

**Almanac:
Society for
Pacific Coast
Native Iris**

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PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE SPCNI TREASURER

- Diseases of the Pacific Coast Iris**
Lewis & Adele Lawyer: ALMANAC, Fall 1986. 22 pages, 9 photographs. \$3.50 postage paid.
- Third Cumulative Check List**
Francesca Thoolen: 36 pages. Lists and describes Pacific Coast native iris and named hybrids through 1985. \$4.00 postage paid.
- A Guide to the Pacific Coast Irises**
Victor A. Cohen: The British Iris Society 1967. Booklet, 5.5 x 8.5, 40 pages, 16 line drawings, 8 color and 6 black-and-white photographs. Brief description of species and sub-species including their distribution. \$4.00 postpaid
- A Revision of the Pacific Coast Irises**
Lee W. Lenz: Photocopy of *Aliso* original. Booklet 5.5 x 8.5, 72 pages, 9 line drawings, 14 photographs, and 12 maps. Definitive work on the taxonomic status of the *Californicae*, with a key to the species and sub-species. Detailed maps and accounts of distribution. \$6.00 postage paid.
- Hybridization and Speciation in the Pacific Coast Iris**
Lee W. Lenz: Photocopy of *Aliso* original. Companion booklet to the above, 5.5 x 8.5, 72 pages, 30 figures, graphs, drawings, and photographs. Definitive work on naturally occurring inter-specific crosses of PCI, including detailed account of distribution. \$6.00 postage paid. If ordered together, both Lenz booklets may be obtained for \$10.00 postage paid.

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Seed of species and garden hybrids is available for \$1.00 per packet from the Seed Distribution Chairmen: Louis & Caroline Fry, 4 Renata Court, Novato, CA 94947. (415) 382-1708

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MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris is a section of the American Iris Society; membership in AIS is a prerequisite for membership in the SPCNI. If you wish only to receive the ALMANAC (two issues per year), the annual subscription rate is \$4.00.

Membership	Individual	Family
Annual	\$ 4.00	\$ 5.00
Triennial	10.00	12.00
Supporting Annual	6.00	
Life	50.00	65.00

Please send membership-subscription monies to the SPCNI Treasurer.

ALMANAC

ALMANAC deadlines are March 1 and September 1. Back issues are available for \$3.50 each, postpaid. Complete index arranged either chronologically, by subject matter, or by author. \$1.00, each or all 3 for \$2.00, postpaid. Please address the Editor.

FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue, we are trying a new font which is a bit taller and a little narrower than the one used in the last three issues. It looks slightly larger and, we think, is a little easier to read, yet we can get a few more words in the same space. That will save paper, but we will have to scrounge a little more news for you.

All of which is a sly way to sneak in a plea for more input from you members about what you are doing in your gardens. We want this to be a first class organization, and to make it so, more of us must become involved. Send your thoughts or questions, your problems or solutions, your successes or failures to your District ALMANAC Representative, listed on the facing cover.

We are growing, quite well, I think, for an organization devoted to the monoculture of a plant so limited in adaptability. We started in 1973 with 51 members, and grew to 88 by the end of 1975. By the end of 1980 we had exactly doubled that figure to 176 members. In the next two years we added 36 members for a total of 212. Then, for the next five years, through the end of 1987, we stagnated. Membership was

static, and there were almost as many dropouts as there were new members. For those five years we averaged only one new member a year. By the end of 1988, one year later, membership increased by 22 members. In 1989 we increased by 29 members, and by the end of 1990 we had 303, an increase of 35. Membership now stands at 323, and when our hybridizers develop plants that everyone can grow, we should easily increase membership by ten fold!

But just because our favorite plants become even more beautiful and easier to grow, doesn't guarantee that we will remain a viable institution. The little plants give us their beauty and our reason for being, but people make the Society, and plants, as beautiful as they are, can't do very much to help us keep it alive. Let's do something! Let's keep the Society worthy of the plants we represent.



ROBERT PAUL HUBLEY

It is with a feeling of sadness intermixed with pleasant recollections that we write of the passing of Robert Paul Hubley, January 25, 1991, at his home at Yucaipa. Bob was a devout irisarian and a staunch champion of the Pacific Coast Iris. We picture him in his garden-nursery, enthusiastically pointing out some especially appealing character in one of his plants. Also we remember him for the little personal notes he would attach to his annual catalog flyer.

Bob's interest in flowers started early in life, when he helped pay his way through college working in the orchid greenhouses of Armacost and Royston in Los Angeles. During World War II, he was with the Naval Air Transport Service, and later made a career in aviation, first with TWA and later with a Los Angeles helicopter service where he was Vice President of Marketing. Although his career involved a lot of travel, he somehow found time for his garden.

Bob's first nursery was located in Riverside, but in 1985 he accomplished the awesome task of moving all his plants to a new location in Yucaipa. During this time he was the only source of the *Lenz I. munzii* introductions.

His friend, Duncan Eader, writes that he was not only an active grower and hybridizer of iris, but also a Master Judge of AIS, past RVP of Region 15, past President of the Southern California Iris Society, past President of the Reblooming Iris Society, and, as you know, past 1st Vice President of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris. He was also a member of the Species Iris Group and the Aril Society International.

In 1973 and 1974, he cooperated with Jack McCaskill, Roy Davidson, August Phillips, and Ed Pasahow on compilation of the first *List of Pacific Coast Native Iris and Their Hybrids*, which was published by SPCNI as their first *Check List*.

Bob has introduced over a dozen PCI's. These include HM winners ORCHID RE-SPRITE, RED EYES, and SMOKY WINE, introduced in 1971. Other introductions still being grown in Southern California include BOB'S BIG BOY (1980), ARLINGTON ROYAL (1981), BOB'S BLUE BOY and BOB'S LOW BOY, the latter two introduced in 1984.

NOMINATIONS FOR NEW OFFICERS

In accordance with our by-laws, the following slate of officers is submitted by the nominating committee of SPCNI for consideration by the membership:

President	Claude Derr
First Vice President	David Lemette
Second Vice President	Bob Ward
Secretary-Treasurer	Adele Lawyer
Editor	Lewis Lawyer

Our by-laws state that if there are no additional nominations, these officers shall be installed without balloting. If there are other nominations, the signatures of five members in good standing must be obtained as endorsement, and the document, along with a written acceptance by the nominee, be mailed to the Secretary, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Ballots will then be sent out to all SPCNI members for voting.

PLANS FOR EXPEDITION 1991 JUNE 1ST AND 2ND, 1991

Joanne and Claude Derr

On Friday, May 31, many of us will arrive at the Monarch Motor Hotel in Clackamas, part of the greater Portland area. For those of you who are arriving by air, the Monarch has a shuttle to and from the Portland airport. We can have an evening meal at the Monarch or there are many restaurants within easy walking distance. The Clackamas Mall, largest in the Northwest, is located across the street, and the hotel will provide a shuttle over to the mall for anyone who would care to go there. This would save you from crossing 4 lanes of traffic on foot.

