

# Handbook For Judges and Show Officials



Edition 9.1  
January 28, 2026

ISBN# 978-1-892400-46-8

*Edition 9.1; January 28, 2026*

## Acknowledgements

This edition of the *Handbook for Judges* was completed with the cooperation of the Handbook Revision Team, the AIS Board of Directors, and all the people who wrote, revised, and edited the chapters. A loud chorus of thank you to everyone!

### Contributors, Writers, and Reviewers

Jody Nolin	Dawn Boyer	Jan Blaedel
Bonnie Nichols	Lee Walker	Robert Pries
Andi Rivarola	Charles Carver	Mike Lockatell
Gary White	Lynda Miller	Lorene Crone
Gerry Snyder	Howie Dash	Robert Strohman
Lois Rose	Chad Harris	Janis Shackelford
Debbie Strauss	Robert Treadway	Phyllis Wilburn
Kimberly Rieniets	Patrick O'Connor	John Ludi
Stephanie Markham	Ron Killingsworth	Jean Richter
Kevin Vaughn	Thomas Johnson	Anita Moran
Paul Black	Debby Cole	Betty Roberts
Tom Waters	Terry Aitken	Mary Hanson
	Kathleen Sayce	Claire Schneider

Special thanks to the Handbook Revision Team: Bonnie Nichols, Jody Nolin, Gary White, Andi Rivarola, and Claire Schneider

### Note from the Scribe

This edition of the *Handbook for Judges* contains changes approved by the AIS Board of Directors since edition 9.0 was published in March 2025. Once again, I want to thank everyone who has submitted recommendations for the *Handbook*. These suggestions and contributions confirm that the *Handbook* is a fluid document. It continues to be a pleasure to work with everyone: the Handbook Revision Team, the AIS Board of Directors, the section groups and cooperating societies, individual members, and especially those people who offered editorial advice.

Thank you to everyone!  
Claire Schneider, January 28, 2026

## Introduction to Edition 9.1 of the *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials*

The changes to *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials* for edition 9.1 have been approved by the American Iris Society and is the authority for evaluating iris in the garden and exhibitions. It is referred to throughout simply as the *Handbook*.

With the exception of "Chapter 3: Awards and Honors", the changes to the revised chapters have been minor. Words and phrases have been added and deleted in those chapters. Because the majority of changes were minor, edition 9.1 of the *Handbook* will not be available as a printed copy. Instead, a print copy of *Handbook* 9.0 may be purchased along with a package of pages of the 2025 changes. The approved changes also will be available as a packet, free for download or as print copies for purchase from the AIS Storefront.

### CHANGES to edition 9.1

The major change in 2025 to the *Handbook* was in "Chapter 3: Awards and Honors" regarding the Gerald Richardson Award. An integrated garden at an AIS convention is now eligible for this award whether the garden is located on public or private property or in a commercial establishment. Also in chapter 3, 'Chubby Cheeks' in 2021" was added to the list of previous winners of the Board of Directors Award. The instruction, "send the nomination to the honorary awards chair", was added to the description of the Board of Directors Award.

There were other minor changes to edition 9.1. In "Chapter 9: Tall Bearded Iris" the phrase "of introduction" was deleted from page 15, second paragraph. In "Chapter 20: Iris Species and SPEC-X", the definition of SPEC-X was clarified. The definition of magnolia-shaped flower was added to "Chapter 22: Novelty Iris" and the glossary.

### FUTURE PROCESSES

Because it is a fluid document, the Handbook Revision Team expects and welcomes requests and suggestions for changes to the *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials*. **The deadline for next year will be July 31, 2026.** Send all corrections, changes, and revisions to [secretary@irises.org](mailto:secretary@irises.org)

Claire Schneider  
Handbook Revision Team chair  
January 28, 2026

## Introduction to the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials*

The ninth edition of *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials* has been approved by the American Iris Society and is the authority for evaluating iris in the garden and exhibitions. It is referred to throughout simply as the *Handbook*.

The *Handbook* is available online free, as a digital copy or a paper copy for purchase from the AIS Storefront.

