

# The Iris Standard

## Newsletter of the Ontario Iris Society

### An affiliate of the American Iris Society

Volume 17 Issue 3 - Summer 2022

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**The Ontario Iris Society has a  
Facebook page.**

*We hope you will join us then...*

- upload your pictures,
- share your experiences
- ask questions.

*It's your posts that make it a success!*

#### ONIS E-Membership Fees

1-year single: \$10	1-year family: \$15
3-year single: \$25	3-year family: \$40

Check the ONIS website for details  
<https://sites.google.com/view/ontarioiris>

#### Visit the AIS WIKI

Use this link to access the *Iris Encyclopedia*  
of the American Iris Society,  
[WebHome < Main < Iris Wiki \(irises.org\).](http://WebHome<Main<IrisWiki(irises.org).)  
Find information about irises, hybridizers,  
and different iris societies.

#### Editor's Message

WOW! What an adventure this year's iris season was! As always, ambivalence set in as the season approached. With all our digging, dividing, and moving about last year I was sure we would be 'iris-less in Aurora' this year. I'm very happy to announce that I was dead wrong!

After a slow start to the season, we had irises bloom that hadn't bloomed in years; we had irises bloom that we thought had long since 'disappeared'; we even had irises bloom that we didn't know we had. For this iris aficionado, there was a great feeling of satisfaction. Sorting our garden involved a lot of work but, in the end, we got to reap the rewards. I highly recommend it!

*At right, TB 'Mandarin Morning' don't remember when we bought this one!*



Thank you to everyone who emailed pictures and posted on Facebook. It would seem it was a mixed season for iris lovers in Ontario with some experiencing great bloom while others expressed some disappointments. Such is the life of a gardener!

Starting July 15, our online rhizome sale will be open to ONIS members. Details for participating in the sale start on page 3. The list of irises is in the development stage but will be posted on our website once it is available.

And finally, just for fun, we have a contest! Test your purple plicata ID skills. See page 5 for details! Have fun!

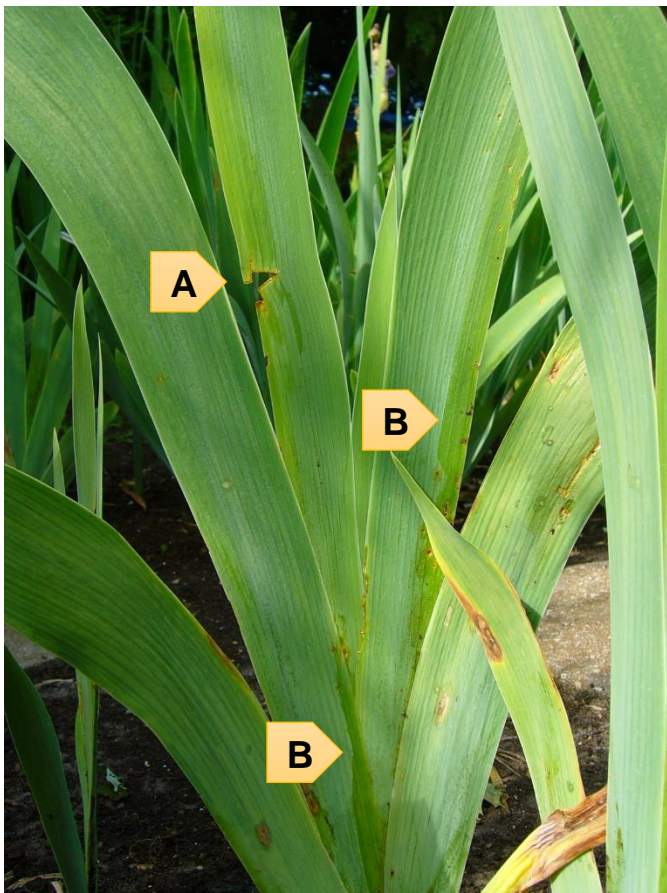
Kate

## President's Pointers

*By Terry Laurin*

It's that time of year again...time to look for evidence of the iris borer. Below is a picture with two of the tell-tale signs. Have you seen these signs on your irises?

