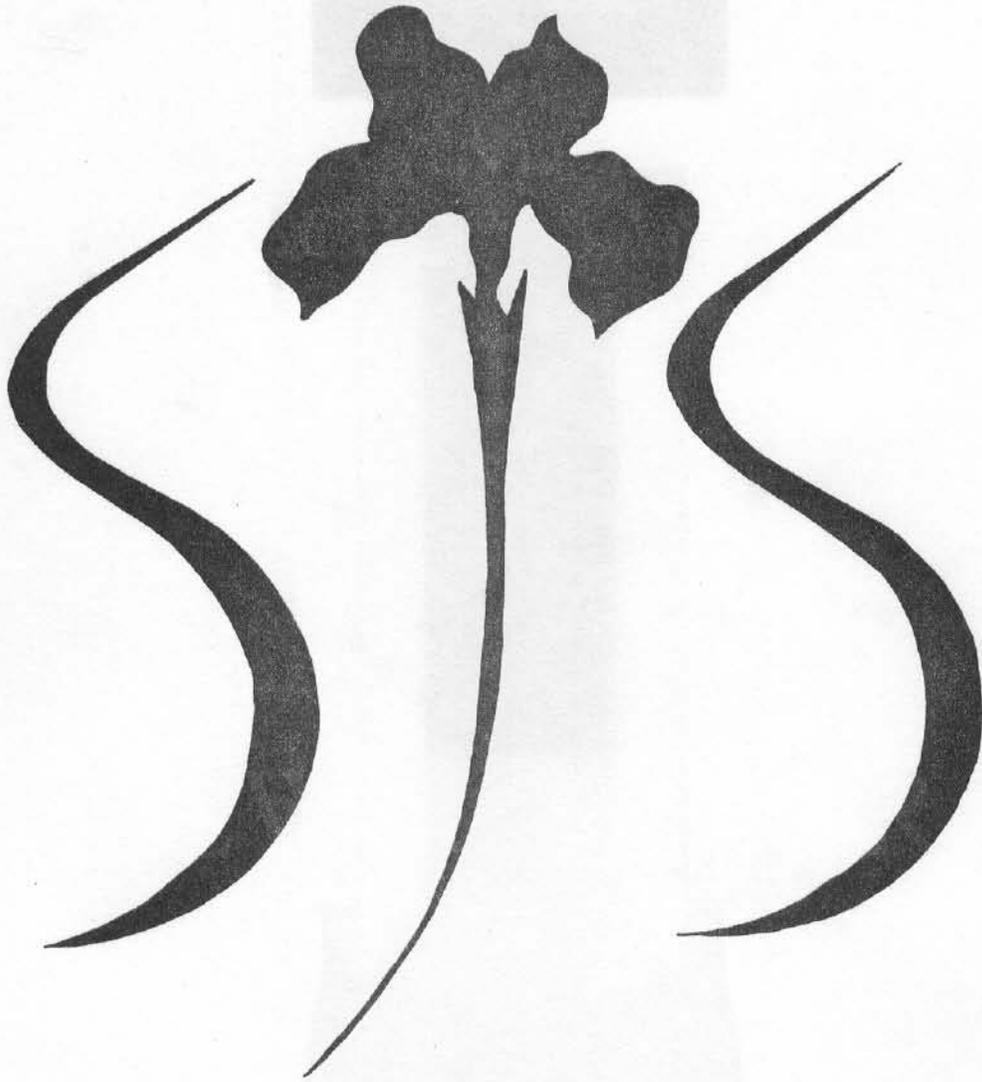


NEWSLETTER



OF THE

SIBERIAN SPURIA AND JAPANESE GROUP
(INCLUDING PACIFICAS AND WATER IRIS)

B.I.S.

The Objects of the Group.

1. Communication between Members in Great Britain and Overseas.
2. A means of exchanging ideas, plants and seeds etc.
3. To assist beginners in growing Irises and to help them with problems.
4. To report on Hybridisation.

The Group's Officers.

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West Midland Area..... Mr. Philip Allery, 199, Walsall Rd. ALDRIDGE. Nr. WALSALL.
Staffs. WS9 OBE.

We have now added 'Water Irises' to our heading, having sold plants and seeds for some considerable time, also included them in many articles, it seemed the natural thing to do, they are so rewarding, especially in dry weather.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1990/91 are now due please, we have still maintained them at £1.50p. unfortunately with such a big increase in postage, it will have to be £2 for 1991/92.

The work behind the scenes, as it were, means a lot of letter writing etc. this is the item that must be considered, hope you understand.

Please do not lose sight of the fact that in order to get the Newsletter out in early July copy and articles etc. must be received by 20th June, repeat, 20th June. And for the February Newsletter by the 20th January repeat the 20th January. Otherwise I regret, they will not be included.

Finally we have been promised plants, including Water Iris, so if you like to send a S.A.E. later on, say, around October, I should be able to send you a list. Regret all plants sold this year, very good for the funds.

Editorial.

'If you are thinking a year ahead, sow seed.

If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant a tree.

If you are thinking one hundred years ahead, make the people aware.

By sowing seed once, you will harvest once.

By planting a tree, you will harvest tenfold.

By opening the minds of people, you will harvest one hundredfold...

A quote taken from the World Development Movement, in response to the One World Broadcast

May 1990.

Seeds sent in to the Group are then distributed to many parts of the World. I am sure we are keeping the continuity and conservation of our Irises, besides I find seed-sowing and watching them grow is great fun, I hope you do to!!!

We have had a 'mixed bag of weather' here in the North East Midlands. Very warm in March and early April, bringing Pacificas out on May 1st. (You may notice that I am using Pacificas, Ray tells me this is the usual thing now, a lot easier to type!!!). 'Holden Clough' also bloomed. Late April, snow and hail, very cold nights. Once again the Pond Irises came through best, laevigatas, pseudacorus and our old friend 'Gerald Darby' (who took it into his head to 'walk' from the side of the pond to join the others) he is still flowering.

Spuria Irises have 'pride of place' in this Newsletter, with Pacificas close behind, and, of course your letters and reports.

Your Committee have great pleasure in announcing that Dr. Currier McEwen has consented to be our first Hon. Life Member. We acknowledge his work with Sibiricas and now Japanese Irises, also his generosity in sending his cultivars for the Wisley Trial grounds, and his continued support of our Group from its very beginning. Thank you Currier for your long and dedicated work.

The following New Members are warmly welcomed:-

At Home.

Dr. D. Attewell, Hackman's House Nr. Stourbridge. Mrs. P.M. Bonsfield, Penrith Cumbria.
Mr. J. Carter, Rowden Gdns. Tavistock. Devon. Mr. S. Dawes, Wilford Lane, Wilford. Notts.
Mr. & Mrs. D.F. Edwards, Taverham. Norwich. Mr. & Mrs. Frith, Exhall. Coventry.
Mr. K. Gott, Anderton Nurseries Nr. Preston. Mr. & Mrs. J. Hart, Bradgate Nurseries, Leics.
Mr. A.B. Higgins, Royden, Harlow. Essex. Miss E. Hurrell, Moorgate, South Brent Devon.
Mr. D.A. Kimmings, Doddington Park. Lincs. Mrs. H. Relf, Maidstone. Kent.
Mrs. O.A. Wells, Maidstone. Kent. Mr. S.R.K. Wheatley, Duns. Berwickshire.
Mr. D. Wheatcroft, 'Shrubs Ltd', Ruddington. Notts. Mrs. J. Young, Wheatley. Oxon.

Overseas.

Mr. H. Brooking, Wisconsin. U.S.A. Mrs. I. Brolin, Hoerby. Sweden.
Denver Botanic Gardens. U.S.A. Dr. & Mrs. J. de la Hayze, Middleburg Holland.
Mr. C. Lidner, Lidingo. Sweden. Mr. P. Litfors, Stockholm. Sweden.
Mr. A. Morency, Quebec Canada.

You will find full details and addresses at the end of the Newsletter, We hope that you will all enjoy reading our N/L, and that before long you will be writing in and telling us of your gardens, if you are already growing Irises, and how they grow in your part of the World. We did a quick check on the map, now that our boundaries are extending for 'lines of latitude', we found Sweden furthest North (59), E. Germany next (54), no Nairn is 58, Nottingham next (53), Berlin (52/53), London (51/52), Canada (50), our friend in France (46), Maine and Wisconsin (44/45), Virginia and California (33/35). Of course there are many other factors, you may live on the side of a mountain or in a valley, and the soil!!! there is another long story, but it would be interesting to hear which of our Irises you can grow in your 'neck of the woods'???

Many thanks to all those who sent in seeds and plants to support the Group, please keep up the good work this year, we refund postage on all parcels of plants.

Congratulations to all who were successful in winning awards at the rather depleted Shows. Maybe next year the weather will be in our favour.

At the moment we are recovering from a violent hail storm, stones as big as golf balls damaging leaves, roses and plants as well. Further North at Ollerton, greenhouses were smashed and a man was injured, so we did not have it quite as bad as that, it is a good thing we are a hardy race.

Have a good Iris gardening year

Joan Trevithick.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER.

Dear Members, Even by British standards the weather over the past few years has become much less predictable than usual, and there are some signs which could point to a major shift in the general pattern. There is also the threat that we could be at the threshold of global warming.

Whatever does happen in the future, all of us will have noticed changes in our own gardens as plants respond, in various ways, to a warmer, early spring following a milder than average winter and changes in the rainfall. In my own garden the Spurias have flowered so abnormally early and rapidly that I missed the bulk of the flowering, by being away for the mid-May fortnight.

In these circumstances it is obviously advantageous to have as much diversity in the garden as is practicable, both in the varieties of plants grown, and the range within a particular species, to optimise the results in terms of spreading the flowering time and having something of interest to see, whatever the weather does.

While warmer sunnier periods will generally suit most Iris, but not all, providing water is available in sufficient quantity when required, in a scenario of much more unsettled weather, it is quite certain that though the individual garden displays may be better than average, the timings will be more variable. This will pose a greater ^{problem} than ever for specialist plant shows, since these have to be arranged well in advance and the shows themselves are an essential shopwindow for societies and groups involved.

Could I therefore ask you all to seize any opportunity to do a little publicity for our irises. Even if the weather does'nt happen to be a problem, the more people see and hear what range of irises is now available, the more interest and demand will be created. Of course, if you can also SELL some for your Group or the B.I.S.- so much the better.

You will see elsewhere in the N/L that the annual subscription will have to be raised. It is impossible to avoid these increases from time to time, in the face of steadily rising costs. With a lot of hard work, selling plants, and reducing running costs to a minimum, Joan has managed to run the group most economically, for the Member's benefit. Also, we must not forget David's part in assisting whenever possible. It would help if everyone could remember to pay their subscriptions on time.