### FORMAT

The *Handbook for Judges* is available as both a printed and a digital document. The decision to format a digital edition of the *Handbook* was easy. The entire digital edition of the *Handbook* can be downloaded to a computer for home reference or to a tablet which can be carried into the garden. Single chapters, appendices, and activity sheets are also available for download and easy to print. Because it is in a digital format, single chapters and appendices can be revised and inserted into existing copies of the *Handbook* without having to publish or purchase the entire *Handbook*. This facilitates keeping the *Handbook* up to date. Revised and approved chapters will be accessible almost immediately for download or purchase.

Hyperlinks have been added in the table of contents of the digital version of 9.0 edition. Instead of scrolling and scrolling through the digital copy of the *Handbook*, you can use the hyperlinks to easily jump to any desired chapter, appendix, or glossary.

Because single chapters can be revised and replaced in the *Handbook*, a unique page numbering system was employed: each chapter begins with page 1. This system of pagination produces an interesting Table of Contents, with each chapter beginning on page one. To avoid any craziness, page numbers are not included in the Table of Contents. To help with navigation, each page has a header with an abbreviation of its chapter title. A suggestion is to add a set of 31-tab dividers to your *Handbook*, one tab for each chapter. These 31-tab dividers are called “daily dividers” and are available for purchase on-line.

The digital version of the *Handbook* will print on standard sized paper, 8.5 by 11 inches, making it fit into a regular 3-ring binder. Again, this will facilitate keeping the *Handbook* up to date because single chapters can be replaced. To ensure that the judges have the latest edition, the most recent date of revision can be found in the footer of each page.

## CHANGES in edition 9.0

The primary purpose for publishing *Handbook 9.0* was consolidation of all the recent changes and additions that have been made to the *Handbook*. Since *Handbook 8.0* was published in July 2021, there have been changes or additions to 12 chapters and one appendix, plus the addition of two chapters and two appendices. It was time for a new complete edition.

There are no new chapters in *Handbook 9.0*. However, the chapters have been renumbered due to the addition of the two Virtual Show chapters last year. Changes to “Chapter 3: Awards” include replacing “cup” with “award” for the Lloyd Zurbrigg-Clarence Mahan Seedling Award; a clarification of the Gerald Richardson Award; the addition of a section, “Honoring Irisarians”; and the removal of the section, “The Symposium”. The information and guidelines of the in-person and virtual show chapters were aligned and the chapter titles changed. The division, Educational Exhibit, was added to the virtual show and show schedule template. The reorganized guidelines for the Exhibition Certificate were added to the show chapters. Eligibility, rather in-eligibility, of single blossom entries for awards was clarified in Chapter 29. Two new appendices, G & H, are diagrams showing the path of a cultivar to the Dykes Medal. The definition of “halo” on the flower of a Japanese iris was clarified in the glossary. The appendices have been reordered and the Judge’s Activity Record is now at the end of the *Handbook*.

## PROCESS

The 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *Handbook* was completed in several steps. Suggestions for changes to the *Handbook* were collected throughout 2024. The Handbook Revision Team, consisting of Bonnie Nichols, Jody Nolin, Andi Rivarola, Gary White, and Claire Schneider (chair), reviewed each suggestion and incorporated most of them. A final draft of each revised chapter was posted online for the AIS Board of Directors to review. At their March 26, 2025 meeting, each revised chapter was reviewed and approved.

## FUTURE PROCESSES

Future meetings to review the *Handbook* will be scheduled annually. The deadline for the submission of additions and changes to the *Handbook* is September 30 of each year. The Handbook Revision Team will review those recommendations and present revisions to the AIS Board of Directors for approval no later than the following May AIS Board Meeting. With these deadlines, future revisions of any chapter or, if needed, the entire *Handbook*, should be ready for release on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Send all corrections, changes, and revisions to the scribe, Claire Schneider, [itsaclearday.claire@gmail.com](mailto:itsaclearday.claire@gmail.com)

**NOTES & REMINDERS:**

## II. BOARD OF DIRECTORS AWARD

This distinctive award is neither a garden award nor an exhibition award. This award is made by the American Iris Society's Board of Directors to honor an iris which has not won a Dykes Medal, but which shows clearly in its progeny that it is among the greats of irisdome.

Candidate cultivars for this award are presented to the AIS Board of Directors by the Awards Committee or by nomination from any AIS member. A nomination should be sent to the honorary awards chair with supporting documentation. A simple majority of the AIS Board of Directors is required to give this award.