There will be no formal program on May 31, but the clustered group of rooms reserved for us will facilitate visiting with old and new friends.

Among the new friends staying at the hotel, will be two specialists on Oregon native plants who will be joining us on this trip to help us learn about the plants associated with the iris. Dr. Ken Chambers has just retired as Professor of Plant Systematics, as well as curator of the Oregon State University Herbarium, and he is considered the leading authority on the plants of Oregon. His wife, Dr. Henrietta Chambers, is equally notable in this field and has written a book on the wildflowers of the Cascades.

We expect to board a chartered bus between 8:00 and 8:30 Saturday morning to look at native iris. Box lunches will be on board for us each day. We will see *Iris douglasiana* and *I. tenax*, and crosses between the two. Some are located along the road near Sandy, and we have some on our own place near Estacada, where we plan to stop.

Our home property is surrounded by native vegetation, - trees, shrubs, and *Iris tenax*. Planted here are *I. douglasiana* plants rescued from the Road Department and replanted in our garden. Some are from the Sandy Mountains,

and some from Fort Orford on the coast. *Iris missouriensis* and PCI species, selected and collected from wanderings elsewhere in the wild, are planted here, too. Along with PCT's grown from open-pollinated hybrid seed, we also grow almost every other type of iris: Cal-Sibs, *I. ensata*, *fulva*, *pumila*, *setosa*, Siberian, *I. tridentata*, *versicolor*, *virginica*, and the gormandii and Rosedown strains of *Iris tenax*. And, oh yes, tall bearded!

We will go about 8 miles above our place and see native *I. tenuis* growing on the hillside with other wild flowers including rhododendrons. We have never heard of this *Evansia* iris growing in the wild anywhere outside of Clackamas County in Oregon. One can travel for miles without seeing any, then come upon colonies growing every few feet along the roadside. Some people have looked for years without finding a large colony of *tenuis*. There are small fir trees growing in the area where *I. tenuis* is growing now. I do not know how many years it will take for the trees to make too much shade for them to bloom in profusion as they do now. There are many places on the hillside where you cannot walk without stepping on the *tenuis*.

We will eat together at a restaurant at the end of the day and will have an informal program at this time. Anyone with a few interesting slides or information to share should plan to bring them along. Professor Yu-Tang Zhao, a specialist on Chinese iris species will be here from China if his government clears him and will join us on the trip. If so, he will have slides to show.

On day two we will again get on the chartered bus and head to Silverton. We will stop at Duane and Joyce Meek's newly acquired farm, where Duane's Pacific Coast native iris varieties

and seedlings can be viewed. We saw many pretty ones last year and expect there will be many more this year. If there is time, we will stop at Cooley's iris nursery before heading east.

We will make several stops on Monument Peak Road. *Iris tenax* grows there in abundance. There are more different colors growing here than we have ever seen in one place. We think they may have crossed with other iris in the past and now grow in shades of white, cream, pink, lavender, light blue, and red-violet. We're anxious to hear what others think about the origin of these varied colonies. We may also see some *Iris chrysophylla*, which grow near Detroit Dam, a few miles away. And there are some dark purple *tenax* growing along the roadside between Silverton and Mill City.

We hope you plan to join us to enjoy the countryside, the flowers, and the fine group of people traditionally present on our fun-filled trips. We think we have yet to get off the beaten path on some back road without seeing something of beauty. Just being able to get out in it is

one of the best mind-clearing medicines we can find. There are so many beautiful flowers and shrubs growing in this state!

Bring rain gear just in case. Contact us for further information, or to sign up, 36488 SE Log La Barre, Estacada, OR 97023 (503) 630-4510. Deposit is \$55 for bus and lunches, and should be sent in by May 1. Make check payable to Claude Derr.

And if you plan to stay at the Monarch Motor Inn, telephone or write for reservations, mentioning the SPCNI Iris Society. Non-smoking rooms are available. Their telephone is 1-800-492-8700 and their address is 12566 SE 93rd Avenue, Clackamas, Oregon 97015. Special rates are \$48 single, \$53 double or double-double. If you are coming alone and wish to share a room, please notify the Derrs.

[Note: The Derrs will be glad to continue the tour for any of you who can stay longer. There is much more to see, and further adventures will be caravan style.]



Beautiful clump of *Iris tenax*
growing wild on the Derr's property, May 27, 1990.

HOW MARION WALKER BECAME INVOLVED WITH IRIS

Marion Walker, Ventura

[Ed.note] This article is from a recorded interview with Marion Walker, Honorary Life Member of SPCNI, taped after the Region 14-15 Trek in the San Fernando Valley last year. His PCI introduction, OJAI, was the first recipient of the Mitchell Award in 1973.

I grew up on a ranch in Ventura and my mother had always been interested in flowers and, even as a boy growing up, I had my own garden. Later, in 1932, I went to Stanford to take biological subjects for a medical science degree, planning on going on to medical school. But, unfortunately, while I was at Stanford I had a ruptured appendix. Since that was before penicillin, it developed into peritonitis and I spent about 4 years recovering.

Going to medical school was then out of my plans. I had a ranch in Ventura to go home to, and, since I was the only son in the family, one which I would eventually need to take care of. So that is what I decided to do; and since I didn't want to waste my degree in biological sciences, I became interested in breeding plants, particularly iris. The reason I chose iris was because I was looking for some plant to breed that was pretty and grew well. So that's how I got started.

When I first went back to Ventura, the ranch grew lima beans and some walnuts. But, in 1936, we started converting the whole ranch to lemons. That process took a number of years, but eventually it was almost all citrus, with a few avocados. Where I farmed, it is all city now, right at the county center.

My first contact with the iris world was through Cooley's catalog, and through that contact I became interested in the iris societies of Southern California. In 1937 there was an iris trek put on by the American Iris Society. I went to that trek and became acquainted with the iris people of that period. Dr. Harry Everett, who was President of the AIS, was out here at that time, as was Mr. Fishburn, who was the Treasurer. Lena Lothrop, then of San Bernardino, was acting as Regional Vice President.

At that time Regions 14 and 15 were together. Originally, Region 15 was Region 14. Later on, when Mr. McKee became President of the AIS, it was split, and Northern California and Nevada retained the 14 label. Southern California, and eventually Arizona, took the 15 label. This was in the late 30's sometime. Bobbie Shepherd is writing up the history of Region 15, using the records I have given her.

Carl Milliken was the first AIS Director from Southern California, and he retired as Director in 1950. The National AIS Board was looking for someone to take his place and I had just completed a run for congress in my district along the central coast, and, fortunately, I suppose, I didn't make it. At any rate, the AIS Board were aware of this and they asked me to become a Director. This was in 1951. So I served as National Director, although I have never served as RVP of this region, which is really rather unusual. I went up through the chairs and became President in 1956 and served until 1960. Then as Immediate Past President, I served another term on the Board of Directors. After that I went off the Board, and had a little more time for iris breeding.