May I wish everyone success in the garden, whatever your particular interest. Best Wishes.

Adrian Whittaker.

My Irises

by Freda Jones.

Freda writes that her love-affair with Irises began 60 years ago, when she saw the 'flags' in the suburban gardens, and grew some herself, in her pocket-hanky sized garden. After many years overseas, they moved to the Balsall Common part of Coventry, ten years ago. Freda continues 'we were thrilled to take over $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre from my father-in-law, but it only slowly dawned on me why we could never get anything much to grow. Rather, everything fell short of actually dying on us, but just 'sat & looked' no doubt being fully occupied with surviving. This was because this is a hungry, poor soil, sandy, stoney and dry, which had not had any humus on it for 25 years, and only spare handfuls of chemical fertilizers in the vegetable garden...none whatsoever in the flower beds. It has taken me all of 6 years to build up my T.B. bed (approx. 5x20ft) to the stage where it will produce blooms--this is the very first year that I am able to go out and gloat over the size and hues of the exotic blossoms. Next year, hopefully, with Mr. Sedgewick's help, I will have even more wonderful varieties of these glorious flowers.

I have also had a delightful show of Pacific Coast hybrids, including browns, lilacs, yellows, garnets and whites, most exquisitely marked. Visitors say 'I did not know you could grow 'orchids' outside. All grown from one packet of seed. Then there are the Siberians, in clumps throughout the herbaceous border, with these Jennifer is helping me to obtain variety, form and colour with some of her exotic cultivars. One named 'Papillich' has a very apt name, in a breeze they remind me of brightly coloured butterflies we used to see hovering over damp patches in the forest floor in Africa and Asia.

Also, I have a few Species, I. humilis (spuria), I. bucharica (juno), unguicularis and two others I have not yet been able to identify. I hope to add to them, and find it fascinating to collect them...

To my surprise I have a clump of Japanese Irises obviously supplied to me in error, I am sure I did not order them, but they certainly thrilled me to bits last

(cont.)

year by producing two pink flowers, more like Edinburgh Rock, and this year there are five fat buds on it. It is only growing in a border, under a Tree Paeony.

Jennifer also sent me some laevigatas for which a kind son-in-law built a special little pool, they are flowering, together with some pseudacorus which we rescued from the concrete in the bottom of a derelict pool. They had survived for 20 years, now they too have buds. How exciting it is to see them respond to a little T.L.C.

With all good wishes to you all, and good gardening.

(Thank you Freda you must feel very pleased with the results of your hard work. If you want to extend your range of Species, can I suggest you write to Mary Fraser, she is the Secretary of the Species Group, grows a lot herself. Her address is at the end of N/L)

Back to the Beach

by Peter Maynard.

It seems a long time now since your first visit here to Goring-by-Sea and I wrote the little piece which appeared in the Feb. 1989 N/L. Since then the remorseless weather pattern has continued to impress changes upon the garden. The long, hot, dry summer and the warm, dry autumn of 1989 was compounded here with a garden hosepipe ban, which was in fact not lifted until February 1990, and now in the first week in June 1990 has been re-imposed. The great gales of January and February 1990 which, unlike the hurricane of October 1987, were shared by many of you, here they were exacerbated by the carried salt spray which defoliated evergreen shrubs, while precocious emerging plants were damaged by flying fence panels. The severe late frosts of April which caused much damage north of the South Downs to Azaleas & Magnolias was certainly felt here. The developing flower buds of the P.C.I.'s were blighted and did not open. By far the worst affected were plants from seed of the Ghio strain, while the older Banbury series remained as vigorous and floriferous as ever, a contrast in behaviour probably related to the parentage, certainly I.douglasiana is far tougher than many of its relatives.

The only useful, howbeit expensive, effect of the winds and rain in January was the need to replace the felted roof of my workshop-cum-potting shed using a translucent twin-wall polycarbonate corrugated sheet. This has now proved an ideal place for raising young seedlings, a haven of warm peace from the wind and sun outside, both for the plants and for me. I suppose I could say that the hosepipe ban, which has necessitated carrying countless cans of water down the garden, constitutes a healthy exercise, but it does not sound very convincing...

Abundant light and warmth in early February produced one of the best displays of bulbous irids, such as Crocus and Romuleas that I have so far seen. The Romuleas are a diverse species occurring from sea-level to quite high places in Europe, in the Atlas Mts. of north Africa, reappearing again far south of the equator in southern Africa. They come easily from seed in a wide range of colours and sizes, they are most rewarding subjects for a cold greenhouse.

Outside, the bearded irises have flourished, from the dwarfs, starting Christmas Day through to the tall in mid-May. For the first time in several years we had upright stems of T.B.'s, a fine year for 'Bristol Gem' with its large flowers. We are trying out a series of Remontant dwarfs for John Weiler, they are doing very well, producing several nice stems in the autumn.

The sibiricas had a good year, although many of the early flower stems were short, probably through lack of water. We had a sizeable clump of 'Pink Haze' which collapsed and died in a few days with what looked to me like scorch. Certainly, when the clump was dug up there were none of the strong white, new roots which I would have expected to see. The variety 'Laurenbühl' was outstanding this year, flowering on tall stems held well above the foliage, unlike other years when the foliage has overtopped the flowers. With three buds to each stem, plus a two-budded spur, the flowering period is very long. In my opinion the falls are too narrow for the size of the flower, and hence lacks the garden impact of other modern cultivars.

On your last visit a pond was planned, it is now finished and planted. Frogs arrived, to be followed by tadpoles. A pair of mallards were promptly shooed away. The plants and fish have 'gone forth and multiplied'. Laevigatas and ensatas are in full flower now in mid-June, lengthening the iris season. The ensatas lost the big petals from the first of the flowers in a stiff sou-wester, but since then have done well, although the hot sun withers them in an hour. Attempts to flower modern Louisiana hybrids pace Bert Bailey have not been successful so far. Aphids like the juicy stems and Goring is not yet Torquay. My attempts to obtain some of the latest varieties of Japanese irises by the classical techniques open to covetous gardener, have so far failed, but I will persist. Perhaps you could bring one or two on your next visit here. (Thank you Peter, sorry to hear of your troubles, hope all is well now. We do have some ensata seed in the seed bank, if you like to try your hand, otherwise I hope someone is listening.) Joan.

From Scotland (March 1990)

by Jack Ashford.

You said write 'what about'... Irises??? Trouble is, when you've spent what seems an eternity teasing out sheep's sorrel and wack in a force '10' you come indoors, get your dinner and fall asleep.... Then there was that subsidiary greenhouse that didn't stand up to the battering and had to be re-built... Just in time, because the main greenhouse started shedding glass like autumn leaves... (This is all about why I don't often sit down to letter writing).... All that and the inevitable interruptions (as the Shetlanders say 'Aye somebody getting dorned, Aye somebody deeing')... Followed, in each case by the necessary imbibing of quantities of the 'water of life'.

Then came that day when the sun shone, the birds came out from hiding, we saw the plants had gone on growing, and that the year was further advanced than we thought.... PANIC!!!, but we'd be wise to stop and think!!! It seems to be accepted now that the Greenhouse Effect is becoming established.. That means more and more fierce winds and floods in winter. Summers will most likely be hot and dry.. Good for T.B's. and some Spurias, not so happy for the bog and water irises.

Our very own pseudacorus will survive, but not in those coastal areas on the West Coast where it does so well, even when regularly washed by the tides. A 4ft. rise in sea level will be a bit much, even for this tough character. I am not trying to alarm, but I do think that we will have to consider how we must adapt... Greenhouse construction and siting, storage of water for times of shortage, come to mind.... Hope that you are well prepared!... and, don't worry, it may never happen!!!

Good and successful gardening. Cheers.

(Cheers to you Jack, now we have heard it from the South and the North, it would be well to take heed. I have always been a regular 'saver of rainwater', what about you?)

In Memory.

We send our sincere and deepest sympathy to Ruth Conley in the death of her dear husband Donald. We hope that her garden and Irises will comfort her at this sad time.

Trevor Nottle's Letter from Australia.

My work with Spurias has gone ahead quietly and I continue to turn up a few rewarding plants each year. These are planted out in the garden and kept mainly for my own pleasure, though I do sell or give away plants from time to time. Since I sent you some pictures of 'David Ruston', 'Ice Falls', 'Sky Pilot' and 'Margaret's Dark Samite' several years ago I have added a very pleasing ruffled white which has a very circular form, a good dark yellow with a narrow cream border, a pale blue with a wide and heavy orange-yellow spotted central patch and a 'gray' to my preferred selections. I am not so enchanted with the latter, as it seems a rather dull looking thing to me, but, as you know there are several American hybrids of this colour.. 'Crow Wings' being one I think. I do not have enough space to grow any on in quantity, so its not possible to raise large numbers of seed nor to propagate on a large scale. The market for Spurias is very small too; most irisarians stick solely to T.B's. I am beginning to gain ground on the Spuria species which I had and lost, and now have several seed batches in their second and third year.

Last year, for the first time I noticed that some plants were infected with a stripe in the leaf and variegations in the flowers--so I must suspect some sort of virus infection. I haven't any experience of this and although I have had a form of Iris unguicularis Variegata for many years, which has virused-looking foliage, I have never known it to be transmitted to other members of the family. I will have to watch it more closely this year and make a decision about what to do. It will be a disappointment if the plants begin to develop weaknesses to disease etc. In the past they have been so hardy, resistant and reliable. When you consider how much selective in-breeding has been done in the U.S.A. I guess it is not so remarkable that such faults should become evident---back to the species again for new blood.

The best collection of Spurias I have seen is grown at Renmark by David Ruston. He has a large commercial rose garden, which is open to the public daily, and is also a cut flower producer and source of commercial budwood for many nurseries. David has 23 acres of roses; over 1300 different varieties and has large plantations of perennials scattered throughout his property. He has dozens of Spuria hybrids, nearly all American. They are able to grow in large clumps and are sprayed weekly along with everything else, mainly to protect the roses. The climate is warm in winter and hot in summer; the soil is deep and red sand and the irrigation is water pumped from the River Murray. The iris seem to enjoy these fairly arid conditions with heavy watering once every ten days. David travels the world as a rosarian and flower arranger, and uses masses of flowers.