The Board of Directors Award, which is not an annual award, was established in 1972 and first awarded in 1975. Previous winners were 'Snow Flurry' TB in 1974, 'Tobacco Road' TB in 1975, 'White Swirl' SIB in 1987, and 'Chubby Cheeks' SDB in 2021.

## III. AIS CONVENTION AWARDS AND HONORS

The American Iris Society's national meeting, popularly known as the AIS national convention, is held annually in the spring of the year. Everyone attending the national meeting who has paid the convention's registration fees is entitled to cast ballots to honor outstanding iris seen in the convention's official tour gardens. The privilege is extended to all registrants without regard to status as an AIS member. In case of a tie, there can be multiple winners.

### The Franklin Cook Memorial Cup

The Franklin Cook Memorial Cup is awarded annually during the American Iris Society's national meeting. All introduced iris seen growing and in bloom in the official tour gardens of the meeting are eligible for the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup, except for iris that originated within the host region for that year's national meeting or originated by a hybridizer whose garden is included on the official garden tour, regardless of its location. Iris considered for this award may or may not be official guest iris. For the convention ballots, introduced iris will include all iris properly registered and offered for sale prior to or in the spring issue of *IRISES, the Bulletin of the American Iris Society* of the year of that national meeting.

Each convention registrant may vote for only one variety and the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup is awarded to the iris receiving the most votes. In case of a tie, there can be multiple winners.

### The President's Cup

The President's Cup is awarded annually during the American Iris Society's national meeting. Eligibility is restricted to introduced iris that originated within the host region for that year's national meeting or originated by a hybridizer whose garden is included on the meeting's official convention tour, regardless of its location. Iris must have been seen growing and in bloom in the meeting's official tour gardens but need not be official guest iris.

Each convention registrant may vote for one variety and The President's Cup is awarded to the iris with the most votes. In case of a tie, there can be multiple winners.

### Ben R. Hager Cup

The Ben R. Hager Cup is awarded annually during the American Iris Society's national convention. Eligibility is restricted to introduced median iris (e.g. SDB, IB, BB, MTB) seen growing and in bloom in the meeting's official tour gardens but need not be official guest iris.

Each convention registrant may vote for one variety, and the Ben R. Hager Cup is awarded to the iris with the most votes. In case of a tie, there can be multiple winners.

### Lloyd Zurbrigg-Clarence Mahan Seedling Award

This award is presented to the seedling at the AIS' national convention that receives the most votes by convention registrants. The seedling may be of any type and registered but not introduced. It is presented by AIS Region 4 in honor of two of its distinguished members, Lloyd Zurbrigg, a noted hybridizer of reblooming iris and Clarence Mahan, a hybridizer and past president of AIS. The Zurbrigg-Mahan Award was first presented in 2014 at the AIS national Convention in Dallas, Texas. Notably different from other AIS awards, the recipient retains the award and a new engraved award, which is donated each year.

### The Gerald Richardson Award

The primary consideration for the Gerald Richardson Award is to inspire the viewer to create their own integrated garden.

The Gerald Richardson Award may be awarded annually to the best integrated garden at an AIS convention. An integrated garden will showcase a variety of iris with

companion plantings and may be found on public or private property or in a commercial establishment. An integrated garden should have a holistic feel, a marriage of iris and companion plants with their physical environment. Elements of an integrated garden **might include** the use of other perennials; native and pollinator-friendly plants; water conservation strategies; artistic additions such as trellises and statues; and/or visually pleasing structures and hardscaping such as paths, raised beds, fences, etc. There are countless ways to interpret an integrated garden, but always, it should provide a tranquil, harmonious, and inspirational experience for the visitor.

### **Considerations for an Integrated Garden**

**Efficient use of space:** The integrated garden may employ a vertical or horizontal alignment to accentuate its purpose, even in small, constrained spaces.

**Aesthetic Appeal:** Its design is both appealing and functional. It may contain simple features that are pleasing to the eye but at the same time highly practical.

**Multi-purposed:** It may include different features, such as pathways, garden art, or raised beds for the production of vegetables.

**In summary**, an integrated garden is more than just a place to grow irises and companion plants. It is a blended system that nurtures the environment and the people who interact with it. It mirrors the gardener's inner spirit and inspires viewers.