I was particularly interested in the California natives and the Spurias. My main breeding work has been with the Spurias

Eric Nies and Sydney B. Mitchell are the ones who basically got me interested in the Pacific Coast natives. And at the time I was President of the Society, Dr. Mat Riddle, of Portland, was a national Director, and he was also a key person in the picture. Sydney Mitchell and Mat Riddle were basically interested in the innominatas. That's where they did a major portion of their work.

Eric Nies was interested in douglasiana, and I started my work with that group in the early forties, using Eric's AMIGUITA as the base.

An interesting part about that story is that Dr. Mitchell had sent a lot of innominata seed to Mr. Danks in Australia. Mr. Danks had done some breeding work with it, and sent me back some seed. I planted that seed, and one plant was particularly nice. It had round-petalled, cream-colored flowers, but was not particularly vigorous. I crossed it with AMIGUITA, and that's where OJAI came from. It is interesting to note that the seed and seedlings that came from OJAI, (the second generation), were sent to Harold Fletcher in London. Harold was President of the British Iris Society at the same time that I was President of AIS, and he put them in Kew Gardens. Then the Kew Gardens sent the seed back to Danks in Australia. That's what I'd call "full circle". An interesting fact.

I've sent PCI seed to Schreiner in Oregon, and he told me that he grew a few of them for his garden, but not too many. I sent a lot of seed to Phil Edinger about the same time, but I haven't heard from him.

Lewis asked why it was that the glorious days for PCI breeding in Southern California seem to be past.

We all got old and died out, for one thing. Bob Hubley, Jack McCaskill, and Lee Lenz are the only ones left, and none of them are doing any breeding. [Hubley died after this interview took place]. Duncan Eader is doing some work with them now, and Ralph Conrad is doing some. Conrad's approach is to select from what the bees do, which is a good approach. As a matter of fact, a lot of my selections came from the bees.

I did make some crosses between OJAI and Lenz's material and I got some pretty nice things out of that, but none of them were ever introduced. These were with Lenz's Munzii lines, with his red immominata lines, and with his yellow lines. I was busy doing other things at the time and didn't have time to push it. I think the nicest seedlings came from the crosses with his yellow lines. They made a nice, soft blend, and came out in various patterns.

I did grow a number of those seedlings for a while, but there are no plants left. My garden is much restricted now. But I'm very sorry I lost them, and I'm going to try to regenerate the garden, get OJAI and make some crosses again. I

have kept seed, but have had it for many years and I'm not sure how viable it is now. I haven't been successful in germinating older seed, although I have heard that they are viable for a long time.

Adele noted that CANYON SNOW looked very good in the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and that McCaskill's CHIMES and FAIRY CHIMES do well up north.

CANYON SNOW is one of the nicest that has come out down here in recent years.

Adele suggested that Marion send for some of Ghio's seed because all the progeny are beautiful and some could be adapted to his area.

As a matter of fact I have not tried any of Ghio's things either, and I plan on doing that, seeing how they do in this area. Yes, and I'll have to send for some of his seed, because the plants are not always easy to move around. The pattern of what I had is much different from what Joe Ghio is coming out with. His colors are more brash and not as subdued as the things that come out of OJAI. OJAI has a large form and somewhat ruffled, and it gives that tendency to its children.

THE BIG FREEZE

Lewis Lawyer, Oakland

December, 1990, will be remembered in California, and all along the Pacific Coast as the year of the big freeze. In our garden, where temperatures seldom dip below freezing, it reached a record 18° Fahrenheit. While this is nowhere near the low temperatures reached in other parts of the country, it did kill some of our *Iris munzii*-derived year-old seedlings, and gave us a chance to report the effects of a "freeze" for the first time.

For the record, the ground stayed frozen and the bird bath remained solid ice for six days. Air temperatures are shown in the following table:

Date	Hours Below 32°	Lowest Temperature
Tuesday	16	30°
Wednesday	20	22°
Thursday	22	18°
Friday	21	20°
Saturday	18	25°

During the entire five days, 42 pots of iris, ranging in size from 4 inches to a gallon, were left in the yard with no protection. All were frozen solid until the afternoon of the sixth day,

when we could start to scratch the surface with a nail. Three of the plants, all of which had been growing in the pots for over a year and were well established, exhibited leaf damage within a few days. These plants eventually died. None of the other plants have shown the slightest effect from their ordeal.

One of the pots contained a plant of SIERRA SAPPHIRE, which, as you know, is a pure *I. munzii* selection. There were several pots of SIERRA BUTTERFLIES, SIERRA DELL, and FOOTHILL BANNER, all of which have *I. munzii* in their background. All the others were unnamed, but selected, hybrids of part-*munzii* origin.

In the garden, a few of the well established plants showed evidence of leaf kill almost immediately, but most showed no damage whatsoever. Only one died, a 4-year old clump of PEANUT GALLERY. At this date on a normal year, however a third of our 125 or so established plants would be in bloom and we would have between 300 and 500 open blossoms. This year only 12 clumps have bloomed and there are 73 flowers open.

Year-old seedlings, however, were damaged, some severely, and it has been evident all along that the amount of damage was genetically controlled. Certain plots were unaffected and others, separated only by a thin plastic marker, were nearly wiped out.



Frost-damaged leaves on year-old seedlings

Visual damage to the leaves was evident as soon as the leaves thawed out, and grew in intensity as the days progressed. At first it seemed that the losses would be minimal, but in the end we lost about 30 percent of the plants, a pretty grim figure.

Six of the plots sustained no damage at all, but a few plots have all dead or near-dead plants. Most plots, however, have a range of damage from plants unaffected to plants which have been badly damaged or killed, but even here it is obvious that each plot is a little different from another. Since each plot represents a different cross, we must assume that the observed differences are genetically controlled.

I have carefully studied and compared the parentage of each good and bad plot, however, and can find no trend, rhyme, nor reason for the obvious differences. Almost all the parents are our lines, and all have similar *munzii* background, but every time I find two or three plots which seem to indict one of the parents, I find another plot or two which proves that parent innocent.

So all we can definitely say at this time is that young plants, transplanted in the spring of the year previous to the freeze, are more susceptible than similar plants established more than a year. Perhaps the great difference here is simply that some of the seedlings grew faster than the others, and thus were more established with a larger root and crown volume. How this could effect the obvious differences in leaf kill, however, is difficult to understand

THE BIG FREEZE II

Jean Witt, Seattle

After our snow, wind, and cold in December, the recently-acquired PCN varieties of California origin do not seem to have been damaged any more than my large old beds of unnamed, collected crosses from Washington and Oregon. This will be gratifying to our California breeders.

