



RHS Plant Trials and Awards

Bearded Iris

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Bulletin Number 17

May 2007

RHS Trial of Bearded Iris



Entries

The 2005–2007 Median Bearded Iris trial consisted of 151 entries, 69 of which were new cultivars raised by hybridisers throughout the world. The other entries were AGM cultivars, used as standards and to reflect the diversity of form and colour that makes up this group of plants. The 2004–2006 Tall Bearded Iris trial consisted of 112 entries, 74 of which were new cultivars.

Assessment of cultivars for the AGM

The Joint Iris Committee used the following criteria:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Plant | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● vigour – increase in size year on year● foliage – healthy, not lax, or oversized● disease resistance |
| Stem | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● correct number of buds, good branching where applicable |
| Flower | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● form<ul style="list-style-type: none">● standards should stand up firmly or meet to give a domed or conical shape● falls should be flaring or semi-flaring● substance – flowers should be firm and weather resistant● colour |
| Presentation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● a harmonious overall effect should be achieved. |

The Award of Garden Merit

The Award of Garden Merit is awarded to plants that are:

- Excellent for ordinary garden use
- Available
- Reasonably resistant to pests and diseases
- Of good constitution
- Essentially stable in form and colour
- Reasonably easy to grow

Bearded iris cultivars have been on trial at RHS Garden Wisley since 1924. Iris trials are assessed over three years by the Joint Iris Committee. Trials are conducted as part of the RHS's charitable mission to inform, educate and inspire gardeners. Good, reliable cultivars are identified by the Award of Garden Merit after trial.

Objectives

RHS Iris trials assess, compare and demonstrate a range of cultivars submitted by individuals and nurserymen. Cultivars are referred for further assessment in trial, following preliminary examination by the Joint Iris Committee, who then ultimately assess their value for garden decoration. Those meeting the required standard receive the RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM).

Cultivation summary

- Do:**
- plant in a sunny open position (rhizome requires baking by the sun particularly from July–September)
 - provide good drainage
 - feed on planting or in early spring (high potassium, low nitrogen)
 - cut leaves down to 15–20cm on planting
 - take care not to disrupt shallow roots when weeding
 - cut spent flower spikes cleanly above the rhizome
 - feed remount iris after the initial period of flower
 - divide every 3–4 years after flowering (to maintain vigour)
- Don't:**
- plant rhizomes too deep
 - allow to become waterlogged
 - overshadow rhizomes with foliage from other plants
 - cover rhizomes with mulch (can cause rhizome rot)
 - use fresh manure (can cause rhizome rot)
 - plant in acid soil (neutral to alkaline is best)

Trial cultivation notes

Trial plots on an exposed, south-facing slope, were prepared by hand, by single digging and incorporating well-rotted manure. In early March each year, the RHS Soil Scientist undertook an analysis of the soil on the trials field and the trial was top-dressed with the recommended fertiliser(s).

Front cover: *Iris* 'Tom Johnson'

Above left: RHS Iris Trial 2006

Stock for the trials was produced from rhizomes lifted from the previous trial or submitted as fresh stock by senders. Prior to planting, leaves were trimmed to 15–20cm in order to minimise wind rock whilst the roots became established.

The Tall Bearded Iris trial was planted in early September 2003 at 50cm stations in rows 75cm apart and the Median Bearded Iris trial in early August 2004 at 50cm stations in rows 65cm apart. The iris were planted with the top of the rhizome exposed above the soil ensuring maximum exposure to the sun. This 'baking' of the rhizome is essential for good growth and flower production the following year. Bearded iris were not, and never should be, mulched. Entries were watered in at planting time. The trials were not watered unless conditions were excessively dry.

Flowering spikes of the tall bearded iris were staked in their first year to prevent wind rock, which can damage the root system and affect plant development the following year. Staking also prevents the flowering spikes from snapping uncleanly, which can cause damage to the rhizome.

Throughout the trial, dead and diseased leaves were removed in order to maintain the health and appearance of the plants. Leaves were gently pulled away close to the base of the plant. Healthy green foliage was not cut back, even over winter. Spent flowers were left on the spike in order to assess how they aged and died. Once flowering had finished, spikes were cut cleanly above the rhizome. Some iris re-bloomed, a number as late as November. Known as 'remontant' iris, these cultivars benefit from a second feed immediately after the first flowering.

Following three years on trial most cultivars multiply well and form large clumps. The strongest, most vigorous rhizomes can be found around the outside of the clump. When lifting and dividing at the end of the trial, only those pieces with a good amount of leaf, healthy rhizome and root area are retained for replanting.

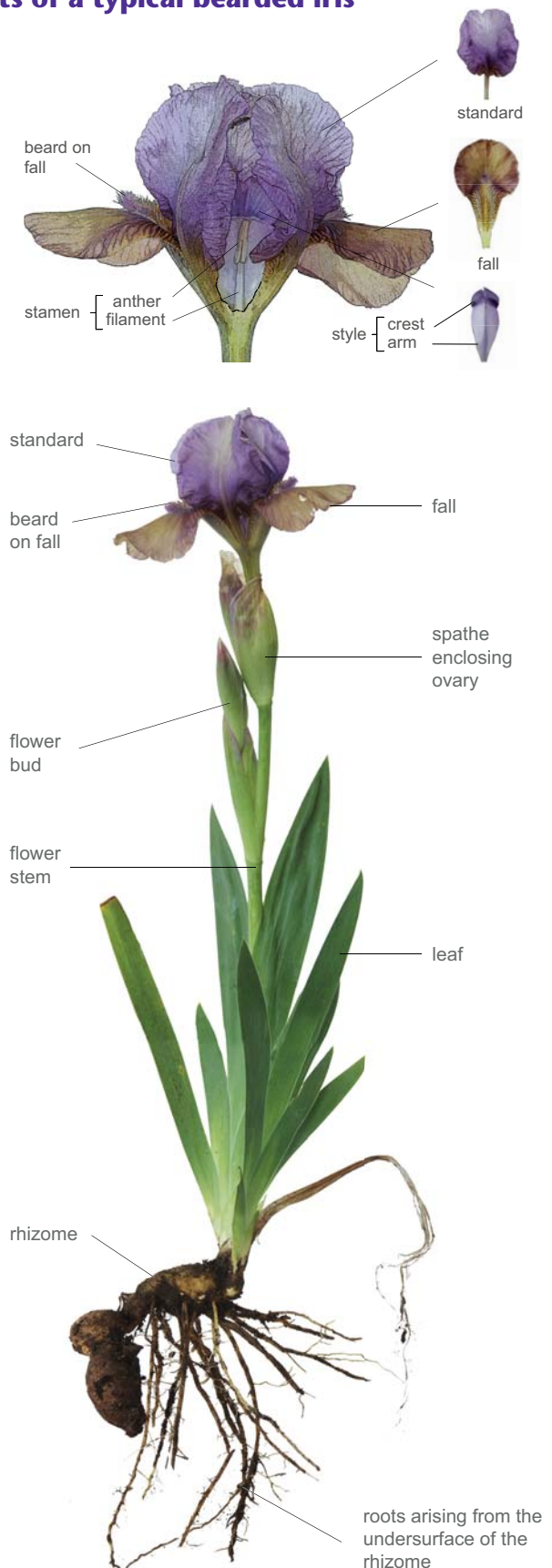
Pest and disease that can affect iris

Root rot, a bacterial infection, causes parts of the rhizome to become soft and smell unpleasant; this usually occurs in spring or at times of excessive moisture. The infected rhizome should be cut out and destroyed; if this is carried out immediately, the removal of the affected part should not compromise the remaining rhizome. The cutting implement should be sterilised between each cut and Vitax Green Sulphur applied to the affected areas.