The integrated garden does not display parallel rows of irises or other plantings.

Each convention registrant may vote for one garden. The Richardson Award is given to the garden with the most votes.

The first Richardson Award was given at the 2019 AIS Convention in San Ramon, CA.

### Favorite Guest Iris

The AIS' national meeting ballot for favorite guest iris allows each registrant the privilege of voting for up to fifteen outstanding guest iris. Eligibility is restricted to registered iris, introduced or not introduced, which are official convention guest iris. They must be listed in the meeting's program book and must have been seen growing and in bloom on the meeting's official garden tour. The meeting's official list of Favorite Guest Iris (usually 25) is made up of the varieties receiving the highest number of votes.

## IV. AIS OFFICIAL EXHIBITION AWARDS

### Iris Show Awards

The highly prized show awards of the American Iris Society are awarded by AIS accredited judges who are acting as official show judges at AIS accredited iris shows. Only AIS accredited shows which conform to the exhibition rules of AIS and which have been approved by the AIS Exhibitions Committee are eligible to give these awards.

AIS show awards range from the traditional ribbons and rosettes to sweepstakes awards and certificates. The list of show awards and the conditions under which they are awarded are presented in detail in Chapters 4 and 6.

### The Nelson Award

The Nelson Award was first given in 1966. This award honors the iris which has been selected Best Specimen of the Show in the most AIS accredited iris shows during the calendar year. In case of a tie more than one award may be given and the same variety may win more than once. The Nelson Award is determined by the AIS Exhibition Committee. The iris that wins the Nelson Award will be honored in *IRISES*.

### Regional and Affiliate Society Awards and Honors

Many AIS regions and affiliate societies have garden awards and honors that are not part of the AIS Awards and Honors system. Information and guidelines about these awards can be found in regional convention booklets.

### Exhibition Certificates (E.C.)

The Best Seedling of Show automatically receives an Exhibition Certificate (E.C.).

At the end of judging the in-person and virtual shows, the judges will view all seedlings and deliver their E.C. ballots to the show chair.

(1) An E.C. is awarded to any seedling of the in-person show that receives a total of five or more votes cast by the judges of this show and by any visiting certified judges. At the

virtual show, an E.C. is awarded to any seedling that receives five or more votes cast by the judges of the virtual show and only the judges of this virtual show.

(2) An E.C. will be awarded to any seedling that receives a cumulative total of at least five votes from all other AIS sanctioned shows, virtual and in-person shows, in this current calendar year.

(3) The count of E.C. votes from all sanctioned shows will be completed by the AIS exhibition reports chair.

(4) An iris can win only one E.C. in each show but can win multiple E.C.s when entered in multiple shows.

## V. HONORING IRISARIANS

The AIS has special awards for people. These honorary awards originate from nominations made by members of The American Iris Society (AIS). The immediate past AIS president and the Honorary Awards Committee review the nominations and present recommendations to the AIS Board of Directors for approval. Honorary awards are not necessarily given annually. In some years multiple awards are presented, while in other years no awards are presented. It all depends on the nominations received.

A nomination for a special award is made by stating the name of the award, candidate, and reasons for nomination (in as much detail as possible). Nominations need to be received by September 1 to allow time for the committee to review. Nominations should be sent to the Honorary Awards chair.

### AIS Distinguished Service Medal

The AIS Distinguished Service Medal is awarded to individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the AIS at a national level. Selection is based on the amount and quality of work done in such capacities as a member of the AIS Board of Directors, national officer, judges' training activity that is national in scope, writing for the national publication, and other less tangible yet vital acts of national service.

### AIS Hybridizer Medal

The AIS Hybridizer Medal is awarded to living hybridizers who have accomplished exceptional work in iris breeding. This may be based on the number of irises for which a hybridizer has won honors. The Medal may also be awarded when the ratio of award-winning irises to the total number of introductions is significant or when the hybridizer has made significant advancements in irises.

### The Bee Warburton Medal

The Bee Warburton Medal is awarded to an overseas irisarian for outstanding international contributions to the knowledge of the world of iris. It is the highest honor that AIS can bestow on an international irisarian.

### AIS Gold Medal

The AIS Gold Medal is presented to those who have provided highly exceptional service over a long period of time. It is the highest honor that the AIS can give, and consequently it is rarely given.