Where we had good snow cover, iris were undamaged by the 4° F weather. However, where snow cover was inadequate - under the trees, or where the high winds blew it away, or where sun shone on frozen foliage, PCNs did get burned. Foliage is brown, but the new shoots waiting for spring seem to be O.K. This includes both the one fourth *I. munzii* and the half *I. munzii* material. *Iris bracteata* is unscathed.

This is in marked contrast to the clumps of

unguicularis along the south side of the house, which were damaged, even though covered with fir boughs. Their foliage is rotting, while the PCN foliage is merely brown and dried.

Seedlings from named varieties of California origin in a big pot had inadequate snow cover, and the pot probably froze solid. They appear to be mostly dead. Divisions of Siberians in smaller pots in the same location are putting up green shoots - to give you an idea of the relative hardiness of the two groups. *Pieris* and many of the rhododendrons have badly burned foliage, but so do some of the native salal and madroña. Sun on frozen foliage is dynamite.

The big question is, will the cans of seed planted November 1st be O.K., or will they have been far enough along in their germination to have been killed by the cold?

THE BIG FREEZE III

Colin Rigby, Penngrove

Last fall, after digging and shipping, I had a few irises left over and in my usual good garden housekeeping, I put the irises in a plastic dishpan of water, where I promptly forgot them. They were in the water for a good three weeks when the "Big Freeze" hit. They were frozen into a solid block of ice. After they thawed out, most of them still looked pretty healthy so I potted them up. Of the 8 plants potted, 5 survived and have been planted out and are doing great. Although there were other varieties in the pan of water to start with, CITY HALL and SIMPLY WILD made up the largest number of plants which were suitable for potting. I can't be certain that they will survive until bloom time, but feel confident that both varieties made it through the cold.

Looking at the garden now, I find that the "browns" were hard hit. I lost all the plants of

PAJARO DUNES, PEANUT GALLERY, VILLA BRANCIFORTE, and Lois Belardi's SPANISH BAY. Most of the plants which have Munzii in their breeding came through, but LOMA PRIETA, MAYOR, some Meek seedlings, and SIERRA SAPPHIRE III were lost. UPPER ECHELON, IGNACIO, BIG WHEEL, AZTEC ROBE, CASA PACIFICA, and most of WILD TIME were lost as well as such good old ones as OJAI, LOS GATOS, and most of WESTERN QUEEN and EMIGRANT. I also lost four of Vernon Wood's varieties. All of the irises were transplanted in very late October and November and it is possible they did not have a chance to be thoroughly established before the cold spell. Other varieties in the same beds came through in good shape and I can only assume the above varieties were lost to cold, as the whole planting of each were lost.

PCI WINE? WHAT NEXT?

William Hawkinson, Cherry Valley

I believe it was about 1985 that I was reading an article in *Westways Magazine* about wine labels, and I saw a label with Pacific Coast Iris on it. I wrote to the winery, requesting a sample label, but apparently had an incorrect address, for the letter was returned.

Undaunted, I turned to a good friend in San Luis Obispo who had enough connections to snag almost anything legal that a person could desire. Sure enough, Mike found the labels and brought them to, of all places, a California State Racing Pigeon convention in Visalia, which we were both attending. When he handed the labels to me, Mike indicated that the folks who operate the winery in Buellton, California, were very nice people

I thought that sometime when you needed a little article to fill a small space in the ALMANAC, that this might be of interest to your readers.



POPULAR PCI CULTIVARS

Compiled by Lewis and Adele Lawyer

We have never been very enthusiastic about printing lists of named iris cultivars. I suppose this is because the popularity of a newly introduced tall bearded variety is so fleeting that, by the time you type its name in your list, nobody wants to grow it. There seems to be a different feeling about the Pacificas. A much higher proportion of the older varieties are grown and appreciated over the years. This is certainly evident in the survey which follows. We must keep in mind, however, that a cultivar must have been grown for a period of years in order to be evaluated, and this no doubt skews the data in favor of the older introductions. So remember that one of those just-introduced beauties could have more going for it than anything we have ever seen, and could well be the star of tomorrow's survey.

With the Pacificas, too, there is another factor. Growers in the difficult areas would be willing to grow almost anything in the *Californicae* series if it would just live and bloom for them. So in the following pages we have a list of 95 cultivars that have grown well and were liked by at least one PCI gardener. We feel anyone would be happy with a collection which included a few of the cultivars listed.

To get this information, we asked ALMANAC Representatives to survey members in their district and to list their favorite PCI cultivars. Then, to make the article as complete as possible, we combined this information with some we obtained through other sources, contacts, and correspondence.

WASHINGTON AND BRITISH COLUMBIA

Correspondence from Jean Witt, District Representative for Washington and British Columbia, indicates that growers in her district seem to be most successful with their own seedlings which involve *Iris tenax* material. The following, however, gleaned from her data and from a note by Roy Davidson, gives a little hope that "foreign imports" may eventually succeed.

Carol Lankow, Kirkland.

BIG WHEEL (Ghio'82)

Mitchell Award winner in

1986. Raspberry, near black in the center of the falls. Vigorous here in Washington.

LOS GATOS (Ghio'74) Slate-violet self. Mitchell Award 1979.

NATIVE WARRIOR (Phillips'71) Mitchell Award winner in 1975. Light red.

PACIFIC FROST (Aitken'90) A huge, vigorous white with a blue blaze which resisted frost down to 7°. This killed most other Pacificas transplanted at the same time; thus its name!

WESTERN QUEEN (Stambach'72) Mitchell Award winner in 1976. White self, with sparse dark veining. A reliable white.

Jean Witt, Seattle

My favorites in my own garden are mostly not named. The list begins with a set of pale lavenders and blue-eyed whites from Agnes James x Amiguita and Briar Cup. These have high garden value, but have not been named. Next come the little rust and wine items from Ami Royale and Bertha Stone x a little orange *I. innominata*. These are about the same scale as Ami Royale, little dwarf items with considerable width of petal, useful for the front of the PCN bed. Of the named varieties, I like the following two.

PACIFIC RIM (Bennett Jones R.'90)

A plicata-like, blue-edged white flower which is very attractive, and my favorite for this year. This was seen and photographed (below) in the Aitken Garden.



Pacific Rim

RESTLESS NATIVE (Ghio'76) Mitchell Award winner in 1981. Light red standards, darker red falls. This is one of the few named varieties I grow and like.

Roy Davidson, Seattle

AMI ROYALE (Luhresen '57). This cross from Amiguita is my favorite. A striking bitone, the epitome of what a smaller cultivar from douglasiana- innominata should be like.

OREGON

We contacted Duane Meek, a former near-neighbor from Concord, California, but now an enthusiastic Oregonian. His choices are based on one year's observation in Silverton and a lifetime of growing and breeding PCI's in California. He says all five of the cultivars on his list have done well for him both in Oregon and California.