- A. Notched leaves – this is where the larvae have entered the leaf. They will feed on the inside of the leaf, and each other, until one reaches the rhizome.
- B. Wet streaks – areas where the larvae are feeding. Notice it continues down the edge of the leaf.
- C. Yellow middle leaf (not shown in picture) – this leaf will remove easily if tugged upon.



If you notice any of these signs check out 'President's Pointers' in the Summer 2021 edition of 'The Iris Standard'. Or, if you want to contact me with your borer questions, my email address is at the end of this article.

## ONIS Virtual Iris Show

Did you manage to take any pictures of your irises this Spring? Between the derecho and the thunderstorms we saw many soggy blooms and broken stalks in our garden. However, on the good days, there was plenty to photograph.

There is still time to submit your pictures to the ONIS Virtual Iris Show. Entries must be submitted to the Show Chair, Kate ([just1moreiris@gmail.com](mailto:just1moreiris@gmail.com)), by midnight Saturday, July 16.

The Show Schedule can be found on our website, [Ontario Iris Society - Virtual Iris Show \(google.com\)](http://OntarioIrisSociety-VirtualIrisShow.google.com) or, for your convenience, here's a quick link, [Show Schedule](#).

This year, for the first time, members are asked to participate by voting for their favourites. Use the above link to the virtual show page on the website then select one of the classes from the drop-down box to see the entries. Your selections can be emailed to Kate ([just1moreiris@gmail.com](mailto:just1moreiris@gmail.com)). Results will be published in the Autumn edition of 'The Iris Standard'.

## Welcome New ONIS Members

The AIS Membership drive has come to an end. I'd like to welcome everyone who took advantage of their offer for a free 1-year AIS membership by joining ONIS. If you have any questions about your AIS membership, let me know.

As always, feel free to email me with any of your questions about irises, [tlaurin@rogers.com](mailto:tlaurin@rogers.com).





## The 3rd Annual Online Sale

We are pleased to announce this year's Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) on-line rhizome sale. To ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible here are some guidelines.

### Please read carefully

#### **REQUIREMENT TO PARTICIPATE**

Anyone who lives in Canada can participate.

#### **SALE PERIOD**

**ONIS MEMBERS:** as a perk for fee-paying ONIS members, beginning at noon (ET) on Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, the sale is open to only ONIS members.

**NON ONIS MEMBERS:** beginning at noon (ET) on Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, the sale will be open to Canadian residents who are not ONIS members.

Sale will close on Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at midnight (ET).

#### **RHIZOME AVAILABILITY**

Some of the varieties are limited in number so order early. Orders will be allocated on a 'first come, first service' basis. Substitutions are welcome. Please indicate cultivar names in your order.

**\*\*If you are interested in Spuria irises and can pick up your order from our Aurora location, let us know and a list will be emailed to you. Pricing is \$12/plant.**

#### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

All varieties will have a link to the American Iris Society's Iris Encyclopaedia (aka the IRIS WIKI). Click on the link to view pictures and details. If clicking on the link does not work, copy, and paste the link into your browser.

**NOTE: the indication of 'rebloom' is taken from the WIKI and does not guarantee an iris will rebloom in your climate. Varieties classified as 'historic' are more than 30 years old.**

#### **PRICING**

Prices are as indicated in the '2022 On-Line Sale List'. Prices do not include shipping.

ONIS members receive a discount of \$1/rhizome. If non-members are ordering more than 10 rhizomes, you may want to consider joining our Society. A 1-year e-membership is \$10. Other rates can be found

on the ONIS website [Ontario Iris Society \(google.com\)](http://OntarioIrisSociety.google.com).

#### **SHIPPING CHARGES**

Due to rising fuel costs, shipping rates have increased by more than 20%. As a result, we have had to increase our shipping charges.

#### Ontario residents

1 – 9 rhizomes: \$20.00

10 or more rhizomes: \$20.00 plus \$0.50 for each rhizome over 9.

#### Residents Outside of Ontario:

1 – 9 rhizomes: \$25.00

10 or more rhizomes: \$25.00 plus \$0.50 for each rhizome over 9.

Pick-up available. Let us know and arrangements can be made.