Leaf spot, a fungal disease, tends to be most prevalent in mild, damp weather when air movement is poor and diseased leaf debris has accumulated. Small yellow-brown spots on the foliage indicate that this disease may be present. Spots enlarge over time and cause the plant to look unsightly. A fungicide such as Bio Systhane Fungus Fighter can be used as preventative measure. The affected foliage should be removed and burnt.

Aphids can be removed by hand; alternatively an insecticide can be used as a control.

Parts of a typical bearded iris



Bearded Iris

Bearded Iris

Bearded iris are so named due to the row of short hairs (the beard) located towards the back of each fall. The beard can be brightly coloured and in contrast with the falls or subtle and in keeping with the other colours present in the flower.

History

Iris was the Greek goddess of the rainbow and a messenger of the gods. One of her main duties was to lead the souls of the dead, particularly women, to the Elysian Fields. The Greeks planted purple bearded irises on the graves of women. Similarly Muslims in many countries have decorated graves with white irises (*Iris albicans*). Hence there has been tremendous movement of irises from their original habitats to burial sites all over the Middle East. The tripartite flowers found favour with the early Christians and came to represent the Holy Trinity.

In its stylised form the 'fleur de lys', the iris was an emblem of the French monarchy from the 12th century; it also appears in the arms of the city of Florence. In the case of Florence, the iris provided a source of considerable wealth to the city. In the fields around Florence bearded irises grow abundantly.

In mediaeval times the rhizomes of initially *Iris florentina* but subsequently *Iris pallida* were gathered, dried in the sun and ground to form a white powder called 'orris root'. This powder was used for a variety of purposes including dusting hair, skin and teeth, where its mildly insecticidal qualities were very beneficial. It has a scent reminiscent of violets or vanilla so is still used in perfumery and to make products like pot-pourri today. It is also reputedly added to the casks of Chianti wine in the latter stages of fermentation to give it its characteristic aroma and flavour.

Bearded Iris in the wild

Bearded irises grow mainly in Mediterranean regions and the Middle East. They are confined to the northern hemisphere and no iris is native to regions south of the equator. They thrive in warm dry regions and have been transported throughout the world by humankind. Very large numbers of irises are to be found encircling the Mediterranean Sea and spreading eastwards through the Middle East towards Asia. They have also spread westwards to the Americas. Some of the most beautiful of all irises – the arils – grow where the climate is more extreme, and exceptionally dry, such as the very hot deserts of the Middle East, southern Russia and parts of Asia. These are characterised by a fleshy outgrowth or aril to the seed. Because of global warming, it is increasingly likely that such irises will become easier to grow in Britain, particularly those irises which have been bred by crossing normal bearded irises (*Pogoniris*) with arillate irises (*Oncocyclus*, *Regelia* and *Pseudoregelia*), commonly called arilbreds, a number of which are commercially available.



Colour classification of bearded iris

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Amoena | white or cream standards and coloured falls, e.g. 'Frosted Biscuit' (Tall Bearded) |
| Bicolour | standards and falls of two different colours, e.g. 'Bangles' (Miniature Tall Bearded) |
| Bitone | different tones of one colour, e.g. 'Raspberry Blush' (Intermediate Bearded) |
| Blend | a combination or blending of two or more colours, e.g. 'Morning's Blush' (Standard Dwarf Bearded) |
| Neglecta | pale blue standards with darker blue or purple falls, e.g. 'Templecloud' (Intermediate Bearded) |
| Plicata | white to yellow ground colour, dotted or veined in different colour, e.g. 'Orinoco Flow' (Border Bearded) |
| Self | standards and falls are of one colour, e.g. 'Michael Paul' (Standard Dwarf Bearded) |
| Variegata | yellow standards with red, maroon or brown falls, e.g. 'Andalou' (Tall Bearded) |

Iris breeding.

Bearded iris were commonly diploid (i.e. with two sets of chromosomes per plant) prior to the twentieth century when a few irises spontaneously doubled the number of chromosomes and became tetraploid (i.e. with four sets of chromosomes). Iris fanciers in the early part of the twentieth century set out to artificially increase the number of chromosomes to four sets since the naturally occurring ones had a number of useful qualities – notably improved size, substance and colour intensity. By crossing and inter-crossing the irises with the increased number of chromosomes, a whole new race of more robust colourful hybrids were produced. The tetraploid bearded irises became the norm and it is now rare to find bearded irises which are diploid, with the exception of Miniature Tall Bearded irises.

Classification of bearded iris

References:

Growing Irises G.E. Cassidy and S. Linnegar,
Croom Helm Ltd 1982

American Iris Society www.irises.org



| | MDB | SDB | IB | MTB | BB | TB |
|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Class | Miniature dwarf bearded | Standard dwarf bearded | Intermediate bearded | Miniature tall bearded | Border bearded | Tall bearded |
| Flower width | 5–8cm | 5–8cm | 10–13cm | 6–8cm | 10–13cm | 10–20cm |
| Height range | up to 20cm | 21–40cm | 41–70cm | 41–70cm | 41–70cm | above 70cm |
| Flowers per spike | 1 or 2 flowers | 3 or 4 flowers | 4 or 5 flowers | 7 or more flowers | 6+ flowers | 7 or more flowers |
| Flowering | Early Spring | Late Spring | | Late Spring to early Summer | | Early Summer |

As a result of breeders searching for genes from other bearded irises and incorporating them within tetraploid bearded irises the modern bearded iris presents an array of gorgeously coloured and formed irises of almost unimaginable variety. The bearded iris is now truly a flower of the rainbow. Every colour may be present in some part of the flower except pure spectrum red.

A common complaint about irises is their relatively short flowering season. In order to counter this, hybridisers have been attempting to lengthen the flowering season, with some success. This has happened in two ways: by breeding some irises to flower earlier, and some to flower later, thus extending the season and creating irises that bloom more than once in the year – the so called ‘remontant’ irises or re-bloomers.

A natural phenomenon involving the morphology of the beard was first noticed in the 1930s. Hybridising was carried out from the 1950s, (this coincided with the ‘race for space’, hence the name ‘Space Age Iris’). These irises are characterised by extra appendages, usually an ornamentation of the beard into spurs, horns, flounces, spoons and other decorative structures.