Duane Meek, Silverton

CANYON SNOW (Emery'75) Mitchell Award winner in 1978. White self, with a yellow signal. This lush-growing, eye-catching white from *Iris douglasiana* performs well wherever you see it. In a clump, "glorious" might be the word.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE (Ghio'82) Gold, near-self. Its deeper gold at the center of the falls makes you feel like you have struck gold for sure. Selected from Hargraves seed from Australia; thus the name.

PACIFIC MOON (Hager'74) Cream with lavender veining. Although somewhat plain by today's standards, this flower has a charm of its own, and should be used in breeding programs for width and form of flowers. Also, there is a potential from its parents, Ojai and Grubstake, for fine new colors.

PESCADERO (Ghio'80) Light purple standards over darker purple falls with light, hairline edge and a near-black signal, a flower you can't ignore. Its consistent performance and fall reblooming will make it a friend forever. Good parent to impart rimmed progeny.

WESTERN WORLD (Ghio'87) Rosy lavender standards, velvety black falls with ruffled styles. This one will knock your socks off! Floriferous and a must.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

We have called some of the hybridizers in Northern California so that we would have some input from this district.

In the case of Joe Ghio, Colin Rigby, and Vernon Wood, we asked them to send us, in addition to their favorites from other breeders, a list of favorites from their own

introductions. And since this is the district in which we Lawyers reside, you'll find our two cents worth here, too. Following are the replies from those contacted.

Joseph J. Ghio, Santa Cruz.

Of the Lawyer "Sierra Series", I'm most partial to SIERRA DELL (Lawyer'88) A really blue *munzii* hybrid that grows tall and is doubly unusual with its multi-budded and branched stems. It is also the most vigorous and easy-to-grow of the hybrids with much *munzii* blood.

Another easy-to-grow *munzii* hybrid is PACIFIC HIGH (Belardi'87). It doesn't show its *munzii* heritage as much as the "Sierra Series", but a lovely lavender-blue, nonetheless.

It is difficult to talk about your own introductions for publication, but, after much juggling of "favorites", I settled on the following five:

IDYLVILD ('88). A *munzii* hybrid of very broad and full form. Its very large ruffled blooms are basically white, washed and lined overall with true blue.

IN THE MONEY ('88). Very floriferous true gold with somewhat deeper signal. So very smooth and bright that it lights up the garden from afar.

NATIONAL ANTHEM ('90). Perfection in form with large, heavily substantced, semi flaring blooms that are carried on tall, strong, erect stalks. Rich deep purple, shading to black in the center of the falls.

SMALL TOWN ('87). Smaller, yet very perky blooms of henna with an electric blue blaze. Ruffly, and makes a great show specimen.

SOLID CITIZEN ('87). We look at this as a Pacifica version of Mystique. Great broad form and very ruffled. Light blue standards with a "Mystique flush", the falls are dark blue-purple. Easy to grow and floriferous.

Lewis and Adele Lawyer, Oakland

Among the favorite Ghio introductions growing in our garden are two old ones:

CALIFIA (Ghio'70) A small, compact grower with large, golden-yellow, lightly-ruffled flowers.

IN THE MONEY (Ghio'88) The brightest golden yellow self imaginable, magnificent, so bright that it defies photography.

SANTA CRUZ BEACH (Ghio'87) Flowers are a cream-orange color with a prominent dark red-brown spot on the falls, a striking flower and an excellent grower in our garden.

SMALL TOWN (Ghio'87) Miniature compact plant bearing cinnamon blooms with a flash of blue on the falls.

PEANUT GALLERY (Ghio'86) A golden tan self with a turquoise flush on a small compact plant. One of the better examples of this unique color which he has developed over the years.

LAS FLORES (Ghio'79) Creamy apricot standards and falls overlain with violet.

Our favorite non-Ghio introductions include two old ones: **FAIRY CHIMES** (described earlier) and:

VIOLET ELF (Walker'60). Violet Elf is a free-flowering violet self that puts on a marvelous show every year.

CANYON ORCHID (D.Denney'85), should be noted as having a vigorous plant with very pretty flowers and which should do well in problem areas.

Larry E. Moss, Trinidad.

Larry contributed an article to the last **ALMANAC** telling how easy it was to grow PCI's along the northern coast of California. Of the 50 cultivars he grows, he named **BIG MONEY**, **BIG WHEEL**, **SANTA CRUZ BEACH**, and **SIMPLY WILD** as his favorites

Colin Rigby, Penngrove.

In thinking about your request "In case of fire, which five Pacific Coast Iris cultivars would I save?", I realize that I am as much attracted by the foliage of the plant as I am in the bloom.

First choice would probably be a nice dark purple shade of *Iris tenax*. The contrast of the crisp white signal area against the darker background of this delicate flower can hardly be matched, and the leaves are always nice and neat looking.

MINI-MA (Davidson R.'72). This collected genetic dwarf of *I. douglasiana*, would be another. Its pale lavender blue flowers aren't much, but the plant has great garden interest. No other PCI grows quite like this one, with its overlapping fans.

FAIRY CHIMES (McCaskill'72) would be another for its delicate white flowers, and narrow, grass-like leaves.

CANYON SNOW or Hager's **TIDY WHITE** (Hager'88), would be a must. The flowers on both are tops, and the plants, for me at least, are of equal quality: both great.

CLARICE RICHARDS (Richards '83) I would have to include this cultivar, a heavy bloomer and a plant that always looks great.

Of my introductions, I feel that **LAGUNA SECA** ('89) is by far the best. The flower is full, rounded, and slightly ruffled, but of a smaller size in proportion to the stem and foliage. The color is lavender with an interesting "zipper" pattern of medium yellow on the falls.

Vernon Wood, Pinole

FORT POINT, (Wood '87) White, blue-violet infusion at edges.

IDYLWILD (Ghio'88) White, washed with blue.

LOS CALIFORNIO (Ghio '89) Purple with gold sunburst signal).

MIMSEY (Wood'88)-Ruffled gold, lined darker.

STROKE OF MIDNIGHT (Ghio'89) Silky black.

H A W A I I

We have only one report from Hawaii, and that one not up to date. Terry Murata, of Maui reported that **CITY HALL** (Ghio'78, Mitchell Award, 1984) was growing well for him on his mountain-side garden at Kula. [Ed. note: I interrupt my own writing to tell of a strange coincidence. I had finished typing the above and was looking up material to start the Southern California section, below, when the phone rang. Adele called to me, "Lewis, it's Terry Murata from Maui, get on the other phone."] So now I can report to you that **CITY HALL** is still growing well and that it has just bloomed profusely for Terry. Also his seedlings from munzii-derived seed I sent him are growing well

Terry is already giving spare iris plants to his neighbors, and may yet develop a strain of PCI's that will grow at least on the mountain slopes of the Islands.