## EXHIBITION JUDGING

### Tall Bearded Iris Seedlings

In judging seedling classes, judges should remember that they are not seeking a superior horticultural specimen. But rather a new cultivar which not only conforms to the guidelines for the class, but exhibits desirable qualities comprising improvement and/or innovation. Condition is not a factor in judging seedlings. In fact, it is preferable that the stalks are not groomed, so that the judge can more easily evaluate such features as branching and bud count.

The Exhibition Certificate (EC) is awarded to the “Best Seedling” if one is chosen. The certificate is not a recommendation for introduction, since on the show bench it is not possible to evaluate plant qualities. The Best Seedling award should not be given when no entry is worthy. Exhibition Certificates are also awarded to seedlings that receive votes from at least five judges on special seedling ballots in a calendar year at AIS sanctioned shows. Judges visiting a show are urged to review the seedling entries and use these ballots to reward excellence where they find it.

### SCALE OF POINTS

#### Exhibition Judging of Tall Bearded Iris Seedlings

1. Flower			40
	a. Color	15	
	b. Form	15	
	c. Substance & Durability	10	
2. Stalk			35
	a. Poise & Balance	15	
	b. Number of Buds	10	
	c. Branching	10	
3. Distinctiveness			25
TOTAL			100

A prepared judge should have received and studied the show schedule well in advance of the show. A copy of the *Handbook For Judges* should always be present, along with a copy of the AIS Check List(s), Registrations and Introductions booklets (R&Is), or access to the online AIS Iris Register and the Iris Encyclopedia. Carefully review the portion of “Duties and Responsibilities of Judges,” “Organizing and Presenting an Iris Show” and “Rules and Regulations of an Iris Show” that pertain to exhibition judging before arriving at the show. To assist with identification, judges are allowed to use electronic devices to access the AIS Iris Encyclopedia and the most recent AIS checklist.

## Chapter 20

### IRIS SPECIES and SPEC-X

Approved by the AIS Board of Directors, May 11, 2021

Revision approved by the AIS Board of Directors, January 28, 2026

**Definition:** A species (SPEC) iris is the named selection of a single species originally collected in the wild as a division, seedling, or seed; has come from seeds of the former plants grown in cultivation (whether hand pollinated or open pollinated); or has come from mutations of the above.

**Definition:** According to SIGNA (Species Iris Group of North America), SPEC-X is the term applied to any hybrid that does not fall into a conventional category such as Louisianas, Siberians, or Junos. It literally means “species cross”.

The hybridizer may elect to register an iris as a species if it seems the iris is more species-like and not representative of the definition of a specific class. For example, when it is time to register an *Iris sibirica* seedling, the hybridizer has the option of registering it in the Siberian class or the species class. The Founders of SIGNA Medal is the highest award for irises in the species class.

SPEC-X irises are hybrids with a mix of species traits. A cross involving an iris species as one of the parents and another plant not of that species is a SPEC-X. Also included in SPEC-X are hybrids from species crosses. An example of a species cross (SPEC-X) would be the seedling from the cross of *Iris ensata* with *I. pseudacorus*. Iris hybrids that do not fit in any other category are also considered SPEC-X iris. Another example would be the offspring of *I. junonia* and an SDB. The hybridizer may elect to register a seedling as SPEC-X if it is more species-like and does not fit into any other category. The Randolph-Perry Medal is the highest award for irises in the SPEC-X class.

Species (SPEC) and SPEC-X irises are versatile and can be used in the perennial border or rock garden as specimen plants, mass plantings, ground covers, pool plants or container plants. Burgeoning interest in species and SPEC-X irises is bringing more of them into gardens, where their evaluation can pose a complicated assignment. Judges are encouraged to grow the species and SPEC-X irises most commonly grown in their area, because there is no better way to learn about these irises than by growing them.

## GARDEN JUDGING

### Iris Species and SPEC-X

Species (SPEC) and SPEC-X are the broadest and most diverse classes of irises, representing many sizes, forms, bud counts, branching habits, types of stalks, etc. Guidelines from other classes of irises should be set aside. In SPEC, each cultivar is to be evaluated on its own merit as a garden plant. It is important to remember that a species is not represented by any single plant. Many species have a great deal of variation, even in the wild. SPEC-X is a wide-open class. In some cases, the judge will be evaluating irises of a type which never existed before. There is a lot of leeway in this class to reward innovation. However, the cultivar must also be evaluated on its garden merit.