(cont.)

from his garden to build large arrangements. The irises are useful for this, especially the beautiful colours which give scope for autumn tints in colour themes etc. when matched with roses and seasonal devices such as grapes, fruits, seed pods, grasses etc. He is the only person I know who gardens with Spurias on such a large scale; the other main grower would be Barry Blythe of 'Tempo Two' nursery in Victoria, his main sales are to exhibitors. I would say that the Spurias are not so well known as Siberian and Japanese iris, which are harder to grow, as a rule under Australian conditions. Perhaps there is something here that gives proof to the old saying about green grass and the other side of the hill; easy plants are not so valued as difficult ones...

With all good wishes to you all...

(Trevor is to be congratulated on his appointment as Project Officer, turning new laws into documents, changes in legislation, training and development and Minister of Education representative on questions raised in Parliament. It sounds a daunting task, but I know it is well deserved. All good wishes to you, hope you have time for a little gardening as a relaxation. Joan.)

We Need More Spuria Hybridizers...

by Floyd Wickenkamp.

(This is a modified version of an article written for the Bulletin of the A.I.S. reproduced by kind permission of the Editor.)

One of the major goals of the Spuria Iris Society is to encourage an increase in activity in developing new and better spurias. Not nearly as much effort has been put into the improvement of the spurias as is the case, especially with Tall Bearded and certain of the medians, and in recent years, the Louisianas, and it is high time that more hybridizers become interested in this wide open field. It is our hope that we can show sufficient activity in the development of new and improved cultivars to convince the American Iris Society Board that the time has come to raise the Eric Nies Award to the status of a Medal, and to provide an intermediate level of AM awards, something that was done with Louisianas a few years ago.

There has been some increase in hybridizing activity in the past few years, and it is encouraging to note in the 1989 REGISTRATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS booklet the P. Anfosso of France and B. Blyth of Australia have introduced a number of spurias each. The 1989 list of introductions shows 17 spurias compared to 27 Louisianas, a considerable increase in spurias compared to a few years ago.

For those of you who would like to become involved, but hesitate to do so for fear that your introductions will not be well received, I want to tell you a true story that shows what can happen when you least expect it... This story starts in 1978 when I planted a couple of dozen seeds from a cross of 'Archie Owen' x 'Baritone'. Most of the resulting blooms in 1981 did not justify a second look, but there was one that didn't look too bad, so I decided to keep it for another year. The next spring the Sun Country Iris Society in Phoenix was host to Region 15 for its annual trek and my garden was one of there on the tour. My seedling SP-78-1 was in bloom but I didn't pay much attention to it until I noticed people standing in line to take photographs of it. Then, at the Awards Dinner it was voted the outstanding seedling seen in the tour gardens.

I was still hesitant to introduce it, as it seemed to me to be just another among many yellow spurias. However, on the urging of a number of individuals, including Eleanor McCown, I decided to go ahead. The next problem was to select a name. One day, while driving on a road near Sun City, I saw a sign extolling the merits of a 'Quarter-Horse' stallion on one of the nearby ranches... His name was 'SON OF SUN' and I thought that would be a good name for a yellow iris originating in the Arizona desert...

By 1986 'SON OF SUN' had generated enough interest to receive several votes for Favorite Guest Iris at the San Jose Convention of the A.I.S. and it also received an HM along the way.

The next chapter in this 'rags to riches' story takes place in Phoenix at the 1987 A.I.S. Convention. At the Awards Banquet it was announced that 'SON OF SUN' had been awarded the President's Cup; a few weeks later when the ballots for Favorite Guest Iris were tabulated it had also won in that category, beating out a tall bearded by 3 votes, the first time in the history of the A.I.S. that a spuria had won either of these awards. As a sort of anti-climax it was also the winner of the Eric Nies Award that same year.

So, you would-be or beginner hybridizers, take heart and maybe lady luck will come your way. After all, in my case, most of the credit should go to those experts who encouraged me to introduce 'SON OF SUN'. Of course, its parents should be given some credit; both 'Archie Owen' and 'Baritone' were Eric Nies Award winners...

(What a splendid story Floyd, we do congratulate you, you must be justly proud, after your long years of growing and believing in spurias. We look forward to seeing it growing here in Great Britain before very long. Everyone who grows it will now know. J.)

Spuria Notes

I imagine most Members growing Spurias will have experienced the same early flowering this year, due to the warm, early spring and milder than average winter. Although it is difficult to be precise about these things, most Spurias appear to have peaked about four to six weeks earlier with me.

The interesting thing is that although relative flowering order has mostly been maintained, several of the species are much closer to the normal time than the hybrids. Another point of interest is that there is a spread of about six weeks or so in the flowering of the yellow hybrids in my garden, suggesting that there is a real possibility of breeding for a much longer season than is normally expected with this group.

Thinking a little about the species, and I.sp. orientalis in particular, I find it a most regular performer and well worth a place in the garden. I have seen clumps in flower at several locations in the area during May, providing a splash of ivory and yellow above the green foliage. One, totally unexpected, on the A34, about two miles North of the M4 intersection, there was a large clump in full flower on the shoulder of the dual-carriageway... Self preservation instincts prevented me from making a closer inspection!!

There is good contrast between the leaves and flowers, which are usually well above the leaves, I.sp.orientalis is a useful plant and deserves to be more widely grown. I saw a most impressive sight where a good clone had been placed in a wide trough, dry stone wall, about waist high.

As with all the species, it is worth to get hold of a good clone with an adequate number of well-formed, nicely spaced flowers. There can be quite surprising variations in the same species, so a hunt is well worth while... Failing this, why not raise some from seed, it will take a year or two before you see the results, but when you do it is an experience worth waiting for. You can then select and plant the chosen ones in their final places. There may be nothing particularly earth shattering among the seedlings, but when they have settled to your garden conditions over several seasons they are more likely to be good, long term survivors than some untested imports...

However, having said this, I can thoroughly recommend raising both hybrid and species Spurias from seed. It is not difficult, there's always a chance of a winner turning up, and its very interesting to see the variations which occur. Even better is to try your hand at crossing. Remember that, in relative terms, there has been much less breeding done with Spurias than with the bearded, so with care in the selection of the potential parents you have as much chance as anyone to find a winner... go to it....

Seed can be planted either straight into the ground, in the autumn, or in pots with a covering of course sand or gravel over the compost. Alternatively, it can be placed in the fridge for a couple of weeks or so at around 2 - 4 deg. C, before planting, since the seeds do require some chilling to break the dormancy. In either case, most growers have found that planting the seed 'green' (literally) i.e. straight from the pods when, or before they split, yields the quickest germination. As soon as they germinate early.. above all, it is important to know that the seedlings must not be allowed to dry out at any stage. Transplanting is tricky, they resent being moved, they can go dormant for a whole season, the least amount of root disturbance seems to be the answer.

It is a most rewarding way to increase your stock of Spurias and I hope that some of you may be persuaded to try your hand at it.. Good Luck...

(In a letter from from Floyd Wickenkamp, Adrian quotes 'I plant my seeds directly in the soil, in rows, just like zinnias or lettuce. I too like to plant before the seeds are hard. Last year I put them in the refrigerator for a few weeks before planting. It seems to help as I get better than normal germination. I've also been 'hitting' them at about ten day intervals with 15-30-15 liquid fertilizer with a dash of Epsom Salts, and the results have been spectacular. Many of them are a foot high (May), and I notice they are putting up side shoots. Maybe it was the Epsom Salts, it has never happened this early in the year. I heard it on the Radio, they said they use it on all plants. I suspect our soil is poor in magnesium which it supplies. My location is or was a cotton field for many years, so the soil is quite good, but the builder stole some of the topsoil to use on the golf courses!!! He left enough though, so I have a foot or more of soil before I get into the caliche (chile saltpetre).)

(This is from me... thanks to you both, I am sure Members will appreciate your advice, I have heard of Epsom Salts being used on roses in this 'rose county' and giving good results, so why not irises. One thing more, we have quite a lot of I.orientalis seed in the seed bank, and one of two from Adrian's American cultivars, so if you would like to try them, now is the time, and you know exactly how to do it. I too have seen some beautiful clumps of I.orientalis locally in public parks, and I sometimes wonder if they know what they are, perhaps I will make some little labels which say, 'these are I.orientalis, and you ought to try growing them; do you think it would work??? J.)

The following is a reprint of a reprint taken from the Spuria Iris Societies N/L Summer 1979, reproduced by kind permission of the Editor Charles Jenkins.

Some people are happy to grow what there is
But we want to grow what there aint.
If we've seen it, its surely no good,
We want something different or quaint.
Now, a blue dandelion might look pretty nice,
Or, a daffodil sucking its thumb.
Those common old things,
As they always have been
Are only for folks who are dumb.
If beards come in yellow;
We wish they were black
Or, if they are black we want red.
We just cannot tolerate
Things as they are---
Do let us have something instead.

The bright shining stars of a few years ago
Are now so completely passe,
Its hard to imagine how anyone could
Consider them charming or gay.
A white marigold has been greatly desired,
Along with a yellow sweet pea.
The reason is simple; as far as we know,
Those colors don't happen to be.
The things that are short, we strive to make tall.
Those naturally large we develop in small,
This is listed as progress, but progress to what??
The progress is only to what we aint got!!!

Walker Ferguson.

Spurias in California.

by B.Charles Jenkins.

First let me say that I am delighted to read that your new Chairman is a Spuria Specialist, and that Pacific Coast Irises have now been added to the Group. I am establishing an expandable display garden of Spurias, which this year is made up of 120 cultivars and seven species. The Spuria Newsletter this Spring will contain a plea for cultivars of historical value to add to the collection, and I plan to swop with interested growers in order to get them. I also have 2400 Spuria seedlings, some of which will bloom for the first time this year, together with 800 that are being increased, mainly for cut flowers.

I have an abundance of seed from both Spurias and Pacificas. I would like to share them with your Group. I hope this is the beginning of a mutually beneficial exchange!! (Thank you Charles, I am sure we can handle as many seeds as you care to send, and we cannot thank you enough. Spuria seeds and Pacificas are constantly being asked for, we just do not have enough, they will be most welcome. J.T.)

A rather sad story from Wisconsin.

by Howard. L. Brookins.

Howard writes that Spurias did not do well in Menomonee Falls, where he lives, and they have the 'arch enemy' the Iris Borer, who prefer Spurias and Louisianas! The old joke is 'if you don't want borers in your T.B's raise some LA's or Spurias, and they'll move into them'. This year I am ready, as I have purchased a 25 gallon power sprayer, and now I can spray all my beardless in an hour or so.