#### **SUBMITTING YOUR ORDER**

E-mail your order to Kate, Sale Coordinator, at [kbrewitt@rogers.com](mailto:kbrewitt@rogers.com) with "**ONIS Rhizome Sale 2022**" in the subject line. Include method of payment plus full mailing address and telephone number in case we need to contact you about your order. A confirmation of receipt of your order will be emailed to you within 48 hours.

**ACCEPTED PAYMENT METHODS:** Money Orders, or cheques made payable to the ONTARIO IRIS SOCIETY or an e-transfer using the email address provided below. Do not pay until order is confirmed.

We have tried to make this as simple as possible however, if you have any problems, please contact me at [kbrewitt@rogers.com](mailto:kbrewitt@rogers.com).



*TB 'Greet The Sun'  
One of the irises  
available in the  
ONIS on-line  
sale.*

## Rebloom in Ontario

By Kate Brewitt

If you have been buying and growing irises for many years you are probably familiar with reblooming irises. These are irises that feature a second bloom period in the same year. The first bloom period occurs during the Spring iris season, in Ontario that is usually in May or June, while the second bloom period frequently occurs in late summer or early fall before a hard frost. The most common reblooming irises are the bearded ones however there are also beardless reblooming irises such as Siberians and Japanese.

You will find that there are many different names used for these irises, rebloomers, remontants, extended bloomers and repeaters are the most common. Regardless of what they are called, I for one enjoy the extended iris season provided by these cultivars.

Unfortunately, not all "reblooming" iris cultivars will rebloom in every garden nor will they rebloom every year in all gardens. There are several variables that contribute to this.

1. Length of the growing season – registered rebloomers hybridized in a region with a more temperate climate are conditioned to a longer growing season. As a result, these irises may not rebloom in Ontario's shorter growing season. However, they tend to be more robust resulting in a better growth habit.
2. Amount of water - reblooming irises can go into dormancy during a hot, dry summer. Keeping them watered during the hot summer days reduces the chance of this happening. If September and October are dry it is a good idea to give them some extra water.
3. Air and soil temperatures – once air temperatures get warmer, soil temperatures increase. Reblooming Siberians and Japanese irises require cool soil for rebloom to happen. Hybridizer Terry Aitken suggests these two types of beardless irises may benefit from several inches of mulch such as wood shavings<sup>1</sup>.



*'Quantum Leap' – hybridized in California (USDA zone 9), where it has been reported to rebloom. However, in Ontario, there has not been any report of rebloom. It is, though, very robust, putting out multiple stalks every year.*

Because of this uncertainty we thought it would be helpful if ONIS put together a list of irises that rebloom in Ontario. This list will be posted on the ONIS website so everyone can reference it. But before this can be done, we need your input.

Want to help? Read on to find out how.

### **Which of your irises rebloom, and when?**

When your irises start to rebloom in late summer or early fall, record the following,

1. Name of the cultivar.
2. Date it started to rebloom.
3. Date it finished reblooming (optional).

When your irises have finished reblooming send an email with this information to me at [kbrewitt@rogers.com](mailto:kbrewitt@rogers.com). If you have any pictures, send them along as well. They will nicely compliment the resulting report which will appear in a future edition of *The Iris Standard*.

1. Terry Aitken, "A Beardless Rebloom Theory", *The Review*, Issue No. 10, Autumn 2013, p. 11. [Review 10 cover.pub \(beardlessiris.org\)](#)

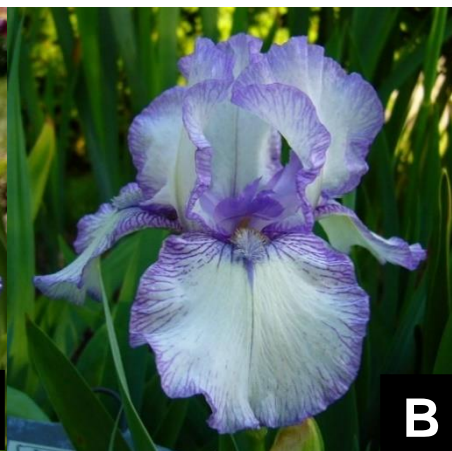


### Do You Know the Name of This Iris?

Often a picture of an iris will be posted on Facebook with the caption, “Does anyone know the name of this iris?” With over 40,000 tall-bearded irises alone, identifying an iris accurately from a picture is next to impossible. There are certain features used to ID a cultivar that a picture can’t address such as the height of the iris, whether the iris has purple-based foliage (PBF), and others.