Point scales for garden judging are used to encourage consistent evaluation of specimens. Swift and quality performance is demanded of the judge, making it impractical to point-score every iris. The point scale is useful to the student judge in learning the special requirements of the class. Consistency must be observed in judging all classes. This scale of points can be used to judge any species or SPEC-X iris.

color patterns appear unique to this cultivar, however, other iris with this pattern are likely to be hybridized.

**Flat-Shaped Flowers** – Flat-shaped iris, also known as flatties, are novelty iris with six falls arranged in a horizontal to downward arching pattern with six visible beards. Although there usually are no standards, flat-shaped iris flowers will occasionally have one standard. The novelty of this iris is especially attractive when the petals are very wide. Flat-shaped novelties may have one or two partially normal flowers on the same stalk with the flat flowers.

**Magnolia-shaped flower** – An iris flower that only partially opened such that it has the shape of a magnolia or tulip blossom. Also known as a tulip-shaped flower. The magnolia-shaped flower is a very rare novelty iris. For example, ‘Blue Tulip’ (Frederick Knocke 1964, TB)

Total consistency of flower form is a plus. A good novelty iris should consistently display its novelty characteristics. If the flat-shaped flower is comprised of both standards and falls, the standards must consistently grow flat at least 85% of the time. Weak, floppy standards that collapse do not make a flat flower. The style arms of the flat-shaped flowers will most often appear in the normal quantity, but can appear in multiple or irregular counts.

**Variegated Foliage** – foliage with colors other than the standard green such as purple, black, white, cream, etc. These unusual colors could be streaked, striped, edged or seasonal.

## GARDEN JUDGING

### Introduced Cultivars & Seedlings of Novelty & Space Age Iris

The Rule of Thumb is: The better the flower, the better the novelty. While a novelty iris flower may not look exactly like a traditional form, it still should be a beautiful flower.

The appropriate chapter in the *Handbook for Judges* should be used for judging novelty iris in the garden. For example, follow the guidelines in “Chapter 9: Tall Bearded Iris” when the novelty iris being judged is a tall bearded iris. The judge will have to exercise an independent judgment on specific points, particularly form and distinctiveness. Improved and innovative flowers, bud count, stalks, and plants are to be stressed as with all garden judging.

## EXHIBITION JUDGING

### Horticultural Entries & Seedlings of Novelty & Space Age Iris

The appropriate chapter in the *Handbook for Judges* should be used for judging novelty iris in exhibitions.

Novelty and space-age iris may be a class in the show schedule. Depending on the number of entries and exhibitors, novelty and space-age iris may even be in separate classes. Specimens that exhibit both novelty and space-age features, may be exhibited in either novelty or space-age sections of the AIS show or in any other appropriate section (e.g., historic, intermediate). The exhibitor will choose the section for their specimen.

As with all other iris in an exhibition, varieties should be evaluated carefully. Each entry should be compared to what is typically the best performance for the variety being judged. The unique nature of the novelty and/or space-age iris must not override the guidelines on form and proportion for the class being evaluated. The appropriate chapter in the *Handbook for Judges* should be consulted. However, the expression of the novelty or space-age characteristic on the specimen is very important. If most other attributes are equal, the best example of a consistent novelty should be favored while specimens lacking the novelty and/or space-age should not receive awards.

**Halo** - In the special case for *Iris ensata*, a halo is a band of color surrounding the flower's signal. In many cases, the halo on *I. ensata* sharply contrasts with the falls, highlighting the signal.

See **Border** (on page 2)

**Historic Iris** - An iris introduced thirty (30) or more years ago.

**Horn** - An extension protruding from the end of the beard into a point. Found on "Space Age" iris flowers.

**Horticultural Division** - The division in an iris show for correctly named and registered iris cultivars and species that may or may not have been introduced.

**Hybrid** - The offspring of genetically unlike parents.

**Increases** - A term that refers to the number of additional rhizomes emanating from the original parent rhizome. Increases are an example of asexual reproduction.

**Inflorescence** - The total cluster of flowers on a branch or stalk. For example, the expected inflorescence of a tall bearded iris is seven flowers produced by seven buds per stalk.