I have some Spuria seedlings that should bloom this summer, from seed from SIGNA, along with about 200 Setosa seedlings, about 500 Siberian sdlgs., and 50 Japanese sdlgs. I also raise Virginicas, tectorum and versicolors. The only bearded Iris I grow are remontants. Currently I have 255 named varieties of Siberians and about 50 Japanese, with plans to expand both these categories by purchasing all repeat blooming beardless I can acquire. Allen Ensminger has a clone of I.hallophyllia that repeats 2 or 3 times a year... must have a piece of that!!!

I visited Floyd Wickenkamp's garden during the 1987 A.I.S. Convention, and was very impressed. I also joined the Spuria Society this year, and am now looking forward to reading the bulletin, for the first time.

(Sorry to hear of your 'borer' trouble Howard, pleased to hear that you are 'licking' them. Your garden sounds a lovely place. All the best. Joan.)

OVER TO PACIFICAS NOW....

BEGINNINGS!!!

by Nora Scopes.

I began to be interested in P.C's many years ago when I saw them for the first time growing in Mrs. Brummitt's garden at Banbury. She was a generous soul and gave me many plants. Later she suggested that I should try my hand at hybridising, which, of course, I did.

I was attracted by the reds and used 'Banbury Gem', 'Banbury Beauty' and 'Banbury Velvet' (for texture and substance), from these I got some quite nice seedlings. One, which I still grow, I named 'Cramoisie', because of its colour, it has multiple branching which it gets from 'Banbury Gem', but the form is somewhat narrow and it is a little fussy about habitat.

In a friend's garden I found a white seedling growing in a wild tangle of growth where they had been allowed to grow at will. Seed from this gave me 'Thyllida', my first introduction, which I still have, it is creamy yellow of quite good form.

Then John Taylor visited Australia and came back with some slides of R.C's he had seen in the garden of Mr. Hargrave. They were 'out of this world' for colour and substance. He also brought back some seed which he generously shared around. I crossed all my promising seedlings into the Hargrave strain, resulting in a great improvement in both colour and vigour.

The P.C's of Joe Ghio began to appear on the show bench. These were very spectacular as to colour and size and proved to be interesting breeders. 'Big Wheel' put new life into my crimson strain and I now have a whole range of promising seedlings coming along. The trouble is to find room to grow them together with my T.B's. Now new colours are appearing, a yummy crushed apricot, I have especially got my eye on.

I have not had any success with I.munzii. Seeds have germinated, but growing them on to flowering stage is another matter, they just 'fade away'. Poor things, our weather at times tries the patience of us hardy natives. I wish it were otherwise; the colour is so pure with a luminous ethereal quality. I know of only two descendents that have accepted our climate and settled down.. Mrs. Brummitt's last introduction 'Lavender Royale' which grows well if it likes you, and the lovely turquoise 'Fersshore' of John Taylor which is a little bit more fussy, but well worth a little cossetting. These are getting to be oldtimers now by Iris standards.

P.C's have to be compact growers to my liking, I favour I.innominata as to foliage and with the flowers well displayed above the leaves. Branching is a bonus, but I try to get quantities of flower stalks so that there is a long succession of bloom. Thank goodness, in nature, there is never perfection.. All things are in constant change.. How dull it would be otherwise! The joy of hybridising is in getting there not arriving!!!

Hybridising P.C.I's

by Bob Wise.

This is a comparatively new thing for me, only during the last five years, in fact. I had previously tried my hand at the T.B's, but due to lack of space and unsatisfactory conditions had given up after having only two cultivars selected for trial at Wisley. P.C.I's however take up little space and grow well in our garden, a fair percentage blooming after one year. I also discovered that most of the Brummitt introductions had been made from bee-set pods, as was 'Arnold Sunrise', so considered there was scope for a deliberate breeding programme.

When I started I had about half a dozen Brummitt cultivars which were typically two-flowered types such as 'No Name', I also had an old Ghio cultivar called 'San Lorenzo'. This was a poor garden plant as it had coarse foliage and a flower which lays on the ground, but it also had large flowers and many buds.

So I began by crossing all the Brummitt cultivars with 'San Lorenzo', the idea being to get plants with good foliage and upright multi-bud'ed stems. The plants which bloomed in 1987 were all thrown out, but in 1988 I kept six, four of which have been selected for trial, a further two plants which bloomed for the first time in 1989 have also been selected. Out of these six selected plants, four have multi-budded stems. I now have about 15 of my own plants with which to carry out more breeding, and I am expecting to see the first results in 1991, when I hope to introduce some modern Ghio cultivars into the breeding stock. At the initial stage I do not worry much about colour as I find that a fairly high percentage of seedlings are perfectly acceptable.

Unlike T.B's, it is necessary when working with P.C.I's to prevent pollination by bees. I do this by removing the falls as the bloom is about to open, denying them a landing stage. Seeds when ripe are sown in plastic pots in ericaceous compost with extra grit. Germination is quite early in the year. Protect in very severe weather. Plant in open ground as soon as big enough. This gives them a fair chance of blooming the next year.
(Thanks to you both J.)

April showers, and already the exquisite Pacific Coast Irises have been giving welcome colour in the garden since December. Christmas Day saw 'Councilman' (M.A.1982) the delightful, ruffled and multi-budded cream, gracing a vase with I.ingucularis. Just after New Year, 'Oval Office' threw up purposeful stems and unfolded the most perfect, beautiful and hardy flower in broad and ruffled true purple plush, coroneted by short, deep green foliage; successive stems appear for weeks-over a dozen stems cut so far this year and more to come, with another bonus in July. 'Las Flores', not so vigorous but remarkably consistent in its early appearance, in broad petalled, warm apricot and wine-purple is also continuing to bloom. 'Pescadero', a perky multi-branched and budded black-violet of personality with a distinctive fine pastel edge, has a will to flower early and long.

This year, in late April and early May the jewel-like rainbow hues of the peak flowering occurs, starting with my firm favourite, the stunning 'Simply Wild' (M.A.1987)-creamy raspberry, broad in form, and exceptionally vigorous. (See illustration B.I.S. Year Book 1985). This cultivar is one of the many I grow and admire from the hybridising efforts, over many years of Joe Ghio, whose assiduous efforts to produce a wide range of colours in garden cultivars has resulted in some fantastic achievements. Now just imagine this tempting range of glowing colours; cream, rose, brick, coffee, apricot, mustard, tan, terra-cotta, wine, magenta, lemon. gold, maize, rosewood, grape-purple, red-black, henna, peach, raspberry, lavender, violet, turquoise; variegata, amoena and plicata, self, bi-tone and bi-colour, in a wide variety of forms and heights; some so dainty and demure, some broad and beautifully ruffled, petals triangular to rounded; signals subdued or blazing in contrast or even eclipsed altogether. Style arms often ruffled in a complementary tone-making, another delightful dimension... Who could resist these lovely creations growing in the garden, or be tempted to cut a few stems ^{for} closer appreciation indoors! Soon 'Roaring Camp' will be drawing admiration, a beautifully presented lovely creation in soft gold with russet signal, neat and yet broad, and very floriferous.

Clumps are so prolific with bloom that the border is full of bouquets the colours of the rainbow, and buzzing with bees, pollen-laden. Within a few days 'Big Money' will be smothered with golden blooms, set off by 'Gone Native' of lovely form in ruffled brown-rose, and overlooked by another ruffled stunner, 'Las Olas' in violat and white which steps out with Regency elegance. Soon 'Roaring Camp' will be much admired, beautifully presented, a harmonious creation in soft gold with a distinctive russet signal, everyone's favourite... 'Mission Santa Cruz' is a knockout in glowing magenta, vying with darkest 'Carbonera' for sheen glanced petals. If your preference is for classical colour, then see 'Rio Del Mar', a trim vision in exquisite light and pure blue. An especial personal favourite is the plicato 'Ano Nuevo', rose-violet sprinkled on a light creamy-yellow ground, very attractive indeed.

All these plants are well-established here (with others equally worthy) in various parts of the garden. The main plantings are either side of a very low stone wall running East to West on sloping ground. Another bed is along a summer-house and gets a lot of reflected heat. Seedlings and newest imports are in a raised triangular bed under a graceful Gleditsia of frondy lime and green foliage

Overwintering new imports, which arrive in October, in a cold frame has proved successful.

Our soil is basically boulder-clay, full of sandstone stones, which is heavy to work in our wet winters, but can bake to a brick-like solidity in our drought-prone summers. The garden site is 400ft. up a Welsh hillside in the Usk valley, faces south and is well-drained with a 1 in 10 slope. Although we can have in excess of 36" of rain per annum, The mature hedges of native hardwoods give shelter and create a sun-trap. We are often be-devilled with strong westerly winds. Peat and compost are worked regularly into the soil with a bonemeal dressing in the autumn. All the bare soil around the clumps is covered by good quality bark-chips, this keeps weeds down to minimum, and also conserves moisture in dry periods. The worst pests are the multi-coloured snails which hide in the walls---they home in on buds in colour and need regular checking. Once settled, however, these plants are so godd-natured that the only attention they need is splitting up when the clump outgrows its space. P.C.I. seed is very easy to germinate, and its very tempting to hybridise, trying for improvements in branching, floriferousness and hardiness, as I am just starting to do-- but that's the beginning of another story...

M.A. Mitchell Award, the highest award of the A.I.S. exclusively for P.C.I.s-only one per given year can be received. As with other types of iris, consistently outstanding seedlings can be judged and gain H.M. (High Commendation), with the Mitchell Award the equivalent to the A.M. (Award of Merit) of the other groups. Since 1973, when it was instigated, Joe Ghio has gained the M.A. 9. times (to 1989). We hope that when his garden recovers from the terrible earthquake of last October, we will be able to enjoy more of his outstanding creations. His catalogue lists bearded iris-mainly T.B's. P.C.I's Louisianas and Spurias, with many of his own creations in each group--- well worth searching for

The Beginnings

Joe Ghio.

(An update of the AIS Almanac (fall 1980), (spring 1985), by kind permission.)

In our younger days, any iris over 1 dollar was an unaffordable luxury. In the early 1960's, the San Jose Iris Show gave an iris for each blue ribbon won by an entrant. One person contributing irises to reward the winners was Jack Craig, who then lived in Cupertino. When I went to collect my premium, Jack showed me huge jars of 'native' seed, and asked if I would like some. More to be nice than anything else, I said yes. He carefully put some seeds from each jar in envelopes and labelled them.

That fall, as an afterthought, I decided to plant the seeds. I filled coffee cans with soil and planted the contents of each envelope in one can. Unfortunately, I made no effort to label the cans with the contents of the packet. After all, who wanted those ugly native irises anyway? To my surprise they germinated like grass. What to do? Naturally I could'nt waste valuable garden space on them, so on the shady side of my patio I simply planted the entire contents of the can in the ground, without separating them.