The Tall Bearded iris ‘Brave New World’, with golden beard extending to a lavender space-age horn.



Bearded irises in the garden

Historically, bearded irises were often grown in special beds or borders separate from the rest of the garden. In smaller gardens a different approach needs to be adopted.

Herbaceous border: The neat low-growing mounds of standard dwarf bearded iris can be placed at the front of a border, whilst the intermediate and border bearded iris mix well with other similarly sized perennials and look good placed in front of taller perennials or shrubs. Intermediate bearded iris also suit narrow borders. Smaller flowering miniature tall bearded iris are delicate enough to be sited at the front of a border amongst equally dainty companions. The tall bearded irises particularly resent competition from other plants and are better placed in clumps of 2–3 on their own. Before and after flowering, the sword-like, green or glaucous-green foliage of bearded iris contrasts well with other plants in the border.

Rose garden: Roses provide an excellent backdrop to taller growing bearded irises.

Dry garden: All bearded iris lend themselves to this type of garden, providing the rhizomes are not overly covered with mulch.

Sunny courtyard/city garden: Bearded irises with their sword-like foliage and bright flowers associate well with stone sculpture and angular surface shapes.

Troughs and pots: Miniature dwarf bearded iris are suited to pot culture and/or the rock garden. Other bearded iris are not suited to pot culture, unless the container is sizeable enough to allow for expansion of the rhizome.

Cut flowers: Miniature tall bearded iris, also known as table iris, are the best choice for cut flowers and should be cut with the top bud just starting to open.

Selection guide

Award of Garden Merit (AGM)  H4

H4 = hardy throughout the British Isles

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED Height: 21 – 40cm Flowers/spike: 3 – 4 Flower diameter: 5 – 7cm



| 'Ballet Lesson' AGM (H4) 2001 | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------|
| height | 30cm | flowers 3 |
| foliage | 28 x 2.5cm erect, green-glaucous | |
| comments | Attractive ruffled flowers. Flowers for 4 weeks between late April and late May. | |
| suppliers | 12 | |

| 'Diligence' AGM (H4) 1995 | | |
|---------------------------|--|-----------|
| height | 40cm | flowers 3 |
| foliage | 35 x 3cm erect, green-glaucous | |
| comments | Unusual mustard-coloured self. Flowers for 3 weeks between late April and late May. Remontant. | |
| suppliers | 10 | |



| 'Bedford Lilac' AGM (H4) 2001 | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------|
| height | 28cm | flowers 3 |
| foliage | 27 x 2.5cm erect, glaucous | |
| comments | Mid blue self. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between mid April and late May. | |
| suppliers | 12 | |

| 'El Torito' AGM (H4) 2004 | | |
|---------------------------|---|-------------|
| height | To 33cm | flowers 2-3 |
| foliage | 30 x 3cm erect, green | |
| comments | Vivid orange self. Flowers for 3 weeks between late April and late May. | |
| suppliers | 12 | |



| 'Bee's Knees' AGM (H4) 2004 | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------|
| height | To 47cm | flowers to 4 |
| foliage | 42 x 3cm erect, green | |
| comments | Delicate pink on creamy white plicata. Flowers for 3 weeks between late April and late May. | |
| suppliers | 12 | |

| 'Flirting Again' AGM (H4) 2007 | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------|
| height | 25cm | flowers 3 |
| foliage | 23 x 2.5cm erect, green-glaucous | |
| comments | Vigorous yet neat habit, unusual colour combination. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks, late April to early June. Remont. | |
| suppliers | 9 | |



| 'Bromyard' AGM (H4) 1994 | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------|
| height | 40cm | flowers 3-4 |
| foliage | 30-40 x 2.5cm erect, green | |
| comments | Unusual colour combination of pale blue and olive. Flowers for 3 weeks between late April and mid-late May. | |
| suppliers | 1, 5 | |

| 'Jeremy Brian' AGM (H4) 1993 | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----------|
| height | 35cm | flowers 3 |
| foliage | 33 x 3cm erect, green-glaucous | |
| comments | Flowers for 3 weeks between mid April and late May. | |
| suppliers | 1 | |



| 'Cameo Queen' AGM (H4) 2007 | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------|
| height | 28cm | flowers 3 |
| foliage | 16 x 1.7cm erect, glaucous | |
| comments | Neat, uniform, floriferous display of flowers that last well. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between mid April and late May. | |
| suppliers | 12 | |

| 'Luli-Ann' AGM (H4) 1998 | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------|
| height | 35cm | flowers 3 |
| foliage | 30-35 x 2.5cm erect, green-glaucous | |
| comments | Very free flowering, lavender-blue on white plicata. Flowers for 3 weeks, mid April to mid May. Remontant. | |
| suppliers | 10 | |



Suppliers as of 2007

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Aulden Farm | 4 British Iris Society | 7 Crocus.co.uk | 10 Kelways Ltd |
| 2 Beggars Roost Plants | 5 Broadleigh Gardens | 8 Icenis Iris Garden | 11 Seagate Irises |
| 3 Breezy Knees Nurseries | 6 Claire Austin Hardy | 9 Iris of Sissinghurst | 12 The Iris Garden |
| | Plants | | |

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED Height: 21 – 40cm Flowers/spike: 3 – 4 Flower diameter: 5 – 7cm



'Mary McIlroy' AGM (H4) 1993

| | | | |
|----------|---|---------|---|
| height | 33cm | flowers | 3 |
| foliage | 30 x 2.8cm erect, green | | |
| comments | Deep sunny yellow self. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between mid April to late May. | | |

suppliers 5, 10

'Pure Allure' AGM (H4) 2004

| | | | |
|----------|---|---------|-----|
| height | 37cm | flowers | 2-3 |
| foliage | 33 x 2.4cm erect, glaucous | | |
| comments | Ruffled grey-white self. Flowers for 3 weeks between mid-late April and mid-late May. | | |

suppliers 12



'Michael Paul' AGM (H4) 1998

| | | | |
|----------|--|---------|---|
| height | 33cm | flowers | 3 |
| foliage | 30 x 2cm erect, green-glaucous | | |
| comments | Very dark purple self with lovely scent. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between mid April and late May. Remontant. | | |

suppliers 11

'Sarah Taylor' AGM (H4) 1994

| | | | |
|----------|--|---------|---|
| height | 32cm | flowers | 3 |
| foliage | 30 x 2.3cm, erect, green | | |
| comments | Pale primrose yellow self with conspicuous bright blue beard. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks, mid April to late May. | | |