**Interspecies hybrids** - The plant that results from the cross of two different species. Synonym = species cross.

**Introduced Iris** - An introduced iris is one that has been registered and offered for sale to the public and recorded by the AIS registrar. Compare to **Registered Iris**.

**Lace** - The edges of the standards and falls are serrated or notched, giving the appearance of lace.

**Lanceolate leaf** - A leaf with the shape of a lance head: long, tapering to a point at its apex.

**Luminata** - A color pattern in iris where the hafts and heart of the flower are white or yellow, without markings. This contrasts with the darker falls, producing the effect of a light within the center of the flower.

**Magnolia-shaped flower** – An iris flower that only partially opened such that it has the shape of a magnolia or tulip blossom. Also known as a tulip-shaped flower. The magnolia-shaped flower is a very rare novelty iris. For example, ‘Blue Tulip’ (Frederick Knocke 1964, TB)

**Matte** - A flower surface texture that is flat, non-reflective, or non-lustrous.

**Mutation** - An inherited change within a chromosome of an individual.

**Nectaries** - The area at the base of the falls where nectar is produced located on each side of the beard on bearded iris. Beardless irises also have nectaries. They are very well developed on the spuria iris, located at the base of the flower and on the spathes. An iris flower will have six nectaries. Nectar attracts pollinators.

**Neglecta** - A flower color pattern of blue or blue-violet bitone.

**Node** - Areas of the stem where leaves and new growths or increases are produced.

**Novelty** - Iris cultivars with unique and unusual features. For example, six falls on the flowers, irregular color patterns, having too many or lacking flower parts, and “space age” appendages on the beards.

**Oncobred** - A hybrid iris from *Oncocyclus* and *Eupogon* parentage typically showing resemblances of both parents.

**Oncocyclus (O)** - A group of species of aril iris. See the essay, “Terminology of AR & AB” for more information.

**Oncogelia (OG)** - A hybrid iris involving the cross of a species of *Oncocyclus* and *Regelia* that has a predominately *Oncocyclus* phenotype. *Regelia* is abbreviated “G” when hybridized with *Oncocyclus* iris.

**Ovary** - The seed-bearing structure at the base of the flower. After fertilization, the ovary matures into a seed pod that contains seeds.

**Pallida** - This is the name of a European species of diploid, tall-bearded iris, *Iris pallida*, with self-colored, lavender-blue flowers borne on closely branched stems. Garden varieties with other characteristics of this species are described as pallida-type iris.

**Perennial** - A plant that lives for two or more growing seasons.

**Perianth** - The collective term for the petals or standards and falls of the iris flower. For example, the perianth of 'Dusky Challenger' is a ruffled, rich purple.

**Perianth-tube** - The slender tube in the iris flower connecting the ovary with the separate perianth parts.

**Petaloid** - A structure that resembles a flower petal.

**Petiole** - The stalk that connects the blade to a stem.

**Phenotype** - Appearance. The set of observable characteristics of an individual that are the result of the interaction of its genotype and the environment. Compare to **Genotype**.

**Plicata** - A flower color pattern where a lighter ground color is stippled, dotted, or stitched with a darker color.

**Pogon** - A word of Greek origin meaning "beard." Pogon refers to the group of iris with beards consisting of unicellular hairs. Oncocylus and Regelia species are in the group of pogon iris. Eupogon refers to an iris with a beard consisting of multicellular hairs. Apogon refers to irises without beards.

**Pollen** - The male gametes or their antecedents of a flower.

**Position** - A specific place on the bloom stalk where flower buds emerge.

**Purple-Based Foliage (PBF)** - Purple coloration at the base of the leaves and sometimes on the stalk and buds.

**R&Is** - See **AIS R&Is**.

**Reblooming Iris (RE)** - An iris that blooms in the spring and again in the same growing season. See "Chapter 23: Reblooming Iris," for more information.

**Reflexed** - A condition of bending abruptly downward and inward. For example, the falls of an arilbred flower can be noticeably reflexed.

**Regelia (R)** - A group of species of aril iris. Regelia is abbreviated “G” when hybridized with *Oncocyclus* iris. See the essay, “Terminology of AR & AB,” for more information.

