



Why not try growing a new type of Iris?

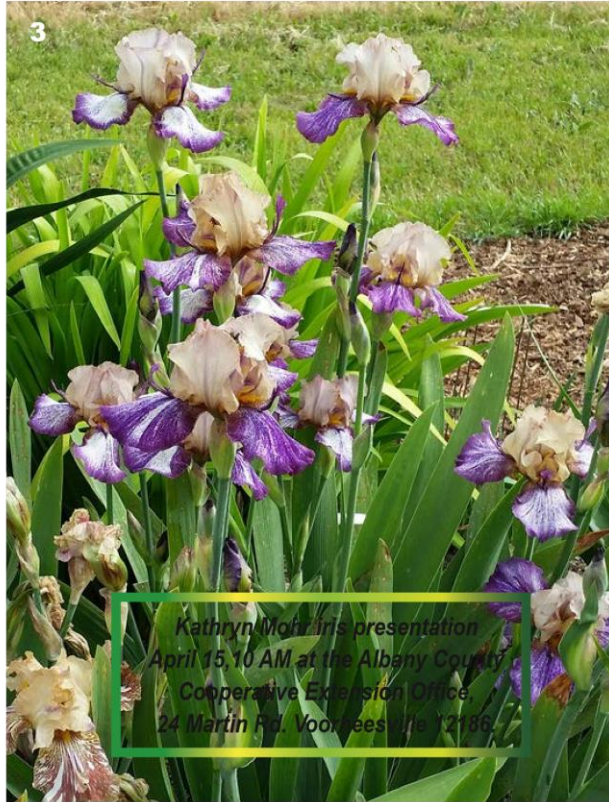
About the author: Kathryn Mohr first noticed irises and started picking them as a toddler. She has had iris gardens in four different states with quite different growing conditions. She has been an active member of Capital-Hudson Iris Society and Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society since the '90s and Upstate New York Hosta society for over 10 years.

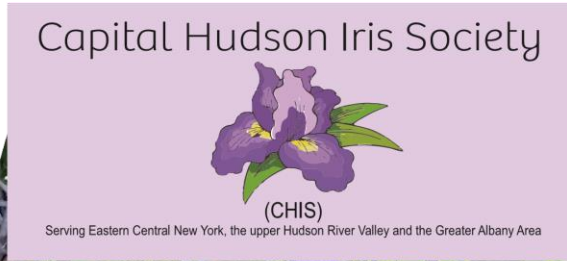
Iris hybridizers constantly create new and exotic irises for iris lovers to enjoy. Many are not known to the general gardening public.

Iris pseudacorus, aka yellow flag, is very easy to grow. Because it's considered invasive and non-native NY State prohibits its propagation. Iris pseudodata is an infertile I. pseudacorus-Japanese iris cross that combines the vigor of pseudacorus with the exotic beauty of Japanese irises. I. pseudodata can be grown in or near water, in marshy areas or in garden beds. When grown in a garden bed they require extra moisture their first year. Though pseudatas grow best with ample water, once established they can withstand some drought.

Many Louisiana irises are cold hardy. The Louisiana species I. fulva and I. brevicaulis and many hybrid LAs can be easily grown here. I received my first fulva as a door prize at a HADS meeting. The donor gardened in zone 4. Species LAs are very tailored in form; hybrids are ruffled and come in myriad patterns and colors. Louisiana irises require full sun and must be kept constantly moist until they bloom. They can be fed with composted manure or a balanced commercial fertilizer.

Novelty irises have become very popular recently. These unusual and unique irises include those with blossoms with broken color, variegated foliage, space age iris and flower forms with missing or extra segments. Broken color can be defined as random streaking of one or more colors on a blossom. 'Batik' is a classic broken color iris. A space age iris is one with spoons, horns or extra tissue attached to or in place of the beard. The Novelty Iris Society (NIS), a section of the American Iris Society promotes irises that are considered novelties of all classes and types of irises.





Picture details:

- 1 A bicolor novelty iris with pom-pom flounce on the falls.
- 2 Gold form of the species Louisiana iris, *I. fulva*, 'Nelson' has wide segments and ruffling.
- 3 Broken color TB with horns and spoons.
- 4 Clear color and graceful form of *I. pseudata* 'Alabama Blue Fin' make it a garden star.
- 5 'Enfant Protige' is a *I. versicolor* and *I. enstata* mix.
- 6 Bitone hybrid Louisiana iris 'Mary Nelson' has wide segments and ruffling.
- 7 Hybridi Louisiana iris, Patrick O'Connor seedling.
- 8 Species Louisiana iris *I. brevicaulis*: open form, shades of blue.
- 9 Tan bitone novelty iris with spoons and broken color falls.