When spring arrived, I was astonished by the bloom! They bore little resemblance to irises growing in the hills surrounding Santa Cruz, and naturally I had to do something with them.... The history of these wonders is now international. Professor Mitchell had made the original cross between I. douglasiana and innominata, and as was his wont, would share with those who would further the line. I am told some were sent to Fred Danks of Australia in the 1920's. He grew them as annuals, making colour selections and annually saving self/beeseed of the best selections in each color category. Seed from these color selections was sent to Prof Mitchell, who passed them on to Jack Craig. Today the blood of this strain is not only the basis of our Pacifica lines, but also those in Australia.

Francesca Thoolen obtained seed from Danks a few years ago and shared some with me. From this seed came 'Emigrant', 'Foreign Exchange' & a white sdg. the basis of Plicatas

After the Craig seed bloomed, I went into the hills around Santa Cruz and collected some of the more interesting hybrids growing in abundance. All of these plants were hybrids between I. macrosiphon, fernaldii and douglasiana in one combination or another. The most interesting stand was in Pasatiempo, located on a hill overlooking Santa Cruz.

This stand is now gone-the fatality of a new housing tract!! The Pasatiempo stand was unique in that all the flowers were coloured in the range of lavender to blue, whereas all other stands nearby were colored in the cream to buff range. Most interesting was that the stand began blooming around the end of December. I incorporated this blood line into the flowers sprouted from Craig seed, and doubtlessly the natural hybrids passed on the early-blooming characteristic to varieties such as 'Branciforte' B 'Pasatiempo', 'RestlessNative', 'City Hall', 'Pescadero' and 'Oval Office'.

Ben Hager was good enough to give me a pot of each of the Walker Pacificas; 'Ojai' & 'Violet Elf'. I crossed 'Violet Elf' to 'Tompico' and got only four seedlings, of which two showed unique characteristics. One became the Mitchell Award winner. 'Los Gatos' and the second was named 'California Native'. This last was the first Pacifica to show multi-branched stems, thick, erect foliage, heavy substance, ruffles and a solid signal. Most importantly it passed these characteristics on to its progeny without dominating color. Nearly all our current introductions can trace their lineage to 'California Native'...

Another of the major strains came from Marjorie Brummitt in England. Her material too, was basically I. douglasiana x innominata. But in selecting seedlings she favored the 'species look'. Hence her flowers were smaller, narrower and, as some would say, more graceful. What I spotted as very significant in her flowers was color. She had some clear colors I had never before seen. 'Banbury Velvet' had rich, deep black-purple, 'Banbury Candy' was smooth, caramel brown. These two were crossed to 'California Native' and the resulting flowers serve as the base of our purple and brown lines.

The I. munzii link came one spring when the Richards dropped by my house of I. munzii buds they had just collected at Coffee Creek. When the flowers opened, the color range surprised me. Unfortunately, there were few flowers open to cross them with. But I was able to make a few crosses, and the F₂ produced 'Soquel Cove' and 'Mayor'. 'Soquel Cove' too would go on to win the Mitchell Award.

As I looked at my 1985 introductions, these stories came to mind and served as an inspiration for this article. The huge, blue-purple 'Miramar' is a tribute to the cupful of I. munzii the Richards brought me one spring day. The rippled red 'San Gregorio' and the gold-washed, brown 'Roaring Camp' are a thank you to Francesca Thoolen, who generously shared the Danks seed with me. The Elberta peach 'La Madrona' is a salute to Mrs. Brummitt. Finally, all my work is due to the foresight of Professor Mitchell, the persistence of Fred Danks and the generosity of Jack Craig and Ben Hager. I thank you all...

(Joe's address is:- Bay View Gardens, 1201, Bay Street, SANTA CRUZ. CALIFORNIA. 95060)

Growing Japanese Irises.

by Clarence Mahan.

(Earlier this year I wrote to Clarence, asking him this question, here is his answer:-)

Although I grow hundreds of irises, pick up my fair share of awards, and often write articles relating to irises, the cultivation of them is not a subject I think about very much. Notwithstanding my great interest and enthusiasm, my wife is much the better gardener in our family. She is a 'sensing' person who attends to details; I am an intuitive who deals with grand systems..

'She Who Must Be Obeyed' often scolds me for neglecting or skipping the alleged cultural requirements of the Japanese Irises, the remontants, camellias, roses, peonies, hostas or any of the other myriad of plants we grow. Nevertheless, my system of benign neglect seems to work fairly well, except in cases where a particular species really needs conditions other than God bestowed on Virginia; e.g. aril irises, exhibition chrysanthus., and delphiniums. Fortunately, Japanese Irises are not very demanding plants, at least not here in Virginia.

Whether you obtain your plants from a local nursery, a friend or by mail order, they should never be allowed to dry out in transit or while awaiting planting. Through the mail, open the package at once and soak them in water. They will live in water for many weeks. I admit that I have held plants in a bucket of water for well over a month before planting ^{without} a problem-but I really recommend planting a day or two after arrival. But soak them for at least a day before planting. Keep them watered for at least a month after.

Type of soil-- any good garden loam on the acid side will do. J.I's prefer a soil which has quite a bit of clay in it, so if you have light, sandy soil, add extra peat to hold the moisture better. Full sun is desirable. I have areas that receive only a half-day of sun, they still perform, but with less abandon than those in full sun.

Dig deep! of course, I recommend this for any plant. Add peat moss, compost and well-rotted cow manure from the garden center. Dr. Hirao recommended against putting manure on Japanese Irises until they developed new root system. I have not had a problem working well-rotted manure in, but I do not know what would happen if the manure was ^{green}. Work the soil well, if it is alkaline work in a dusting of sulfur or sulphate of iron.

The most common problem encountered is the leaves turning yellow. When this first happened with several plants, the advice I received was to use an acid fertilizer and add something to further acidify my soil. I found this strange since the soil in my garden is so acid I do believe it eats the soles off my shoes. Still, I followed the 'expert' advice, and the leaves did not turn green. Later I learned that J.I's are heavy 'eaters' of iron. Now I add the sulfate and additional iron supplement. The leaves are no longer yellow, BUT BE CAREFUL. The soil can get too acid, and they will not survive..

Do not worry about the leaves of these 'yellow Japanese Irises', the hybrids of I.pseudacorus and I.ensata such as 'Aichi No Kakayaki'. These hybrids are not vigorous plants and the yellow leaves will not turn green, regardless of what you do. When someone tells me about the vigorous, green-leafed, yellow Japanese Iris they are growing, I always know it is I.pseudacorus!! Unfortunately, a considerable number of the larger nurseries in the U.S. are selling I.pseudacorus under the name 'Aichi No Kakayaki'. The true 'Aichi No Kakayaki' is sterile, 'you have been had' when you are sold this as a yellow J.I.

I keep my J.I. beds mulched with hardwood chips or shredded hardwood. It is very important to cover your plants with mulch the first winter. New plants are put into a depression in the autumn with well-rotted cow manure covering the base of them. Thus the rhizomes are protected from 'heaving', as they may not be well-established, this is the big danger. Once it happens, the roots get frozen... result... dead plant.

In spring, when the leaves first start to emerge, I spray with Cygon 2E, and again 3 weeks later. In Virginia it is usually the last week in March, and the third in April. I do this because we have the 'iris borer' here, and it has proved to be the only weapon. The damage cannot be seen until the leaves turn brown, all at once and you lose the plant. 2 days and the rhizomes are gone. They prefer Bearded's, Louisianas and Spurias, so as I grow a lot of these I have had little problem with the borer in the J.I. beds.

We deeply water in spring, until bloom starts. Never allowing the soil to dry out. We fertilize with a diluted 20-20-20 spray several times, and again after blooming. If the clumps get thick, we divide. You can lose a J.I. by not doing so. Never go beyond three years without dividing. Sometimes after two.

I have not discussed pot culture in this article, but it is simple and can permit Japanese Irises to be grown in extremely alkaline or light soil areas. Some are grown successfully in the Arizona desert, the plains of Oklahoma and semi-tropical San Diego. The pots are usually set in small plastic pools, such as children's swimming pools.. But this is another article. And 'SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED' tells me it is time to work.. (Thank you Clarence, thanks also for telling me about 'Rose Queen', since then Currier has written that from seeds I sent to him years ago he has a lovely pink 'ensata', he also sent me some seed, and they are now growing..back in business again..Joan.)

Akira Horinaka President of the Japanese Iris Society. wrote in April:-

His book on I. laevigata is being published in June of this year, he was hoping that he would be able to give details for this Newsletter, but this he has not been able to do, so it will be in the Feb 1991 N/L.

In Japan, the custom of growing I. ensata (hanashobu) in pots is as follows:-

'We usually use ceramic pots that are 21cm. in diameter for planting one plant, for two plants a 24cm pot is used.. The pots have a hole in the bottom. We put them in water as deep as $\frac{1}{4}$ the height of the pots and keep this water level. This is the method generally used in Japan.'

There are three strains of hanashobu:- they are 'Tokyo' (it used to be called Edo), 'Ise' and 'Kumamoto'(Higo). Unfortunately there is no book written in English. We do have a list issued by some nurseries which I will send if you like?

I myself lost all of my hanashobu, because I failed to water the plants in the hot summer when I was ill.

(We are sorry to hear about your hanashobu, but pleased to know that you are feeling better, We look forward to hearing about your new book. J.T.)

Regional Report from the East.

by Shirley Ryder.

Here in the 'south of the east' I'm afraid the season has been the 'mixture' as before Very, very dry, with only one substantial downpour in about four months. Consequently the T.B's were better than I have ever experienced, but the Sibiricas were non-starters, with the exception of 'Navy Brass' and 'Soft Blue'. This has also been a season of mutations. I have had blooms with four of everthing and some with only two. A lot of my sibiricas produced leaves that were crinkled up like an accordion, and they stayed like that. The P.C.I's looked full of promise, but a week before I expected them to flower we had some very sharp frosts, including one of 9 degrees, so the promise was unfulfilled. I did get some seedlings into flower though, as they were in their first year they were that much behind the others and missed the frost. I was particularly pleased with some I grew from Joa Ghio's seed, because they turned out to be of a single colour with a longer, much narrower fall which I find very much to my taste. However, I did not get a single colour blue, which I have been after for a long time, having fallen in love with a whole row of them at Barry Blyth's in Australia.