S O U T H E R N C A L I F O R N I A

Duncan Eader, the SPCNI **ALMANAC** Representative for Southern California, listed his most successful varieties and surveyed five other individuals for their preferences. **CANYON SNOW** was clearly the winner of the popularity contest, with 3 of the 6 individuals surveyed praising it. Except for Ben Hager's San Joaquin Valley-selected varieties, and some of Joe Ghio's introductions grown by Charles and Jennie Hopson in more-temperate San Clemente, varieties bred in Southern California were the most often mentioned.

Growers surveyed by Duncan Eader include Ralph Conrad and his wife, La Verne, who garden in Bonsall, near Vista, where they select many lovely, bee-hybridized seedlings on their hilltop acreage; Joe Daugherty, a relatively newcomer to the Pacifics, who lives in northern Or-

ange County; Russell and Jennie Hopson, who live in San Clemente, about four blocks from the ocean; Robert Hubley, (since deceased) who operated an iris nursery at Yucaipa; and Richard Richards, who commutes between Corona and the more-temperate La Mesa, and grows PCNs at both locations. Duncan, himself, lives in Arcadia where he has a back-yard garden devoted to many plants and flowers in addition to his PCI's.

Ralph Conrad, Bonsall

I'm afraid we're not far enough into Pacifica named varieties to be of much help. The best luck we've had is with Ben Hager's recent introductions:

CALIFANCY (Hager'88) Pale yellow, veined purple, yellow, over-veined signal.

NATIVE BLUSH (Hager'88) Apricot, with rose blush over inner half of falls, (Canyon Snow x Amiguita).

PACIFIC DAZZLER (Hager'88) Bright yellow with red veining over falls.

TIDY WHITE (Hager'88) Pure white with small yellow signal, (Canyon Snow x Pacific Moon).

We brought these down from Stockton two years ago in gallon cans. The soil, of course, was from home grounds, and this may have given them the head start they needed. All have grown beautifully, with lots of bloom.

(Ed. note: Parents for Native Blush and Tidy White are given since they have been mentioned elsewhere in this survey as notable performers and/or parents.)

Joe Daugherty, Alta Loma

I have been growing PCN's for only four years. The first year I purchased 30 plants and lost about 25 of them the ensuing year, I believe from some fungal disorder. I heard about Subdue fungicide and reluctantly purchased a pint, but I believe the application of Subdue has greatly improved the survival rate of recent plantings. The second year, Duncan Eader gave me several bare root plants and they survived 100 percent.

I have experimented with planting Ghio and Jenkins seeds, and get a high survival rate of vigorous and attractive plants and blooms. I withhold watering in really hot weather, try to give them some shade, use oak-leaf topping, and fertilize twice each year. I now have about 50 varieties, and find that some do very well while others are sluggish. My most vigorous varieties, in order of preference are:

CANYON SNOW (Described earlier). My most vigorous plant, about three feet in diameter and covered with large, healthy blooms in season, with lush, green foliage year around.

TUNITAS (Ghio'86) Gold with brown plicata edging on the falls. This variety grows and blooms well but the foliage tends to lay over.

NOVIA DEL MAR (Foster'76) Creamy yellow standards, falls same with blue-violet to blue overlay. This one does well in full sun.

Duncan Eader, Arcadia

In response to the request for my five favorites, I submit the following:

AMIGUITA (Nies R.'47) Mitchell Award winner in 1974. It has an attractive flower, -blue bitone with a purple signal. Hardy, reliable bloomer. Blooms best here in semi-shade.

CANYON SNOW (Previously described, and mentioned here for the fourth time in this article) Tall, erect stems, performs well here, even in full sun.



CANYON SNOW

As seen growing where it originated in the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

CANYON ORCHID (Dolores Denney'85) Heliotrope violet with brownish-purple veining and signal. Signal speckled chrome yellow on a white patch. The large blooms are held high on erect 20-inch stems. Canyon Snow x (*L. douglasiana* seedling x Abell *L. munzii* seedling). It is an excellent parent with *munzii* genes in its makeup, and some other inheritances from Thornton Abell and Lenz material.

CHIMES (McCaskill by D. Foster, '72). Standards cream, ruffled; falls a near-white cream with dark gold veining and blaze, velvety, ruffled. This is the first PCN to bloom here in the spring. It is vigorous, hardy, and

floriferous. Increases well, and will grow in full sun.

SPRING DAZE (Ghio'83) A large pastel lavender flower with a white signal which I like very much. It is less upright than some, but this may be due to its shady position in the garden.

Russell and Jennie Hopson, San Clemente.

We live about four blocks from the ocean, and our daily temperature changes only about 15 degrees between day and night. The last two or three years we have had clouds and fog to about 11 o'clock each day, and very few complete sunny days. All the PCN's listed below are grown in raised beds, either in full sun or in afternoon sun.

CANYON SNOW (Described previously) The first variety mentioned as outstanding.

RUSTIC CANYON (Abell'81) A violet bitone. This, and Canyon Snow were transplanted from our previous home in San Gabriel several years ago, and both have grown to large healthy clumps.

SHORT ORDER (Ghio'83) A little 6-inch, ochre-yellow beauty with a brown overlay on the falls. Blooms profusely.

BIG MONEY (Ghio'84) Mitchell Award winner in 1990. Another good bloomer with stalks about 9 inches tall, a darker yellow than Short Order. Both these yellows have been in the garden for 6 years and have grown to large clumps.

ENDLESS (Ghio'85) A rose self that grows very well here.

Other Ghio varieties, transplanted in October, 1989, that have done well for us are: **DRIVE YOU WILD**, **ELBERTA PEACH**, **LOMA PRIETA**, **NIGHT EDITOR**, **QUEEN CALIFIA**, and **TUNITAS**.

Robert Hubley, Yucaipa

Until his death in January, Bob lived in Yucaipa, which gets very warm in late spring and summer, not too favorable for PCNs. Yet, the following grew well for him according to Duncan Eader who has observed them thriving during his visits to Longview Iris Gardens.

BOB'S BLUE BOY (Hubley'84) Light blue, prominently veined darker blue.

ORCHID RESPRITE (Hubley'71) Light purple with a dark purple halo around a white signal patch on the falls.

REFUGIO (Ghio'87) Light brown self with darker veining.

SOQUEL COVE (Ghio'76) White with a turquoise wash on the falls. Mitchell Award 1980.

WESTERN WORLD (Ghio'87) This was also touted by Duane Meek. Remember, "knock your socks off"?

Richard Richards, Corona and La Mesa.

All my favorites seem to be old timers. I get overwhelmed by all the new introductions, and just can't keep up. I still grow Pacificas, but mostly my own seedlings. All are growing in the ground, in areas that get about a half day each of sun and shade.

CHIMES (Described earlier, and with three recommendations so far). Absolutely the toughest native I have grown. Remains good year after year in the same location with no attention whatever!

AMI ROYALE (Luhresen. Not registered, but introduced in 1957). Standards are lavender with an ice-blue margin and the falls are red-purple with a lavender border and a large gold signal. I love the combination of lavender and purple in this flower.