suppliers 1, 5, 6



'Morning's Blush' AGM (H4) 2001

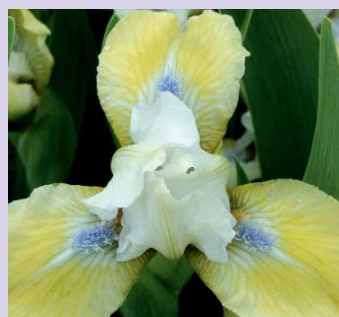
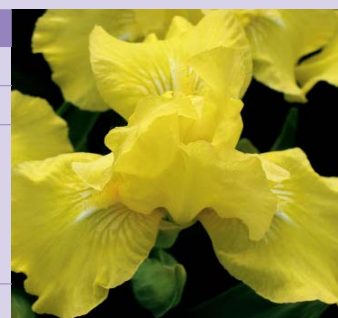
| | | | |
|----------|--|---------|---|
| height | 36cm | flowers | 3 |
| foliage | 33 x 2cm erect, green | | |
| comments | Yellow-orange falls with a pink flush blending from the centre out. Flowers for 3 weeks between mid April to late May. | | |

suppliers 12

'Sun Doll' AGM (H4) 1998

| | | | |
|----------|--|---------|-----|
| height | 30cm | flowers | 2-3 |
| foliage | 23 x 2.5cm erect, green | | |
| comments | Brilliant yellow ruffled self Vanilla scented. Flowers for 3 weeks between mid April and late May. | | |

suppliers 10



'Pale Shades' AGM (H4) 1994

| | | | |
|----------|---|---------|---|
| height | 32cm | flowers | 3 |
| foliage | 29 x 2.2cm erect, glaucous | | |
| comments | Bold blue bearded lemon-green bi-tone. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between mid April and late May. | | |

suppliers 5, 10

'Westar' AGM (H4) 1998

| | | | |
|----------|---|---------|---|
| height | 28cm | flowers | 3 |
| foliage | 25 x 2-3cm erect, green – glaucous | | |
| comments | Cool white flowers with conspicuous bushy pale blue beards. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between mid April to late May. | | |

suppliers 2, 10



'Pumpin' Iron' AGM (H4) 2007

| | | | |
|----------|---|---------|---|
| height | 32cm | flowers | 3 |
| foliage | 30 x 2.2cm erect, glaucous | | |
| comments | Very vigorous, yet neat floriferous display. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between mid April to late May. Remontant. | | |

suppliers 10, 11

'Zero' AGM (H4) 2001

| | | | |
|----------|---|---------|-----|
| height | 28cm | flowers | 2-3 |
| foliage | 22 x 2cm erect green-glaucous | | |
| comments | Pure white self with pronounced sweet fragrance. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between late April to late May. | | |

suppliers 10



Selection guide

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED Height: 41 – 70cm Flowers/spike: 4 – 5 Flower diameter: 10 – 13cm



| 'Alison Taylor' AGM (H4) 1998 | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---------|-----|
| height | 45-65cm | flowers | 4-5 |
| foliage | 40-50 x 2.5cm erect, green-glaucous | | |
| comments | Bronze-yellow bitone. Flowers for 3 weeks between late April and late May. | | |
| suppliers | 10 | | |



| 'Bronzaire' AGM (H4) 1994 | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------|---|
| height | 51cm | flowers | 4 |
| foliage | 55 x 2.5cm erect, green-glaucous | | |
| comments | Golden bronze self, lightly ruffled. Flowers for 3 weeks between early May and early June. | | |
| suppliers | 1, 6, 10, 11 | | |



| 'Cee Jay' AGM (H4) 2001 | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------|---|
| height | 61cm | flowers | 4 |
| foliage | 55 x 3.5cm erect, glaucous | | |
| comments | Violet-blue on white plicata. Very floriferous, flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between mid April and mid May. | | |
| suppliers | 12 | | |



| 'Cranbrook' AGM (H4) 2007 | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------|-----|
| height | 90cm | flowers | 4-5 |
| foliage | 75 x 4cm erect, green | | |
| comments | Flowered above usual height for its class at Wisley, very floriferous, unusual colour, pleasant scent. Flowers for 3 weeks between mid May and mid June. | | |
| suppliers | 9 | | |



| 'Eleanor Clare' AGM (H4) 1998 | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------|-----|
| height | 60cm | flowers | 4-5 |
| foliage | 45 x 2cm erect, green | | |
| comments | Unusual delicately coloured, sweetly scented bi-tone. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks from late April to early June. | | |
| suppliers | 7, 10 | | |



| 'Fierce Fire' AGM (H4) 1994 | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---------|---|
| height | 60cm | flowers | 4 |
| foliage | 44 x 2.5cm erect, glaucous | | |
| comments | Yellow and brown-red variegata. Flowers for 3 weeks between late April and late May. Remontant. | | |
| suppliers | 10 | | |



| 'Fritillary Flight' AGM (H4) 1998 | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------|-----|
| height | 65cm | flowers | 4-5 |
| foliage | 55 x 3.3cm erect, green | | |
| comments | Cream and ochre bi-colour. Flowers for 3 weeks between early May and early June. Remontant. | | |
| suppliers | 7, 10 | | |



| 'Happy Mood' AGM (H4) 1993 | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---------|---|
| height | 58cm | flowers | 5 |
| foliage | 56 x 3.5cm erect, green-glaucous | | |
| comments | Soft blue on white plicata. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between late April and early June. | | |
| suppliers | 1, 3, 6 | | |



| 'Honeyplac' AGM (H4) 2001 | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------|---|
| height | 46cm | flowers | 4 |
| foliage | 40 x 2.8cm erect, glaucous | | |
| comments | Honey on cream plicata. Flowers for 3 weeks between late April and late May. Remontant. | | |
| suppliers | 1, 11, 12 | | |



| 'Katie-Koo' AGM (H4) 1994 | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------|---|
| height | 55cm | flowers | 5 |
| foliage | 50 x 2-3cm erect, glaucous | | |
| comments | Lightly ruffled, sweetly scented, dark violet-purple flowers. Flowers for 3 weeks between early May and early June. | | |
| suppliers | 10 | | |



| 'Katie-Koo' AGM (H4) 1994 | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------|---|
| height | 55cm | flowers | 5 |
| foliage | 50 x 2-3cm erect, glaucous | | |
| comments | Lightly ruffled, sweetly scented, dark violet-purple flowers. Flowers for 3 weeks between early May and early June. | | |
| suppliers | 10 | | |

Suppliers as of 2007

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Aulden Farm | 4 British Iris Society | 7 Crocus.co.uk | 10 Kelways Ltd |
| 2 Beggars Roost Plants | 5 Broadleigh Gardens | 8 Icenis Iris Garden | 11 Seagate Irises |
| 3 Breezy Knees Nurseries | 6 Claire Austin Hardy Plants | 9 Iris of Sissinghurst | 12 The Iris Garden |