Now this is my first season as a Spuria grower. The eight that I started with last year were 'Betty Cooper', 'Evening Dress', 'Amber Ripples', 'Arts Alive', 'Cinnamon Roll', 'Eurasia', 'Chocolate Fudge' and 'Vintage Years'. I was not expecting any bloom this year, but I had two of them in flower 'Betty Cooper' and 'Evening Dress', and I think I am hooked. I am already planning my next purchase, but unfortunately I cannot get from my supplier, Dave Niswonger, 'Lookin' Glass Eyes', which is one of his own raising. I would very much like to have it as it was this one that first drew my attention to Spurias. Does anyone here grow it???

To get a broader picture I went to visit Peggy Venner who only lives a few miles distant. I had to choose whether to see the Sibiricas or wait for the Spurias, but the Sibiricas won, because I could not resist the chance to take in the T.B's as well. Peggy has always claimed that she knows nothing about irises, but on seeing her garden this is a claim nobody could take seriously. It was a glorious sight, and although she has the same weather pattern as I have, the soil out at Little Clacton seems to be more water retentive because there was a marvellous display of Sibiricas. I particularly noted 'Harpwell Haze', 'Harpwell Happiness', 'Fourfold White', 'Fourfold Lavander', 'Reddy Maid' and 'Ruffled Velvet'. On inspection it was obvious that it was going to be a very good season for the Japanese and the Spurias also and I'm sorry that I missed them.

To sum up the season here.. it was 'swings and roundabouts'-- disastrous for some species, fantastic for others...

(Thank you Shirley, give our best wishes to Peggy, next time you see her. Joan).

Regional Report from London.

by Anne Blanco White.

The Japanese Iris by Currier McEwen.

153pp; 31 colour plates; line drawings in text. U.K.price £21. ISBN 0 87451 512 2. Currier McEwen is internationally known as a breeder and developer of both the sibirica and ensata groups of irises. Now, in the 'Japanese Iris' he has, with some help from colleagues, consolidated nearly everything that anyone needs to know in order to grow these gorgeous plants as well as possible.

No one need fear that botanical terms will defeat them, for there is an excellent glossary explaining familiar and unfamiliar words, and it is backed up by a good index. Dr. McEwen starts with the histories of the development of these plants in Japan,

where they have been bred for centuries, and more recently, in the United States. This is followed by a discussion on the different physical forms which the irises can take, admirably illustrated by Robert. A. Bauer's clear line drawings. Since these plants are ones which must have damp conditions during their growing season, much attention is given to practical gardening and optimum conditions. Mercifully for British gardeners most of the pests and diseases mentioned are still confined to the U.S.A. and readers should remember that not all the pesticides and fungicides mentioned are either necessary or obtainable over here. Greenfly and blackfly will sometimes infest and are best dealt with manually, while even earwigs rarely cause damage.

Many gardeners like to raise their own seedlings and readers are introduced to this mystery, as well as given advice on seeds, seedlings and maiden plants. The next stage is help in separating the 'geese' from the 'swans' and it has to be remembered that 'swans' tend to be in short supply.

Finally there is a roundup of the many countries where Japanese irises are grown successfully and this does include Britain. For those who assume that their gardens are necessarily unsuitable, this should show that it really is a question of mind over matter. For those who can travel to the States, there is a list of gardens where these plants can be seen at their best in the high seasons. The list of nurseries is confined to America and Japan, but the British Iris Society can offer sources in this country.

At £21.00, this is an expensive, but valuable addition to any gardener's bookshelf; the superb colour plates alone are almost worth that and should tempt many into buying plants. If you can't afford it now, persuade the family to combine and buy it for your Christmas or birthday present...

(Sounds good Anne, thank you for your excellent account.)

Regional Report from the North West.

by Ray Wilson.

All plants are well ahead of normal, and seem set to better last years early blooming. Several sibiricas, versicolor 'Kermisina' and kerneriana are currently in bloom, alongside the now already faded bearded irises. 'Holden Clough' has been especially good this year and 'Gerald Darby' is shaping up well. The plant in the pond is at least half as big and tall again as that grown in the ground. Whereas the pond plant was muddy-green stemmed last year, both are showing the attractive purple-black this year, much used by flower arrangers. The taller Spurias are coming into bud and the Japanese iris are looking very healthy, this year I have been more careful to ensure adequate watering.

The good report at Chelsea of the Broadleigh P.C.I.'s did not surprise me, they are coming into their own. All my three year old seedlings have bloomed, with a wonderful range of colours and flower forms. One, although quite dwarf, had good branching as well. With quite a lot of seed from named sites in California, the native seedling availability should be good next year, unless I mess it up!

Loss after transit is my major problem this year, I am making great efforts to get to the root of the problem. If we can order P.C.I.'s from the U.S.A., in particular, and get these plants growing reliably, it will be a great encouragement to Members to order from overseas. It may well be a simple case of asking for a spring rather than an autumn posting, but whatever it is we need to be confident of the survival of our purchases once they are here!!!

(Ray has prepared a 'list of 1990 hybrids', giving the name, year of registration, where known, general period of flowering, description of colours and ruffling. It is quite a long list as you will realise. If you would like to send in, copying will cost £1.30. plus postage. At present, if you are quick (before Sept.) a 2nd. class book of stamps with one taken out to send, will cover it. Thank you Ray for the trouble you have taken, I am sure Members will appreciate it. J.T.)

Regional Report from the South West.

by Mary Ramsdale

Well! we've settled in now, and as the main work of garden-making is done, I can relax a bit and pay attention to individual plants.

The winter in the west country was extremely mild, and brought a lot of plants into growth and bloom early, with disastrous results when we had a week of severe frosts. I.kochii was in bloom on March 1st., with I.melitta, lutescens and the evansias in bud, these were all spoiled. Repeated again when the P.C.I.'s budded in early April, and again some very old I.germanica later on were all ruined.

We had the usual early May heatwave, (although we have had a lot of rain in the last two weeks, the hosepipe ban is still on), 'Purple Mere' was the first sibirica to bloom,

(cont).

opening on May 12th with I.tectorum. I have had blooms on all but four of the sibiricas I brought with me, and I am looking forward now to seeing seedling sibs. and spurias bloom as I raised quite a large batch last spring, and they are growing away well.

Several seedlings raised from B.I.S. seed have now flowered, with some oddities among them... Yellow flowers on seedlings of a 'Blue Form' of I.lutescens, some very wishy-washy offsprings of a good I.setosa form, and a batch of I.foetidissima 'white seeded' form seedlings, some blue and some yellow flowers, so I am looking forward to seeing the seed. However, I.chrysographes seedlings turned up trumps... a luscious dark purple...so the 'lucky dip' we must expect with open-pollinated seed works both ways.

Spuria hybrids really surprised me by coming into bloom in the last week in May, 'Mons-pur' and 'A.W.Tait' have put on a really good show, along with 'I.rudskyii' and 'I.sintenisi', and are still in bloom now.

Before I sign off, please can anyone tell me about a plant I bought at Myddleton House two years ago-- labelled 'Late Yellow' sibirica. It is 'late', it has just come into bloom, but it is not anything I can recognise, sibirica-type leaves and height, but the flower looks like an enlarged I.forrestii, pale yellow with brownish markings, someone trying for a 'yellow' sibirica perhaps??? All the best to you all.

(Thank you Mary, good luck with your seedlings and your search. Joan.)

Regional Report for the West Midlands.

by Philip Allery.

A mild winter, two prolonged periods without rain and very severe and damaging spring frosts all combined to cause many problems for gardeners in the West Midlands. Include a minor earth-tremor in this locality and recently a three-week spell of cold and rainy weather. This sets the scene, irises bloomed between 2 and 3 weeks early. Sibiricas were excellent, but the Japanese irises have not grown to their normal height, due, I think to the early spring droughts and frosts.

The Malvern Hills Spring Gardening Show, held annually in May is taking on all the appearances of a rehearsal for 'Chelsea'. This year, irises were included in the competitive classes, and several West Midlands Members were successful. Three spikes of 'Broadleigh Lavinia' won a Reserve place for Jennifer Hewitt in the first iris class. However, in the second class, 3 spikes of species I.innominata earned her a first prize. The third class, covered a wide range, Jennifer's 'Fourfold Lavender' in a pot, won first prize, with 'Suz Winspear' second for a P.C.I. seedling. The Show organisers were well pleased with the response to the iris classes, which may well be increased next year.

The West Midlands Group manned a Display Stand, of bearded and beardless irises, it drew considerable interest, new Members and earned a Third Prize.

On the 9th June The Annual Show took place at Tenbury Wells. In Div. III (Beardless & Species iris), Harry Foster won Class 8. His vase of 4 spikes of sibirica cultivars contained three of Dr. McEwen's seedlings, two of which earned Seedling Commendations. I took second prize with spikes of Dr. McEwen's 'Dreaming Yellow', 'Silver Edge' and 'Harpwell Haze'. Jennifer's spikes suffered wind-damage while being staged, took 3rd prize. Class 10 for other beardless cultivars was won by John Beal, with I.spuria 'Dridt-wood', and several attractive spuria seedlings, these won seedling commendations as well as 'Best Vase in Show'. Jennifer was second with I.chrysographes hybrids. My entry was awarded third prize, and one of the judges has advised that one of my white Japanese iris seedlings should now be shown in Seedling Class 14.

The most exciting developments at this Show was undoubtedly Dr. McEwen's new sibirica cultivar seedlings, which drew considerable interest from both Members and the public. There is also increased interest in I.spuria cultivars and John Beal has produced some very fine spikes, winning him seedling commendations.

Dr. McEwen and the Maine Iris Society have generously invited me to the 1990 Convention of the Society for Japanese Irises in U.S.A. in Portland from 12-14 July, an opportunity not to be missed. I hope to meet many J.I. personalities and report later.

(Have a good trip Philip.)

The Group Library.

We are extending the Library as much as possible, Jennifer reports that she has ^{had} quite a few requests this year. Adrian Whittaker our Chairman has sold some of his irises and sent the proceeds to buy 'Growing Irises by G.E.Cassidy & S.Linnegar'. This has already been accomplished. Also another Member has sent a donation to buy in more when we are able, see note in Treasurer's Report.

Copies of the following American Books, and other publications are obtainable from:*

Mrs. Jennifer Hewitt, 'Haygarth', Cleton St. Mary, CLEOBURY MORTIMER. KIDDERMINSTER

(Please include postage when requesting items.)

Worcs, DY14 0QU.
(cont).

Alphabetical Table and Cultivation Guide to the Species.(B.I.S.)

Cult of Irises (Beardless) (B.I.S.)

Growing Irises by G.E.Cassidy and S.Linnegar. (Book).