BLUE SAGE (Nies R.'47) Purple-blue self. This one is as old as the hills, has terrible form, but it grows. It has naturalized after 12 years in the same spot with reliable bloom each year. I don't know how well it transplants since it is doing so well and I see no reason to mess with it.

OJAI (Walker'60) Winner of the first Mitchell Award in 1973. Flower is light purple-violet. Big, hardy, dependable.

PASATIEMPO (Ghio'70) Wonderful purple coloring with contrasting precise yellow signal. The last two were lost in a December transplanting, followed by an unusual hot dry period.

CLARICE RICHARDS (Richards'83) Standards pale yellow. Falls pale yellow with red violet veining and haze, overlaid with turquoise veining down center. (Ed. note: We list this cultivar here because we have seen it growing so well in the Richards Corona garden. Praised, also, by Bob Ward who grows it in Little Rock, Arkansas, and by Colin Rigby of California, this variety is interesting in that its colors are intense when it blooms in hot Corona and as it appeared in the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. The colors are paler when grown in northern California or Oregon locations.

CENTRAL U.S.

Robert Ward, ALMANAC Representative for the Central United States, seems to be the person most successfully growing PCI species and cultivars in that hostile climate. Articles describing some of his techniques and accomplishments have appeared from time to time in the ALMANAC, including one elsewhere in this issue.

Dorothy Hujsak, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, has also been successful, but she says that it is an uphill battle. Dorothy has contributed articles to

the ALMANAC, and looks forward to the day when you hybridizers will make her gardening task a little easier.

We hope all this will be accomplished through the hybridizing efforts of Bob and others involved in the SPCNI Breeding Project to develop varieties adapted to a wider range of climate and soil.

Robert Ward, Little Rock

The following cultivars have been growing long enough in my garden to have proved their hardiness.

AGNES JAMES (Starker R.'39) A white douglasiana, collected in Washington. This cultivar has been growing here for 6 years.

BANBURY GNOME (Brummitt R.'74)-A two-toned red which has won many awards in Britain. It has also grown well for 6 years.

CLARICE RICHARDS (Richards'83) Pale yellow with violet veining and blush on the falls, and a turquoise central veining. Has been growing here since its introduction.

CHIMES (Described earlier) Ruffled cream with gold veining and blaze. A strong grower for 7 years.

GARDEN DELIGHT (Stanbach'75) A delightful, free-flowering light yellow with a medium brown blaze on the falls. One of the best for the past 5 years.

HONTA YO (Rigby'85) Cream, falls veined purple with flush of royal blue. Has grown well here since its introduction.

JOEY (Gatty'78) Selected in the hot, interior valley of California. Apricot buff standards, deeper buff falls with garnet blotch and veining radiating from chrome-yellow signal. Has grown here for 5 years.

PAPER BOY (Stambach'78) Six-inch tall, tan, with falls washed in dusty red.

SUSIE KNAPP (Phillips R.'70) A bluish-grey self. Five years old and still growing well.

DAVID MARK WARD (R.Fable-Ward R.'89). (Ed. note: Bob has grown this recent introduction of his for 8 years, which points out the advantage of selecting at the site where the cultivar will be grown. Other hybridizers, however, should keep in mind that Bob's material would be a valuable asset in the SPCNI breeding project. It is also interesting to note that by far the majority of the varieties listed by Bob, originated with Southern California or hot interior valley hybridizers, i.e: Gatty and Rigby. Only Brummitt and Starker are the exception.)

Dorothy Hujsak, Tulsa

Dorothy reports success in growing SOQUEL COVE, FAIRY CHIMES, and SUSIE KNAPP.

EASTERN UNITED STATES

Richard Kiyomoto, ALMANAC Representative for Eastern United States and Canada, is a key member of the team of hybridizers who are working to produce PCI which will thrive in parts of the world where they are now difficult or impossible to grow. Dick's reply to our request for named cultivars which grow well in his territory, is sobering.

Richard Kiyomoto, New Haven

I'm sorry for not feeding you information, but information is sparse out here. Most growers are waiting for adapted varieties or are growing them from seed.

Richard Sparling, of Maryland, writes that his only success has been from seed, and even then they quickly succumb.

Clarence Mahan, of Virginia, says that of 12 named PCN's he planted this spring, only BIG MONEY survived. I have Big Money, and it is still alive outdoors but has not bloomed.

This fall, 1990, I planted 80 different PCI accessions (80 different PCI seed samples) I obtained from the SPCNI Breeding Project in 1989. I should be able to provide hardiness data in 1991.

GREAT BRITAIN

In the Current British Iris Society Yearbook, Mary Tubbs of Kent, and Maureen Foster, of Wales evaluate the performance of *Californicae* species and cultivars. Mary Tubbs summarized the comments of various members of the Kent Group. The five mentioned most glowingly are as follows:

BANBURY BEAUTY (Brummitt'74) This lavender-flowered variety was considered to be the best of Brummitt's productions. "Upright stems, a good grower, also comparatively easy to transplant which a lot of the others aren't." [We note that Amiguita is one of it's parents]

COUNCILMAN (Ghio'76) Mitchell Award winner in 1982 "Fresh as a daisy, lovely to look at. Elegant, broad-petalled white with faint violet veining, extra branching, fairly reliable remountant. A must."

BLUE BALLERINA (Knowles'75) Near-white standards and falls with a violet-purple flash on the falls. "It flowers late and has a long bloom season, an asset in some ways, as most PCIs tend to have a tremendous burst of flowers, then nothing; but not such an asset as far as awards are concerned." We note, however, that it won an HM and AM at Wisley.

LAS FLORES (Ghio'79) "Wow, that's super! Petals alternately buffy-cream and purple, golden veining on purple falls.

SIMPLY WILD (Ghio'81) Mitchell Award winner in 1987. Delicate pink with a rich strawberry center, is judged "truly lovely and extremely floriferous."

Others noted positively are **ARNOLD SUNRISE**, **BIG MONEY**, **BIG PURPLE**, **DEEP PURPLE**, **GARDEN DELIGHT**, **GONE NATIVE**, **ITALIAN SNOW**, **MISSION SANTA CRUZ**, **MORAGA**, **MONTARA**, **NO NAME**, **PACIFIC BLUE BOY**, **PAJARO DUNES**, **PESCADERO**, **RIO DEL MAR**, **SMALL TOWN**, **SPRING DAZE**, .

Maureen Foster, Crickhowell

In previous correspondence, Maureen Foster of Wales lists her top performers:

SIMPLY WILD, **CANYON SNOW**, **BIG MONEY**, **OVAL OFFICE**, and **GONE NATIVE**.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Jo Tunney, of Lesmurdie, West Australia, and Robyn Gully, of Hawthornedene, South Australia, listed their favorites in 1988 correspondence, although both grow mostly seedlings.

Jo Tunney, Lesmurdie.