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED Height: 41 – 70cm Flowers/spike: 4 – 5 Flower diameter: 10 – 13cm



| 'Langport Wren' AGM (H4) 1998 | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------|
| height | 65cm | flowers 4 |
| foliage | 60 x 4cm erect, green-glaucous | |
| comments | Deep claret red self with contrasting bronze beard, very floriferous. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks, mid April to mid June. | |
| suppliers | 1, 5, 10, 11 | |

| 'Raspberry Blush' AGM (H4) 1994 | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------|
| height | 60cm | flowers 4 |
| foliage | 50-60 x 2cm erect, glaucous | |
| comments | Raspberry pink bi-tone with contrasting deep orange beards. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between late April and early June. | |
| suppliers | 1, 6, 10 | |



| 'Magic Bubbles' AGM (H4) 2001 | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------|
| height | 61cm | flowers 4-5 |
| foliage | 55 x 3cm erect, glaucous | |
| comments | Ruffled and laced coral pink flowers, very floriferous. Flowers for 3 weeks between late April and late May. Remontant. | |
| suppliers | 12 | |

| 'Shirley Chandler' AGM (H4) 2007 | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------|
| height | 68cm | flowers 4 |
| foliage | 56 x 3.8cm erect, green | |
| comments | White and orange amoena. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between late April and mid June. | |
| suppliers | 9 | |



| 'Mary Constance' AGM (H4) 1998 | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------|
| height | 60cm | flowers 4-5 |
| foliage | 50 x 3.5cm erect, glaucous | |
| comments | Ruffled violet blue self. Flowers for 3 weeks between mid April and early June. | |
| suppliers | 10 | |

| 'Stinger' AGM (H4) 2001 | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------|
| height | 58cm | flowers 4-5 |
| foliage | 55 x 2.5cm erect, green-glaucous | |
| comments | Space Age. Violet on yellow plicata, dark yellow beards ending in deep purple horns. Flowers for 3 weeks, late April to early June. | |
| suppliers | 12 | |



| 'Maui Moonlight' AGM (H4) 1994 | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------|
| height | 65cm | flowers 5 |
| foliage | 60 x 2cm erect, glaucous | |
| comments | Lightly ruffled pale lemon self with a light sweet scent. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks, late April to early June. | |
| suppliers | 1, 10, 11 | |

| 'Sunny Dawn' AGM (H4) 1995 | | |
|----------------------------|--|-----------|
| height | 60cm | flowers 4 |
| foliage | 50 x 3cm green-glaucous | |
| comments | Yellow-orange bicolor with conspicuous bright orange beards and a light fragrance. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between late April and mid June. | |
| suppliers | 10 | |



| 'Prince of Burgundy' AGM (H4) 2001 | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| height | 56cm | flowers 4 |
| foliage | 52 x 3cm erect, glaucous | |
| comments | Dark burgundy on white plicata. Flowers for 3 weeks between late April and early June. Remontant. | |
| suppliers | 6 | |

| 'Templecloud' AGM (H4) 1995 | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------|
| height | 60cm | flowers 4 |
| foliage | 55 x 3.5cm erect, green | |
| comments | Pale blue and violet-purple, lightly ruffled, neglecta, very floriferous. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between late April and mid June. | |
| suppliers | 2, 7, 10 | |



Selection guide

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED Height: 41 – 70cm Flowers/spike: 7 or more Flower diameter: 5 – 8cm



| 'Apricot Drops' AGM (H4) 2004 | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| height | 66cm flowers 7 |
| foliage | 54 x 2cm erect, glaucous |
| comments | Soft peachy orange self, very floriferous. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between late April to early June. |
| suppliers | 1, 6, 9, 11 |

| 'Enriched' AGM (H4) 2007 | |
|--------------------------|---|
| height | 54cm flowers 7 |
| foliage | 34 x 3.3cm erect, green |
| comments | Soft yellow over lavender bi-colour. Compact and floriferous. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between late April and early June. |
| suppliers | 10, 12 |



| 'Bangles' AGM (H4) 2007 | |
|-------------------------|--|
| height | 60cm flowers 7 |
| foliage | 49 x 3cm erect, green-glaucous |
| comments | Robust small lavender-blue/rose flowers produced in profusion. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between late April to mid June. Remontant. |
| suppliers | 6, 11, 12 |

| 'Headcorn' AGM (H4) 2004 | |
|--------------------------|---|
| height | 64cm flowers 7 |
| foliage | 60 x 3.3cm erect, green-glaucous |
| comments | Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between early May and mid June. Remontant. |
| suppliers | 1, 9, 12 |



| 'Bumblebee Deelite' AGM (H4) 2001 | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| height | 66cm flowers 7-10 |
| foliage | 45 x 3.5cm arching, low-growing green foliage |
| comments | Neat floriferous yellow/maroon variegata, flowers later than most MTBs. Flowers for 3 weeks between late May to mid-late June. |
| suppliers | 6, 10 |

| 'Loose Valley' AGM (H4) 2001 | |
|------------------------------|---|
| height | 62cm flowers 7 |
| foliage | 44 x 3cm arching, glaucous |
| comments | Yellow/brown plicata. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks, early May to mid June. Remontant as late as November. |
| suppliers | 1, 9 |



| 'Carolyn Rose' AGM (H4) 1998 | |
|------------------------------|---|
| height | 58cm flowers 9 |
| foliage | 40 x 2.5cm erect, green-glaucous |
| comments | Delicate pale pink on white plicata. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between early May and mid June. |
| suppliers | 3 |

| 'Lucy's Gift' AGM (H4) 2004 | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| height | 61cm flowers 8 |
| foliage | 50 x 2cm erect, green |
| comments | Violet on white plicata, contrasting conspicuous golden beard, very floriferous. Flowers for 3 weeks, mid May to mid June. |
| suppliers | 1, 12 |



| 'Chickee' AGM (H4) 2001 | |
|-------------------------|--|
| height | 56cm flowers 7 |
| foliage | 52 x 3cm arching, green |
| comments | Bright yellow self. Flowers for 3 weeks between late April and mid June. |
| suppliers | 10 |

| 'Medway Valley' AGM (H4) 2004 | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| height | 55cm flowers 7 |
| foliage | 31 x 2cm erect, glaucous |
| comments | Very floriferous. Flowers for 3 weeks between early May to early-mid June. Remontant as late as November. |
| suppliers | 1, 6, 9 |



Suppliers as of 2007

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Aulden Farm | 4 British Iris Society | 7 Crocus.co.uk | 10 Kelways Ltd |
| 2 Beggars Roost Plants | 5 Broadleigh Gardens | 8 Icenis Iris Garden | 11 Seagate Irises |
| 3 Breezy Knees Nurseries | 6 Claire Austin Hardy Plants | 9 Iris of Sissinghurst | 12 The Iris Garden |

BORDER BEARDED Height: 41 – 70cm Flowers/spike: 6 or more Flower diameter: 10 – 13cm



'Allison Elizabeth' AGM (H4) 2004

| | | | |
|-----------|--|---------|---|
| height | 65cm | flowers | 6 |
| foliage | 60 x 3.5cm erect, green | | |
| comments | Lavender-pink self with conspicuous orange beard. Flowers for 3 weeks between early May and mid-late June. | | |
| suppliers | 1, 9 | | |



'Maui Surf' AGM (H4) 2004

| | | | |
|-----------|--|---------|---|
| height | 65cm | flowers | 8 |
| foliage | 62 x 3cm erect, green-glaucous | | |
| comments | Heavily ruffled, light blue self. Flowers for 3 weeks between mid May and mid – late June. | | |
| suppliers | 1 | | |