Guide to the Pacific Coast Iris. (B.I.S.)

Irises for the Water Garden. (B.I.S.)

Know Your Irises. (New Zealand Iris Soc.)

Journal for the Siberian Iris Society. (U.S.A.)

Newsletter of the Spuria Iris Society.(U.S.A.)

Review of the Society for Japanese Irises. (U.S.A.)

Raising Irises from seed No. 2. (B.I.S.)

Siberian Irises by Currier McEwen. (Slim Book).

The Spuria Irises-Introduction & Varietal Listing 1985. Editor James. J.Foreman.

The Genus Iris..Sub-section Sibiricae. (B.I.S.)

All Back Numbers of the S. S. & J. Newsletters.

Treasurer's Report.

The Balance in Bank is £171.37. with £70.32. in Reserve (for commuted payments), but the increase in Postage and other items means we are unable to hold the subscriptions at £1.50. after June 1991. It will be increased to £2. Once again I would remind you that the bal. in bank will be substantially decreased to pay for these Newsletters, so please will you pay your subs. as early as possible... They are now due...

The sale of plants and seeds certainly helped this year. Thanks to all who sent them. We now have some B.I.S.Publications for sale, if you like to send in for the list. S.A.E please.

The following back-numbers of the N/L are available:-

July/81, February/82, 40p. plus postage.

Feb./85, July/86, Feb/87, Feb/88, July/88, Feb./89. 50p. plus postage.

Around the Nurseries.

(An account taken from the Japanese Iris Society's Review Spring 1989 by kind permission of the editor Leland M.Welsh, to whom we raise our hats for his excellent Review..)

Bob Bauer is the Secretary of the Society, he was born and raised in Ft. Morgan, on the high plains of Colorado. In 1965 he received his Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. In 1969, still furthering his PhD. in chemistry at Northwestern University, in Evanston, Illinois. During 1968/69 he studied at the Technische Hochschule in Munich, Germany. Mr. Bauer continued post doctoral studies at Purdue University in 1970/71 and at the University of Illinois in 1972/73.

In 1973, Bob, as he is more often called, began the stained glass business called 'Bauer-Coble' Studios, with John Coble (MS. in Wildlife Biology). Bob met John at Purdue University, where both were seeking, but unable to find, faculty positions in their fields. In 1975 they moved their studios to Galesburg, Michigan. Here in Galesburg they have a 120 year old farm house, with 80 acres of rich farm land.

Bob's interest in gardening started shortly after the move. In 1980 he joined the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society, after seeing 2 or 3 of their shows at a Kalamazoo Mall. In 1981 Bob joined A.I.S. and S.J.I. and started growing J.I.'s under the influence of Arthur H.Hazzard. In 1985 he became a judge(A.I.S.) and began what is now called 'Ensata Gardens'. They, Bob and John, sell J.I. and Siberian Iris. Bob has been hybridizing J.I. and Siberian since 1981. Currently they raise over 350 named varieties of J.I. and thousands of seedlings. 'Ensata Gardens' has been on tour for both the 1985 & 1988 S.J.I. National Conventions. The garden's nursery business has expanded greatly and now takes up most of their summer time, but their main income is from their stained-glass studios, now confined to the winter season.

Marion Vincent and I drove up to one of the Kalamazoo shows and visited Bob and John's 'Heaven on Earth' gardens and workshop, and saw their 'mass' of seedlings. If you have never been there you have missed seeing an ideal situation for both of their hobbies. Both are excellent hosts and we wish them the very best...

(I would like to congratulate Bob and John on their magnificent catalogue(list) which they send out, the plates are 'out of this world', we have had quite a few requests for them. Their address is :-

'Ensata Gardens', 9823 E. Michigan Avenue, GALESBURG. MI. 49053.

Tel. (616) 665-7500.)

Around the Nurseries continued.

Charles Jenkins the Editor of the Spuria Newsletter wrote earlier this year to say that his Pacificas are now placed in a Nursery, although he will be sending them out from California. Also that Floyd Wickenkamp's Spurias were included, as well as Joe Ghios cultivars. They are all to be found in Don and Bobbie Shepard's Garden in Phoenix AZ. Their lists include Bearded Iris, Louisianas, Spurias and Pacific Coast Natives, and I notice moderate prices. If you would like their catalogue the address is:-

Don & Bobbie Shepard, 3342 W. Orangewood, PHOENIX, AZ 85051. (PH# 602- 841-1231.)

E.Germany.

Eberhard Schuster has been a Member of our Group since 1982, and has contributed seeds and plants over the years. He has a Wasserpflanzen (water garden if my translating is correct) at Augustenhof, which is quite near to a beautiful castle at Schwerin.

In his catalogue he lists I.laevigata, pseudacorus, versicolor, chrysographes, ensata forrestii, fulva, Gerald Darby, Louisianas, prismatica, sanguinea, setosa, Siberians, many of them cultivars. We thank you Eberhard for your support, and would like to tell you that your seeds have been distributed to many countries, and your plants in Great Britain. I would like to mention your introduction (to us) of I.pseudacorus 'E. Turnip* seed', which has been a real winner, I often wonder where the name came from, it is so unusual, is there any chance that you know its origin???

Eberhard has also published a book in German which he is hoping to have translated, we wish him all success.

W.Germany.

Eckard Berlin has been with us since we started, he is doing quite a lot of research into I.pseudacorus and I.wilsonii, In 1987 he had an operation on his eyes, but I am pleased to say he is back to his cultivars again. Adrian gave me plants of his I.pseudacorus 'Beuron' and 'Ilgengold' this year, and I am delighted that they have flowered. Perhaps we will hear more about 'Wilsonii' later, all the best.

Holland

Goen Jansen has a Vaste Planten at Koningsvaren, near Dalftsen. He joined in 1988, and grows Sibiricas, I.versicolor, I.chrysographes and graminea and many other plants, well known here in England.

Here at Home.

Steve York is the Manager of the Rose Section of 'Bardill's Roses' at Stapleford Nottingham. After a disastrous fire in their greenhouses last year, they are now busier than ever. Steve is gradually introducing Irises into the Garden Centre, and is growing a lot from seed. As I have said before, Notts. is recognised as a Rose Growers county, but the soil, in most areas seems to suit Irises as well, I am proving it, and so is Steve. They sell ceramic pots, which are ideal for Japanese Irises, and also have a Koi carp section, perhaps they will be developing a Japanese garden next, which brings us nicely to our next new Member:-

Keith Gott of the Japanese Garden Company, Anderton Nurseries, FORTON, Lancs. Keith appeared on Gardener's World with Nigel Colborn last week. He has written a booklet 'A Guide to Japanese Garden Construction', which can be obtained by writing to him (address at the back of the N/L), I think the price is £3.75. but please check before you send. It certainly is more like the concept of Japanese Gardens than some I have seen calling themselves that, I am sure Akira Horinaka will approve. Why not have a try...

Myra and Arthur Staples have a nursery at 'Coach Gap' Langar, in the beautiful Vale of Belvoir. After storm damage and a dastardly robbery, they now have a large 'bubble' polythene greenhouse in which they have grown sweet williams, and now hanging baskets. They too would like to extend their range to include Irises and Alpines, it all takes time but they have already started with water irises, that is if the two mallards, which have taken up permanent residence leave them alone. Myra has 'green fingers' and seems to be able to grow anything, I know she is looking forward to growing sibiricas and spurias, and maybe even trying her hand at ensatas. As I have said before it is a real challenge to grow some of our irises here in this northerly part of the East Midlands, the cold winds can be very sharp in winter, but Myra is prepared to 'have a go'.

Good luck, I say, and I hope everything turns out well.

(cont).

David Wheatcroft son of the late Harry, has just started a new nursery at Flawforth Lane, Ruddington. He has been growing shrubs and plants for the trade for some time, but has now decided to sell them himself. I found it fascinating to see the propagating greenhouses full of cuttings all growing under a 'mist', and can understand why he calls them 'Ecoplants', they all looked so well. David plans to construct a pool in the near future, and no doubt will be interested in our 'water irises' and maybe Japanese. We wish him every success in his venture.

Dr. I. Smart Harwood Hill Gardens, Barnstaple writes to say that he holds a collection of ensatas for the N.CCPG.

John Carter of Rowden Gardens Brentor, Tavistock, a new Member, says that since an article concerning his Gardens appeared in 'Gardening', everything has gone mad, he says that there are still people who BELIEVE in instant gardening... (don't we all know it!). We hope to hear from John when he is not so busy, no need to bribe, we answer all questions when we can, but if you do have some spare plants, we would like them for the Group, we refund postage, and Members certainly enjoy them...

Dr. Dennis Attewell, 'Hackman's House' near Stourbridge has a Water Garden and Leisure centre in Worcester Road, he also has Koi carp, and wants to learn more about our irises I hope, when he has time he will write a detailed account about his venture, it sounds most interesting, we will do all we can to help.

Stephen Dawes, another new Member is a 'Garden Architect' in Wilford Lane, Nottm. I was attracted by his Japanese style when I saw it, he now has some of our irises in his pool, over which there is a splendid bridge. It is very difficult to talk to Stephen, he is either busy or away on one of his projects, one day I will be able to tell you more.

Mr. & Mrs. John Hart, Bradgate Nurseries, Newton Linford. Leics. John and his wife have taken over these nurseries, which are apposite the entrance gates of Bradgate House the romantic ruin which was the home of the ill-fated Lady Jane Grey. He has large greenhouses, one of which is full of sweetly-scented dried flowers and herbs, the others have a variety of unusual plants and flowers, it is a delightful place to roam in.

Outside John has shrubs, trees, hardy plants and rockery plants, some also unusual, it is well worth a visit. He too hopes to include irises later on.

Now I hope I have included everyone, if not, please write in and your letter will be included in the February 1991 Newsletter. We are always pleased to hear from you.

Your Letters.

Hilda Goodwin our Vice-Chairman tells me that already some of the existing slabs have been moved in their new garden... In their place, of course, Bearded, Sibirica and Specios Iris. Already it is beginning to look more like home. Hilda and Don are already planning a pond, (they had a beautiful one back in Loughton). Best wishes to you both, don't do too much. J.

Evelyn Sharland, who lives in Farnborough, has long been an Irisarian, writes to say that after illness she is struggling to restore a little order in her iris beds. Like me she finds that gardening is helping to restore things to normal. Keep well Evelyn, all the best. J.

Vicki Wong, who lives at Powell River British Columbia, has sent a map of her district, thank you Vicki. I hope that the seeds you ordered do well for you, write and tell us when they flower. She is waiting for a shipment of Japanese Irises from 'Ensata Gardens' ~~with excitement~~ do hope you are successful in growing them, I know you will be delighted when they flower.

