not sure which room we will be assigned but there will be a notice at the elevators directing you to the proper place. The program is not definite at the time this goes to press but our new program chairman, Vern Landey, is on the job and I'm sure will have a very interesting and informative program for us.

Let's all start the New Year right with a resolution to be a more active member and to grow bigger and better iris in 1960.

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Mr. G. B. Gable - 2443 - 38th Avenue S. has kindly consented to conduct a question and answer section for our News and Views. So, send your questions pertaining to the care, selection, or whatever, about iris and he will answer in the next issue of the News & Views. This will enable those of you from out of town as well as those in the cities to get the answers to those puzzlers that have been bothering you.

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MORE FROM MR. SHREINER:

SPRAYS. Again here you have two classes. Sprays for insect pests which are one class and for diseases that are the other. Often one bug or disease might need a particular spray, dust or what have you. For instance, aphids need a spray that has nicotine in it. DDT does not help unless you make a direct contact, but the pores of the aphids take in the lethal, to him, nicotine fumes and that is the end of that pest. IRIS BORER which is a problem in your area, it does not exist out here at all, is controlled by spraying or dusting with DDT and applying it at Darwin tulip time and keep repeating putting it on your iris leaves and surrounding plants every week to ten days until June 20th. The idea is to have everything

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coated with DDT so when the small worm hatches and starts for your iris he will crawl over some DDT and that is the end of him. Also use DDT and spray your iris clumps twice a month during September and October. Why? To kill any moths that might be coming in to lay eggs. These moths can migrate from an old fence row or a careless gardner who lets some of his iris go to grass and hence is a source of infection to you as far as iris borers are.

Sprays to prevent leaf spot are many. The most effective are PARZATE, it is also called ZINEB. Also DITHANE is very good. FERMATE is liked by some as well. I do not have any one preference. In fact many of the good rose sprays that would contain ingredients of these chemicals would be just as good for your iris, as black spot in roses and Iris rust and leaf spot occur at roughly the same time and under like conditions.

CONTROL OF SCORCH. I am sorry that I cannot give you any good remedy. We do not have scorch out here so my experience with it has been entirely limited to my Minnesota experiences. I understand that so far no known cure is offered. Some people have tried several of the new wonder drugs without any clear cut results. The best thing I know to save the plant is the quicker one digs it up and suns and dries it for weeks in the sun the better. So if ever the center leaf of your iris clump starts to turn brown and you suspect scorch you will do better to dig it at once. Why is it possible that a person can put a new plant in the very spot where one digs up a scorch plant and the new plant will not contact it is one of the mysteries about this.

BORERS. I think I covered this under sprays. DDT is the answer - but a person needs to be diligent the first year to wipe it out of his garden with repeated sprays. Once you get ahead, one or two precautionary sprays spring and fall will do the trick.

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WHY LABEL FLOWERS:

Flowers are labeled for a variety of reasons -- for instance:

1. To make the most effective arrangements of plants in a garden according to height, color and time of blooming.
2. To help in the buying of new and choice kinds.
3. To help in the propagation of the best and hardiest plants, and to cull out the less desirable.

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Proper methods of labeling can mean a lot when you wish to transplant flowers to form a new flower bed. The tall and short plants will be in their proper places, and if colors have been marked also, you will have a pleasing effect, rather than something which clashes. I know of one man who wanted the colors of his mums marked in some way, so he wrote the colors on the side of the house just above the plants. He could have used any one of the many varieties of markers available today. Some of the choices are:

1. Small plastic -- These retain pencil writing, and can be pushed firmly into the ground so young children can't pull them up. They are reasonably priced.
2. Large plastic -- These are attractive to see and work well in the summer, but when the temperature drops the markers snap off. They sometimes break if bumped too hard.
3. Round plastic (tie on type): These are helpful in hybridizing.
4. Wood: These are undesirable because they do not retain writing.
5. Aluminum: These are a permanent type, and can be made in various sizes, short or tall, to fit into any garden. The rods which hold the marking label can be made rust resistant. The aluminum labels retain pencil writing very well. Besides being helpful by keeping your records, they give off a merry, tinkling sound when they sway in the wind.

If you lose three out of four plants, and they are labeled, you will know what to replace. Or if you are reproducing mums, you know which ones you wish to keep so you don't have too many of one kind.

Mrs. S. C. Rudser

Though Mrs. Rudser didn't mention it - I'm sure she assumed all of us knew this - one of the main reasons an Iris grower should have some sort of permanent label for his plants is that an unnamed specimen is of no use in an iris show. It is tragic to have a perfect specimen and have it disqualified because of mislabeling. (Just ask those to whom this has happened.)

Editor

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We have decided a column with little personal news bits would be interesting and would help all of us get better acquainted with the other members of the society. This will only be a success if we have lots of contributions so if you know of any tid-bits - interesting comings and goings, etc. please let Betty Ipsen know. You could drop her a card or if a call is more convenient the phone number is LI. 5-9764 or: Mrs. Urban Ipsen
6515 Knoll Street
Minneapolis 27, Minnesota

Put your imagination to work and think up a clever name for this column. We are offering a prize for the best name suggested. Bring your name to the meeting or send one in on a letter or post card. We would especially like to hear from our out of town members. These can be sent either to Mrs. Ipsen or your editor: Mrs. D. C. Messer
2940 Edgewood Avenue
Minneapolis 26, Minnesota

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GOSSIP:

Mary Hoertzen, our badge chairman, was involved in an accident December 21. She was caught between bumpers, crushing muscles and causing multiple bruises. She expects to return to work soon.

Granville Gable was called to Des Moines for the funeral of his Mother January 14.

Ruth Broin is the proud mother of a new son, Bradley Arthur born December 17. Bradley has a sister, Janet.

Urban and Betty Ipsen added another member to their family December 19 with the wedding of their son, Jack, to Yvonne Yound of St. Cloud.

Anyone having news for this column please call Betty Ipsen at LI. 5-9764.

Be thinking of a name for our gossip items and you may win a prize.

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Remember - next meeting - Thursday - January 28
8:00 P.M. Y.W.C.A. at 12th & Nicollet, Minneapolis.
Let's have a large turn out!!!!