'Blackbeard' AGM (H4) 1998

| | | | |
|-----------|--|---------|---|
| height | 65cm | flowers | 6 |
| foliage | 50 x 3.3cm erect, green-glaucous | | |
| comments | Floriferous sky blue self with conspicuous dark blue beards. Flowers for 3 weeks, early May and mid-late June. | | |
| suppliers | 6 | | |



'Orinoco Flow' AGM (H4) 1995

| | | | |
|-----------|---|---------|---|
| height | 70cm | flowers | 6 |
| foliage | 55 x 2.5cm erect, glaucous | | |
| comments | Ruffled lilac on white plicata, heavily scented. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between mid May to mid-late June. | | |
| suppliers | 6, 10, 11 | | |



'Cranapple' AGM (H4) 2001

| | | | |
|-----------|--|---------|---|
| height | 61cm | flowers | 6 |
| foliage | 44 x 3.2cm erect, green | | |
| comments | Red-brown self, scented, very vigorous, multiplies well. Flowers for 3 weeks between early May and early June. | | |
| suppliers | 1, 6, 12 | | |



'Pink Parchment' AGM (H4) 1995

| | | | |
|-----------|---|---------|---|
| height | 65cm | flowers | 9 |
| foliage | 60 x 4cm erect, green-glaucous | | |
| comments | Ruffled dusky pink flowers with conspicuous orange beards, slight sweet scent. Flowers for 3 weeks, mid May to mid-late June. | | |
| suppliers | 4, 10 | | |



'Dark Rosaleen' AGM (H4) 1993

| | | | |
|-----------|--|---------|---|
| height | 70cm | flowers | 6 |
| foliage | 60 x 3.5cm erect, green-glaucous | | |
| comments | Velvety, deep plummy purple self. Flowers for 3 weeks between mid May and mid June. Remontant. | | |
| suppliers | 3 | | |



'Princess Bride' AGM (H4) 2007

| | | | |
|-----------|---|---------|---|
| height | 93cm | flowers | 7 |
| foliage | 67 x 4cm erect, green | | |
| comments | Flowered above usual height for its class at Wisley. Very floriferous, soft creamy yellow self. Flowers for 3 weeks, early May to mid June. | | |
| suppliers | 10, 12 | | |



'Elegant Lass' AGM (H4) 2007

| | | | |
|-----------|--|---------|---|
| height | 57cm | flowers | 6 |
| foliage | 49 x 3.3cm arching, green foliage | | |
| comments | Floriferous, white/lilac amoena. Flowers for 3 weeks, late April to early June. Remontant as late as October/November. | | |
| suppliers | 10, 12 | | |



'Prudy' AGM (H4) 1998

| | | | |
|-----------|---|---------|-----|
| height | 70cm | flowers | 6-7 |
| foliage | 50 x 4cm erect, glaucous | | |
| comments | Pale lilac and rich purple neglecta. Flowers for 3 weeks between mid May and mid-late June. | | |
| suppliers | 10 | | |

Selection guide

TALL BEARDED Height: Above 70cm Flowers/spike: 7 or more Flower diameter: 10 – 20cm



'Alizes' AGM (H4) 2000

height 78cm **flowers** 8

foliage 65 x 5cm erect, green

comments White and blue amoena. Flowers for 3 weeks between mid-late May and mid June.

suppliers 6, 11



'Ambroisie' AGM (H4) 2006

height 103cm **flowers** 7

foliage 77 x 4.5cm erect, green-glaucous

comments Ruffled raspberry pink self. Flowers for 3 weeks, late May to mid-late June.

suppliers 4, 11, 12



'Andalou' AGM (H4) 2006

height 92cm **flowers** 7

foliage 76 x 3cm erect, glaucous

comments Variegata with bright yellow standards over velvety red falls, conspicuous, yellow beards. Lemon scented. Flowers between mid-late May and mid June.

suppliers 4, 11



'Black Sargent' AGM (H4) 2000

height 75cm **flowers** 7

foliage 45 x 4.5cm erect, green

comments Compact, dark plummy purple self. Flowers for 3 weeks between mid-late May and mid June.

suppliers 10



'Brave New World' AGM (H4) 2006

height 106cm **flowers** 9

foliage 60 x 5.5cm erect, glaucous

comments Space Age ruffled lavender white flowers, orange-yellow beards extend to lavender horns. Lemon scented. Flowers for 3 weeks, late May to mid-late June.

suppliers 12



'Cream Soda' AGM (H4) 1996

height 80cm **flowers** 8

foliage 50 x 4cm erect, glaucous

comments Pale creamy yellow self. Flowers for 3 weeks between late May and Mid June.

suppliers 4, 10

'Dawning' AGM (H4) 2006

height 91cm **flowers** 7

foliage 60 x 4.5cm erect, glaucous

comments Ruffled, pale lemon-orange flowers. Flowers for 3 weeks between late May and mid June.

suppliers 4, 11, 12

'Dwight Enys' AGM (H4) 2000

height 100cm **flowers** 7

foliage 66 x 4.5cm erect, green-glaucous

comments Darker variegata and slightly later to flower than 'Andalou'. Flowers for 3 weeks, late May to mid June.

suppliers 10

'Early Light' AGM (H4) 1993

height 95cm **flowers** 8

foliage 60 x 4cm erect, green, glaucous

comments Flowers for 3 weeks between late May and mid June.

suppliers 6, 11

'Eileen Louise' AGM (H4) 2000

height 90cm **flowers** 8

foliage 75 x 4cm erect, glaucous

comments Lovely scented. Flowers for 3 weeks between late May-early June and mid-late June.

suppliers 6

Suppliers as of 2007

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Aulden Farm | 4 British Iris Society | 7 Crocus.co.uk | 10 Kelways Ltd |
| 2 Beggars Roost Plants | 5 Broadleigh Gardens | 8 Icenis Iris Garden | 11 Seagate Irises |
| 3 Breezy Knees Nurseries | 6 Claire Austin Hardy Plants | 9 Iris of Sissinghurst | 12 The Iris Garden |