Mark Frith Of Exhall Coventry has written to say he is anxious to obtain, I.crocea, an avansia and I.gracilipes. Also he is interested in hybrid spurias, large-flowered, brown, brown-red, brown-tan blends of these forms.

Elaine Hurrell writes from South Brent on the southern edge of Dartmoor, that the water from the Moor gives her a good damp area where irises do very well. She has bought seeds and plants, also literature to get to grips with growing them. We send all good wishes Elaine, and hope that you will write and tell us how they fare.

All for this time, but keep the letters coming, I know that we can truthfully say there are more of our irises being grown now, but keep it up, there is room for more..

Some Time Ago Helen Grier sent the following Leaflet issued by the Journal of the Pacific Coast Native Iris Society. Dorothy Foster, 977, Meredith Court, SONOMA, Cal. 95476 is the Secty/Treas. Any questions to LaRue Boswell, 1821, Gross Lane, CONCORD, CA. 94519.

How to Germinate and Care For Your Pacific Coast Native Iris Seedlings.

If possible, plant the seeds in October, although you can plant them up to the year's end if necessary. Use plastic pots or flats, with a good potting soil (well-drained but moisture retentive), having a slightly acid pH-6.5 to 7. Cover the seeds with a thin layer (about seeds thickness) of potting soil. If you plant them close together, it may be difficult to separate them without damaging the roots. It is important to not allow the seed pots to dry out, nor to become saturated. To insure good drainage use about one third sand in the potting mixture.

The seedlings look like thin blades of grass, and take about two months to germinate. When they are 3 to 4 ins. high (March or April in the P.C. States), transplant them to individual larger pots, or directly into the ground. For safety, we suggest, half in the garden and half in larger pots. One-gallon is a good container size for a year at least. Locate them where they have morning sun and afternoon shade (high or filtered) such as beneath oak or pine trees, or from a fence or building may prove satisfactory. Two or three years after germination, plants should flower, March to May, depending on climate.

From the time seed is planted up to the first bloom, moisture supply is critical. Except for a bit of drying off in the heat of summer, keep seedling plants fairly evenly moist 'regular garden watering'. Grown plants can tolerate conditions that are cool & wet or hot & dry but generally fail when it is hot and they are kept wet.

The usual time to transplant, in the Pacific States is in fall to winter, whenever weather cools down rainy season begins. This is the time they begin their root growth. Check for new root growth in mature plants, by carefully removing the soil at end of fan. When roots are one inch long, it is safe to transplant. Whatever the root length, it is important to keep from breaking the roots or letting them dry out. Where winters are cold, greater transplant success occurs in early spring.

Since these seeds are mixed lots from many plants and gardens, you may find variations in growth and appearance.

(Many thanks Helen for this useful information, which I am now able to publish, since we have extended our Group to include the lovely Pacificas. We would also like to have an update on your Spurias. All the best. Joan.)

List of Names and Addresses of New Members.

Dr. D. Attewell, 'Hackman's House Water Gardens and Leisure Centre', Worcester Road, Hackman's Gate. Nr. STOURBRIDGE. Worcs. DY9 0EP.

Mrs. P.M. Bousfield, 'Trainlands', Maulds Meaburn, PENRITH. Cumbria. CA10 3HX.

Mr. J. Carter, 'Rowden Gardens', Brentnor, Nr. TAVISTOCK. Devon. PL19 ONG.

Mr. S. Dawes, 'Garden Architect', Wilford Lane, WILFORD. Notts.

Mr. & Mrs. D.F. Edwards, 'Silver Birches', 3, Beech Farm Lane, Taverham. NORWICH NR8 6CR.

Mr. & Mrs. M. Frith, 80 Deans Way, Exhall. COVENTRY. CV7 9HF.

Mr. & Mrs. J. Hart, 'Bradgate Nurseries', Newton Linford. Leics. LE6 0HB.

Mr. A.B. Higgins, 11, Old House Lane, Royden. Nr. HARLOW. Essex.

Miss. E. Hurrell, 'Moorgate'. Nr. South Brent. Devon. TQ10 9HN.

Mr. D.A. Kimmings, 1, Wedgwood Rd. Doddington Park. LINCOLN. LN6 3LU.

Mrs. H. Relf, 72, Greenside, MAIDSTONE. Kent. ME15 7RS.

Mrs. O.A. Wells, 24, Westwood Rd. MAIDSTONE. Kent. ME15 6BG.

Mr. S.R. Wheatley, 14, Lammer View, CHIRNSIDE DUNS. Berwickshire. Scotland. TD11 3UW.

Mr. D. Wheatcroft, 'Ecoplants', Shrubs Ltd., Flawforth Lane, RUDDINGTON. Notts.

Mrs. J. Young, 'Windmills', Ladder Hill, WHEATLEY. Oxon. OX9 1HY.

Mr. K. Gott, Japanese Garden Co. Anderton Nurseries, Wallace Lane, FORTON. Preston PR3 0BB

Overseas.

Mr. H. Brookins, N 75 W. 14257, North Point Drive, MONOMEE FALLS. Wisconsin. 53051. U.S.A.

Mrs. I. Brolin, Rouseto Bostelle 3-242 95 HOERBY. Sweden.

Denver Botanic Gardens, 909, York Street, DENVER. CO. 80206. U.S.A.

Dr. & Mrs. J. de la Hayze, Seisden, 22 MIDDLEBURG 4331 NT. Holland.

Mr. C. Lindner, Hesserudvagen, 62, 181 35 LIDINGO. Sweden.

Mr. P. Litfors, Little Frescathvagen I STOCKHOLM S10405 Sweden.

Mr. A. Morency, 4, Lafontaine Baie Comcau, QUEBEC. G42 2L9 Canada.

Change of Address.

Mr. A.R. Harsley, now lives at 24, George Road, West Bridgford. NOTTINGHAM.

Will you please check your address, and let me know if an error has been made. J.T.

Contacts in Societies & Groups.

President B.I.S. Mrs Anne Blanco White, 72, South Hill Park, LONDON. NW3 2SN.
 Secretary B.I.S. Mr. P. Maynard, 43, Sea Lane, GORING-by-SEA. WORTHING. Sussex BN124QD
 Secretary Species Group. Mrs. M. Fraser, 'Barsham House', Roundwood, Buckler's Lane,
 KINGS LANGLEY. Herts. W14 8BE.
 Secretary Kent Group. Mrs. M. Tubbs, 9, Lingfield Rd. WIMBLEDON COMMON. LONDON. SW19 9QA.
 Secretary Mercia Group. Mrs. E. Wise, 197, The Parkway, IVER HEATH. IVER. Bucks. SLO 0RQ.
 Secretary Remontant Group. Mr. P. Allery, 199, Walsall Rd. ALDRIDGE. Nr. WALSALL,
 WS9 0BE.

Secretary West Midlands Group. Mr. A. Sedgewick, 37, Cheltenham Rd. LONGLEVENS.
 GLOUCESTER. GL20 JS.

B.I.S. Publications. Mr. N. Watkins, 31, Larkfield Rd. FARNHAM. Surrey. GU9 7DB.

Contacts Overseas.

Editor Spuria N/L. B. Charles Jenkins, 418-A Cayuga St. SALINAS. CA. 93901. U.S.A.
 Editor of Siberian. Mrs. J. Hollingworth, 120, Sherwood Rd. EAST WILLIAMSTOWN. MI. 48895.
 Editor of Japanese I. Review. L.M. Welsh, 7679, West D. Ave, KALAMAZOO. M.I. 49009 U.S.A.
 Mr. F. Wickenkamp (Spuria), 10521, Bellarose Drive, SUN CITY. A.Z. 85351. U.S.A.
 Akira Horinaka (Pres. Japanese Iris soc.), 3-9 Tanimachi, 6 Chome Minima-Ku Osaka. Japan.

Seed Distribution List.

Seeds are 25p per packet, if ordered separately, otherwise 5 packets per £1. all inc.
 postage. Not too many this time so please order alternatives.

Send to:- Mr. D. Trevithick, 86a, Grantham Rd. RADCLIFFE-on-TRENT. NOTTINGHAM. NG12 2HY.
 LAEVIGATAE.

I. laevigata 'Alba' (vs). Mixed (s) and Blue (s).
 I. pseudacorus, 'Bastardii' (p), 'Golden Queen' (m), 'E. Turnipseed' (s), 'Primrose Monarch' (s).
 I. versicolor 'Cat Mousam' (p), 'Claret Cup' (s), 'Rougette' (p).

ENSATAE. (Kaempferi)

I. ensata mixed (s). American Tetraploids (s).

Series Sibiricae.

Sibirica mixed (m), Tets. mixed (s), 'Clee Hills' (m), 'Fourfold White' (p), 'Orville Fay' m.
 'Laurenbuhl' (s), 'Lavender Bounty x various' (s), 'Rejoice Always' (s), 'Mountain Lake' (s),
 'Wine Wings' (s). I. chrysographes (s). I. delavayii (p).

Series Californicae.

Pacificas mixed (m).

Series Spurias.

I. orientalis (p). Spuria 'Imperial Ruby' open poll. (s). 'Adobe Sunset' open poll. (s),
 'Protege' (s), Spuria mixed (s). I. kerneriana (s), and I. halophylla (s).

Series Foetidissima.

I. foetidissima 'Citrina' (s).
 also 'Gerald Darby' (s).

Those marked (s) small amount, (m) medium, (p) plenty.

I forgot to tell you in the Treasurer's Report that a Member has started a 'Book Fund'
 by sending in a donation. If you feel that we could do with one or two more books in
 the Library, I know Jennifer will be pleased. I can think of two most useful ones. The
 first is Currier's 'Japanese Irises' also Fritz Köhlein's 'Iris', perhaps you could add
 a small donation to your subscription, then we can get them as soon as we have enough
 money.

Thank you all for your contributions, more than ever this time. In all my years of
 gardening I have found true gardeners are generous givers, you have proved it. Bless
 you.

We have given you one or two items from non-Members, in fairness to paid-up subscribers
 I must tell you that it is only a One-off thing, I regret I will be unable to give you
 space again, that is, unless you care to join us, I Hope you will understand our
 problem, we do not overcharge, and each Newsletter has to be used for the benefit of
 Members.

We have been promised plants to sell, I know we will have I. pseudacorus 'Bastardii'
 because they are in my pond, and have made a lot of growth. Have you any that need
 parting, if so, send them along we will repay postage.

Until February, good gardening, hope you have enough water.

Bye! Joan.