**Regeliabred** - A hybrid iris of Regelia and *Eupogon* parentage typically showing resemblances of both parents.

**Regeliocyclus (RC)** - A hybrid iris involving the cross of a species of *Oncocyclus* and Regelia that has a predominately Regelia phenotype.

**Registered Iris** - An iris whose registration application has been accepted and approved by the registrar of the American Iris Society. Compared to an **introduced iris** which is one that has been offered for sale to the general public.

**Remontancy** - See **Reblooming Iris**.

**Rhizomatous** - Producing or having a rhizome.

**Rhizome** - A modified creeping or underground stem with roots and buds developing from the nodes. The iris rhizome is often enlarged, serving as a storage organ.

**Rim** - See **Border**.

**Ruffled** - The edges of the standards and/or falls are wavy or ruffled.

**Seed** - The fertilized embryo and various surrounding structures of a seed plant. Note: Only seed plants reproduce via seeds. Some plants reproduce via spores or other structures instead of seeds.

**Self** - An iris with standards and falls the same color. The beard might or might not be the same color.

**Sib (sibling)** - Offspring from the same parents. A sib-cross is a cross between sibling plants.

**Sibtosa Iris** - A hybrid iris that is the result of the cross of *Iris siberica* and *I. setosa*.

**Shoulder** - Another term for haft which is the top part of the falls.

**Signal** - A patch or spear of color at the top center of the falls, emanating from the throat. Signals are common in beardless irises, such as Louisiana, Japanese and spuria iris.

**Sophisticated Flower** - An elegant, complex, classy, cosmopolitan flower. Compared to a flower that is simple, unrefined, plain, and quiet.

**Space Age Iris (SA)** - A bearded iris with a projection from the end of its beard such as a horn, spoon, or flounce.

**Spathe (spathe-valve)** - A bract or modified leaf subtending a flower or group of flowers. Spathes can be green and fleshy or dry and papery. In early stages of development, the spathes enclose and protect the young flower buds. Iris often have an inner and outer spathe.

**SPEC** - The class of iris for named species that originally were collected in the wild as a division, seedling, or seed. SPEC iris also can come from seeds of the former plants grown in cultivation (whether hand pollinated or open pollinated).

**SPEC-X** - The class of iris for any hybrid iris that does not fall into a conventional category such as Louisianas, Siberians, or Junos. The SPEC-X class contains more iris than interspecies crosses. See “Chapter 20: SPEC & SPEC-X” for more information.

**Spoon** - An appendage at the end of the beard that looks like a small spoon.

**Spur** - A short side stem on the main bloom stalk with only one flower.

**Stamen** - The pollen-bearing structure of the flower consisting of a filament and anther.

**Standards** - The upper three petals of the iris flower; the inner series of the perianth. Compare to **Falls** and **Perianth**.

**Style arms** - The three flattened petal-like branches of the style, between the ovary and stigma, ending in style crests above the stigmatic lip.

**Style Crest** - A projection from the top of the style.

**Substance** - The inner tissue structure of the perianth (standards and falls) that determines the durability of the flower. Flowers with “good” substance will have improved longevity of color and form of the flower.

**Sweepstakes** - In an iris show, sweepstakes refers to the quantity of first-place ribbons won. The sweepstakes winner in an iris show, the exhibitor with the most first-place ribbons, will receive the Silver Medal, certificate, and large purple rosette. The sweepstakes runner-up receives the Bronze Medal and certificate.

**Terminal Position** - The upper-most position. For example, the terminal flower on a bloom stalk would be the flower emanating from the highest point on the stalk.

**Tetraploid** - Having four sets of chromosomes. Compare to **diploid**.

**Texture** - A surface characteristic which influences the impact of color of the standards and falls. Examples are matte, crepe-like, and diamond dusted.

**Variegata** - A flower color pattern of yellow or nearly yellow standards with darker, often red, falls.

**Variegation** - is the appearance of differently colored zones in the leaves, and sometimes the stems, of plants. Variegated leaves occur rarely in nature.

**Variety** - A cultivated plant which has been given an identifying common name. Botanically, a variety can be a group of individuals within a species that differs sufficiently from the rest of the species population to be distinguished and given a Latin varietal name. A horticultural synonym for variety is **cultivar**.

**WIKI** - See AIS Iris Encyclopedia.