TALL BEARDED Height: Above 70cm Flowers/spike: 7 or more Flower diameter: 10 – 20cm



| 'Feu du Ciel' AGM (H4) 2003 | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------|
| height | 95cm | flowers 7 |
| foliage | 60 x 4cm erect, glaucous | |
| comments | Vivid orange self, chocolate scented. Flowers for 3 weeks between late May and mid June. | |
| suppliers | 11 | |

| 'Iced Tea' AGM (H4) 2006 | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------|
| height | 80cm | flowers 7 |
| foliage | 69 x 3.5cm erect, green-glaucous | |
| comments | Unusual colour blend, small neat flowers. Flowers for 3 weeks between late May and mid-late June. | |
| suppliers | 4, 12 | |



| 'Frosted Biscuit' AGM (H4) 2003 | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------|
| height | 136cm | flowers 9 |
| foliage | 82 x 5cm erect, glaucous | |
| comments | Very tall, cream over buff amoena with conspicuous orange beards. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between mid-late May and mid-late June. | |
| suppliers | 10 | |

| 'Janine Louise' AGM (H4) 2000 | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------------|
| height | 90cm | flowers 10 |
| foliage | 55 x 4cm erect, glaucous | |
| comments | Violet-pink self with conspicuous contrasting orange beards. Flowers for 3 weeks between late May and mid June. | |
| suppliers | 10 | |



| 'Handshake' AGM (H4) 2006 | | |
|---------------------------|---|--------------|
| height | 80cm | flowers 7-10 |
| foliage | 66 x 5cm arching, green-glaucous | |
| comments | Violet-blue plicata. Flowers for 3 weeks between mid-late May and early-mid June. | |
| suppliers | 12 | |

| 'Kiss of Summer' AGM (H4) 2006 | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------|
| height | 105cm | flowers 9 |
| foliage | 83 x 5cm arching, glaucous | |
| comments | Ruffled pale yellow self. Flowers between late May and mid-late June. | |
| suppliers | 4, 11 | |



| 'Hello Darkness' AGM (H4) 2003 | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------|
| height | 106cm | flowers 9 |
| foliage | 72 x 4cm erect, glaucous | |
| comments | Dark purple almost black self. Flowers for 3 weeks between mid-late May and early-mid June. | |
| suppliers | 6, 11, 12 | |

| 'Lark Rise' AGM (H4) 2000 | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------|
| height | 100cm | flowers 9 |
| foliage | 80 x 5cm erect, green | |
| comments | Ruffled cool white and pale blue amoena. Flowers for 3 weeks between late May and mid June. | |
| suppliers | 4, 10 | |



| 'High Roller' AGM (H4) 2006 | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------|
| height | 90cm | flowers 9 |
| foliage | 70 x 3.5cm arching, green | |
| comments | Large, ruffled pink-tan self with conspicuous yellow-orange beards. Flowers for 3 weeks between late May and mid-late June. | |
| suppliers | 4, 12 | |

| 'Nora Eileen' AGM (H4) 2006 | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------|
| height | 98cm | flowers 8 |
| foliage | 68 x 4.2cm arching, green-glaucous | |
| comments | Heavily ruffled magenta self with contrasting violet blue beard, lovely scent. Flowers for 3 weeks between late May and mid June. | |
| suppliers | 4, 10 | |



Selection guide

TALL BEARDED Height: Above 70cm Flowers/spike: 7 or more Flower diameter: 10 – 20cm



| 'Queen's Circle' AGM (H4) 2006 | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------|
| height | 87cm | flowers 8 |
| foliage | 64 x 5.2cm semi-erect, glaucous | |
| comments | Ruffled white standards and falls, contrasting blue margin to falls, with orange beards. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks, mid-late May to mid-late June. | |
| suppliers | 4, 12 | |



| 'Reg Wall' AGM (H4) 2006 | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------|
| height | 86cm | flowers 10 |
| foliage | 92 x 5.5cm arching, glaucous | |
| comments | Deep violet purple self, lovely scent. Flowers for 3 to 4 weeks between mid-late May and mid-late June. | |
| suppliers | 8 | |



| 'Shurton Princess' AGM (H4) 2006 | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------|
| height | 88cm | flowers 9 |
| foliage | 70 x 3.5cm erect, glaucous | |
| comments | Ruffled soft lilac self, vanilla scented. Flowers for 3 weeks between late May and mid-late June. | |
| suppliers | 10, 12 | |



| 'Shurton Sunrise' AGM (H4) 2006 | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------|
| height | 75cm | flowers 7 |
| foliage | 73 x 4cm arching, glaucous | |
| comments | Small, neat ruffled flowers. Flowers for 3 weeks between late May and mid June. | |
| suppliers | 10, 12 | |



| 'Somerset Blue' AGM (H4) 2000 | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------|
| height | 97cm | flowers 7 |
| foliage | 58 x 5.5cm erect, glaucous | |
| comments | Ruffled bright blue self. Flowers for 2 to 3 weeks from early to mid-late June. | |
| suppliers | 4, 6, 10 | |



| 'Winter Crystal' AGM (H4) 2003 | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------|
| height | 100cm | flowers 7 |
| foliage | 78 x 4.1cm erect, glaucous | |
| comments | Ruffled white self. Flowers for 3 weeks between late May and mid June. | |
| suppliers | 4, 10 | |



| 'Stoke Courcy' AGM (H4) 2006 | | |
|------------------------------|--|-----------|
| height | 95cm | flowers 8 |
| foliage | 80 x 4cm erect, green | |
| comments | Purple-violet on white plicata. Flowers for 3 weeks from late May to mid June. | |
| suppliers | 10, 12 | |

| 'Stoke Courcy' AGM (H4) 2006 | | |
|------------------------------|--|-----------|
| height | 95cm | flowers 8 |
| foliage | 80 x 4cm erect, green | |
| comments | Purple-violet on white plicata. Flowers for 3 weeks from late May to mid June. | |
| suppliers | 10, 12 | |

| 'Thornbird' AGM (H4) 2000 | | |
|---------------------------|--|-----------|
| height | 100cm | flowers 7 |
| foliage | 75 x 2.5cm erect, green-glaucous | |
| comments | Space Age, pale yellow standard, tan falls, beard mustard tipped with long purple horn. Flowers for 3 weeks, late May to mid June. | |
| suppliers | 6, 11 | |

| 'Tintinara' AGM (H4) 1993 | | |
|---------------------------|--|-----------|
| height | 98cm | flowers 8 |
| foliage | 70 x 3.5cm erect, glaucous | |
| comments | Ruffled red-brown self with dash of violet below beard. Flowers for 3 weeks between late May and mid June. | |
| suppliers | 10 | |

| 'Tom Johnson' AGM (H4) 2006 | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------|
| height | 86cm | flowers 9 |
| foliage | 66 x 4cm erect, green | |
| comments | Small violet flowers with conspicuous, contrasting bright orange beard. Flowers for 3 weeks, mid May and mid June. | |
| suppliers | 6, 12 | |

| 'Winter Crystal' AGM (H4) 2003 | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------|
| height | 100cm | flowers 7 |
| foliage | 78 x 4.1cm erect, glaucous | |
| comments | Ruffled white self. Flowers for 3 weeks between late May and mid June. | |
| suppliers | 4, 10 | |





Joint Iris Committee

Responsible for assessing and judging the trials, the Joint Iris Committee is made up of plantsmen, nurserymen and iris enthusiasts who give their time voluntarily to promote garden plants for gardeners. The Committee includes representatives of the RHS and the British Iris Society.