So, let’s have some fun! Below are nine purple plicata irises. Can you match the name to the picture? Email me (oniseditor@gmail.com) your matches. Whoever gets the most correct matches will receive a 1-year extension on their ONIS membership. Answers will be printed in the next edition of ‘The Iris Standard’. Contest closes August 15, 2022.

1. ‘American Classic’, 2. ‘Bold Print’, 3. ‘Charleston’, 4. ‘Classic Look’, 5. ‘Common Thread’,  
6. ‘Earl Of Essex’, 7. ‘Ink Patterns’, 8. ‘Presby Crown Jewel’, 9. ‘Rare Edition’, 10. ‘Rumor Has It’.





## ONIS Matters

### In the Months Ahead

#### **Online Rhizome Sale**

**July 15 – 17 – ONIS Members ONLY**

**July 18 – July 24 – ONIS Members and non-members**

Back by popular demand! Details for ordering are on page 3 of this newsletter.

The list of available irises will be posted on the ONIS website, [Ontario Iris Society - Auctions and Sales \(google.com\)](https://www.ontarioirissociety.org/auctions-and-sales). Or email the Sale Coordinator at [kbrewitt@rogers.com](mailto:kbrewitt@rogers.com)

#### **ONIS Annual Iris Rhizome Auction and Sale Toronto Botanical Garden**

This annual event has been cancelled for another year. We hope to return to the Toronto Botanical Garden in 2023.

#### **2022 AIS Region 2 Annual Meeting Date to be Announced**

The Region 2 Annual meeting will be held via zoom. Following the meeting there will be a presentation. Details will be communicated to members when they become available.

#### **ONIS Annual Meeting October/November**

The ONIS Board is reviewing its options for this year's meeting. Details to be announced. Everyone is welcome.

## Welcome

### New and Renewing Members!

V. Gaitskell – Oakville, ON

L. Hickey – Scarborough, ON

I. Smith – Aurora, ON

V. Tucker – Nepean, ON

R. Walker – Thornhill, ON

## AIS Matters

**August 1** – Send your TB Symposium choices to Neil Houghton, AIS Region 2 RVP, ([neil.houghton@me.com](mailto:neil.houghton@me.com)). A copy of the ballot can be found on the AIS website, [AIS-2022-Symposium-Ballot.pdf \(irises.org\)](https://www.iris.org/AIS-2022-Symposium-Ballot.pdf). Open to all ONIS members.

**August 1** - Region 2 judges must vote the 2022 AIS Official Ballot. Vote online through the voting website at [www.voteirises.org](http://www.voteirises.org). Mailed ballots must be postmarked no later than August 1, 2022.

**August 7** – Region 2 Judges' Training Activity reports due to Wendy Roller, our JT Chair. Printable copies of the report can be found on the Region 2 website [Judges' Training \(aisregion2.org\)](https://www.aisregion2.org). If you need assistance, please email Wendy at [gwr67@frontier.com](mailto:gwr67@frontier.com).

## Upcoming Conventions

#### **2023 AIS National Convention Grapevine, Texas April 12 – 16, 2023**

The Iris Society of Dallas is hosting the 2023 AIS National Convention in Grapevine, Texas. For information go to [2023 AIS CONVENTION - Iris Society of Dallas \(irises-dallas.org\)](https://www.iris-society-of-dallas.org/2023-AIS-CONVENTION). Or [click here](#) to access an information flyer.



*The Iris Standard* is published four (4) times a year, Winter, Spring, Summer, and Autumn. Materials submitted must be received by December 1<sup>st</sup> (Winter), March 1<sup>st</sup> (Spring), June 1<sup>st</sup> (Summer) and September 1<sup>st</sup> (Autumn). Submissions may be edited for style and clarity. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the editor, [oniseditor@gmail.com](mailto:oniseditor@gmail.com).

Title page: TB 'My Generation' Photo: K.Brewitt.