Chairman: Cy Bartlett (RHS)
Vice Chairman: Sheila Ecklin (BIS)

RHS Representatives:
 Albert Bailey Anne Blanco White
 Sidney Linnegar Brian Mathew
 Thelma Naylor David Root
 Clive Russell Lady Skelmersdale

BIS Representatives:
 Berney Baughen Barry Emmerson
 Ken Macleod Peter Maynard
 Ian Smith Chris Towers
 Olga Wells Alun Whitehead

Secretary: Dr Christopher Whitehouse

Registration of Iris cultivar names:

The American Iris Society (AIS) is the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for rhizomatous irises and the AIS Registrar rules on acceptable names and issues certificates of registration. Applications to register British-bred irises are made through the British Iris Society (BIS) Registrar: Mrs Jennifer Hewitt, Haygarth, Cleeton St Mary, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster DY14 0QU.

Senders of plants to the trial

Kelways Ltd, The Iris Garden, A R J Bailey, C E C Bartlett, B C Baughen, B L C Dodsworth, B Emmerson, S Linnegar, P R Maynard, J K Macleod, Mrs T J Naylor, Mrs J M Nichol, Mr B P Price, Mrs M Probert, Miss N K Scopes, I Smith, Ms C Taylor, C W Welch, Mrs O Wells

Iris suppliers:

Aulden Farm, Aulden, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0JT, www.auldenfarm.co.uk
 Beggars Roost Plants, Lilstock, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 1SU, www.beggarsroostplants.co.uk
 Breezy Knees Nurseries, Common Lane, Warthill, York YO19 5XS, www.breezyknees.co.uk
 Broadleigh Gardens, Bishops Hull, Taunton, Somerset TA4 1AE, www.broadleighbulbs.co.uk

Claire Austin Hardy Plants, Edgebolton, Shawbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 4EL, www.claireaustenhardyplants.co.uk

www.crocus.co.uk, Windlesham, Surrey GU20 6LQ

Iceni Iris Garden, 24 Seaward Avenue, Leiston, Suffolk IP16 4BB

Iris of Sissinghurst, Roughlands Farm, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9NH, www.irisofsissinghurst.com

Kelways Ltd, Langport, Somerset TA10 9EZ, www.kelways.co.uk

Seagate Irises, A17 Long Sutton By-Pass, Long Sutton, Lincolnshire PE12 9RX, www.irises.co.uk

The Iris Garden, Yard House, Pilsdon, Bridport DT6 5PA www.theirsgarden.co.uk

British Iris Society, Membership Plant Sales, www.britisshirissociety.org.uk

Acknowledgements

Cy Bartlett retired Vice Principal of Cannington College has been an active grower and breeder of Iris since the early 1960s. He joined the British Iris Society in 1961 and is currently a Vice President. He has been chairing the Joint Iris Committee since 1997. Cy has bred many bearded and beardless irises, a good number of which have been awarded the RHS Award of Garden Merit with three receiving the coveted British Dykes Medal, including 'Orinoco Flow', a border bearded iris that can currently be seen in the trials at Wisley.

Illustrations by Niki Simpson www.nikisimpson.co.uk

Photographs by Alison Cundy.

Many thanks to Rebecca Dowling, Senior Gardener, who has cared for the Bearded Iris over the last four years and also to other members of the trials curatorial team who have assisted in maintaining these trials.

Further reading

Austin, C. (2004) *Iris the classic bearded varieties*. Quadrille Publishing Ltd

Austin, C. (2005) *Irises a Garden Encyclopedia*. Timber Press, Inc.

Cassidy, G.E. & Linnegar, S. (1982) *Growing Irises*. Christopher Helm (Publishers) Ltd, London.

Linnegar, Sidney & Hewitt, Jennifer (1990). *The Royal Horticultural Society Wisley Handbook on Irises*. Cassell Educational Ltd

Mathew, B. (1990) *The Iris*. Timber Press, Inc
 British Iris Society, *Irises in your Garden Part 1 Bearded Irises – a guide to more successful growing*

Societies and websites

British Iris Society membership enquiries should be addressed to the Enrolment Secretary, Mrs S Ecklin, 1 Sole Farm Close, Great Bookham, Surrey KT23 3ED, www.britisshirissociety.org.uk


The American Iris Society, www.irises.org

The Royal Horticultural Society

The RHS is the UK's leading gardening charity dedicated to advancing horticulture and promoting good gardening. Its charitable work includes providing expert advice and information, advancing horticulture, training the next generation of gardeners, helping school children learn about plants, and conducting research into plants, pests and environmental issues affecting gardeners. The RHS AGM plant trial scheme is an important part of this work.

The RHS receives no government grants and for every pound received from members' subscriptions we need to raise more than twice as much again to fund our charitable work. We also rely on donations and sponsorship to supplement income from our garden operations, flower shows, shops and plant centres.

RHS Plant Trials

With so many different types of gardener and so many different cultivars available to them in each group of plants, it is important that a system of recommendation is in place to help with selection at point of sale. These recommendations must be clear and reliable to ensure that of the thousands of plants available in the UK, a proportion are known to be excellent garden plants. The RHS provides this information through its extensive programme of plant trials held at RHS gardens in the UK. The RHS Award of Garden Merit  signifies the selection of the best cultivars for general garden use.

RHS plant trials serve the professional gardener who wants to know the range of plants available, including the latest breeding and selection programmes, with their distinctive characteristics and provenance. They also serve the amateur who wants to know which plants will grow and perform well in a particular garden situation.

The RHS has an unrivalled resource of knowledge and expertise and is therefore best placed to conduct plant trials for the UK gardening market.

RHS Herbarium

The RHS Herbarium keeps a record of cultivars from many trials as dried specimens with detailed descriptions and photographic images. This forms an important reference for the horticultural industry. Any new cultivars are highlighted and a Standard specimen is preserved and described.

The RHS Herbarium, stored at RHS Garden Wisley, is the largest active horticultural herbarium in the world. At present the collection contains about 80,000 herbarium specimens and over 30,000 images of plants. Material is actively collected from a wide spectrum of sources including RHS plant trials.

RHS Bulletins

Begonia Rex Cultorum Group: February 2007
Canna: September 2003
Daisies (yellow, perennial): September 2004
Delphinium: June 2004
Fuchsia (hardy): December 2005
Geraniums (hardy) Stage 1: June 2005
Geraniums (hardy) Stage 2: June 2006
Hyacinthaceae (little blue bulbs): September 2005
Lavenders (hardy): July 2003
Miscanthus: October 2004
Potentilla (shrubby): July 2002
Rhododendron yakushimanum & hybrids: May 2006
Peppers (sweet): November 2006
Potatoes (salad): November 2004
Saxifrages (silver): May 2005
Spiraea japonica (with coloured leaves): November 2003

These bulletins can be viewed at a larger size on the RHS Website:

www.rhs.org.uk/plants/trials_bulletins.asp

RHS Plant Assessments

The first of what will become a series of online publications, to complement the *RHS Plant Trials and Awards* series, was published in July 2006:

Pittosporum tenuifolium hybrids & cultivars

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www.rhs.org.uk/plants/

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ISSN: 1477-9153 (print)

ISSN: 1447-9161 (online)