I have some named varieties, too, all purchased from Barry Blyth in Victoria. The best are: **CHIMINITA** and **MORESCO** (Blyth '83), **SMOKY BANDIT** (Blyth '86), and **MILDURA**, **NAYOOK**, and **TANJIL** (Blyth '87). **BIG MONEY**, on the other hand, is struggling to survive.

Robyn Gully, Hawthornedene.

My experiences with named varieties have been minimal, mainly because I prefer the species, but also because I have had such abysmal failure with the ones I obtained locally. **LEMONADE SPRINGS** (Davidson n.r.), however, has been easy, very floriferous, and much admired by all who have seen it in my garden over the years.

In New Zealand, Dora Sparrow grows mostly her own seedlings of which **IDRIS**, registered in 1987, is her favorite to date.

This ends our survey. In summary, **CANYON SNOW** led the list with 7 votes of confidence. Second was **BIG MONEY**, with 6. Third, **CHIMES**, with 5. **CLARICE RICHARDS**, **SIMPLY WILD**, **SOQUEL COVE**, and **SUSIE KNAPP** tied with 3 votes each.

AMI ROYALE, **AMIGUITA**, **BANBURY GNOME**, **BIG WHEEL**, **CALIFIA**, **CANYON ORCHID**, **CITY HALL**, **COUNCILMAN**, **FAIRY CHIMES**, **IDYLWILD**, **IN THE MONEY**, **JOEY**, **LAS FLORES**, **NATIVE WARRIOR**, **PESCADERO**, **SANTA CRUZ BEACH**, **SIERRA DELL**, **SMALL TOWN**, **SPRING DAZE**, **TIDY WHITE**, **TUNITAS**, and **WESTERN WORLD** each got 2 votes.

There are no doubt a lot of other cultivars which would do well in all but the most difficult conditions. Getting them established seems to be the biggest hurdle. The comments on frost damage elsewhere in this bulletin, certainly bear out the importance of getting a clone established before subjecting it to freezing temperatures. The same is probably true of other limiting factors such as hot, and wet. Furthermore, when you get the latter two in combination, you have possibly the most difficult set of conditions waiting to be surmounted.

We hope this information will give some of you who have not done so, an incentive to try a few of these cultivars in your own garden. We're not recommending that you put all your eggs in one basket, however, and we still feel that starting from seed is the most reliable method for those of you living in unfriendly areas. Seeds are offered each year through our Seed Chairmen, Louis Fry, whose address is listed on the inside front cover of the **AL-MANAC**, and, as usual, we will be publishing the new seed list in the next issue

SOURCES OF POPULAR PACIFICA VARIETIES

Compiled by Adele Lawyer

On the following page we have arranged in alphabetical order all the varieties listed in the previous article as favorites of Pacifica fanciers from many areas. Alongside them is a symbol representing commercial sources for these varieties. You will note that there is no source for 27 of these varieties although they are still being grown in private gardens. For instance, we

grow 9 of the varieties not commercially available and know others who grow varieties not listed. These can be shared with distributors such as Portable Acres. Addresses and telephone numbers of the nurseries are listed below. Prices range from a high of \$10 for **PACIFIC RIM** to \$2.50 to \$3.00 for most varieties in the recommended list.

AGNES JAMES	P	GONE NATIVE		PACIFIC HIGH	B, H, P
AMI ROYAL	P	HONTA YO	P	PACIFIC MOON	
AMIGUITA	P	IDRIS		PACIFIC RIM	A
ANO NUEVO	A	IDYLWILD	B, P	PAJARO DUNES	P
ARNOLD SUNRISE		IN THE MONEY	B, H	PAPER BOY	
BANBURY BEAUTY		JOEY	P	PASATIEMPO	
BANBURY GNOME	P	LA SELVA		PEANUT GALLERY	A, B, P
BIG MONEY	B,P	LAGUNA CREEK	B	PESCADERO	P
BIG WHEEL	A,B,P	LAGUNA SECA		QUEEN CALIFIA	A, B, P
BLUE BALERINA		LAS FLORES		REFUGIO	B
BLUE SAGE		LAS OLAS	A	RESTLESS NATIVE	
BOB'S BLUE BOY	H,P	LOMA PRIETO	B, P	RIO DEL MAR	A, B
CALIFANCY	P	LOS CALIFORNIO	P	ROARING CAMP	B, P
CALIFIA		LOS GATOS	P	RUSTIC CANYON	
CANYON ORCHID	P	MILDURA		RUTH HARDY	
CANYON SNOW	P	MIMSEY	P	SANTA CRUZ	B, H
CHIMES		MISSION SANTA	H	SANTA RITA	P
CHIMINITA		MONTARA	A, H, P	SHORT ORDER	P
CITY HALL	P	MORAGA	B	SIERRA DELL	B, P
CLARICE RICHARDS	P	MORESCO		SIMPLY WILD	A, B, P
COUNCILMAN	P	NATIONAL	B	SMALL TOWN	A, B, H
DAVID MARK		NATIVE BLUSH	P	SMOKY BANDIT	
DRIVE YOU WILD	A, B	NATIVE WARRIOR		SOLID CITIZEN	B, P
ELBERTA PEACH	B	NIGHT EDITOR	A, B	SOQUEL COVE	B, P
ENCIRCLE		NO NAME		SPRING DAZE	P
ENDLESS	A, B	NOVIA DEL MAR		STROKE OF	B
FAIRY CHIMES	P	OJAI	P	SUSIE KNAPP	P
FICUS		ORCHID RESPRITE	H, P	TIDY WHITE	P
FOREIGN	P	OVAL OFFICE	P	TUNITAS	A
FORT POINT	B, P	PACIFIC DAZZLER	P	WESTERN QUEEN	P
GARDEN DELIGHT	P	PACIFIC FROST	A	WESTERN WORLD	B, H, P

A= Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden
 (Terry and Barbara Aitken), 608 NW 119
 Street, Vancouver, WA 98685 (206)573-4472
 Catalog \$1.00

B= Bay View Gardens (Joe Ghio)
 1201 Bay Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
 (408) 423-3656 Catalog \$1.00

H= Longview Iris Gardens (Mrs. Bob Hubley, Ellie) [On premise sales only]
 12407 Fremont Steet, Yucaipa, CA 92399
 (714) 797-8700 List on request

P= Portable Acres (Colin Rigby, Jean Erickson) 2087 Curtis Drive, Penngrove, CA 94951 Catalog \$1.00

CULTURE OF PACIFIC COAST NATIVES

Because the articles in this issue which describe outstanding varieties may inspire purchases of plants, we are reviewing briefly some basic culture information since new subscribers are interested in learning about methods of growing PCI's.

The most important factor in PCI culture is drainage. They do not tolerate soils in which water stagnates. They tend to do best in soils to which considerable peat or humus has been added and which is slightly to moderately acid

(pH 5.5 to 6.5). Along the Pacific Coast, PCI's tolerate full sun, but inland, and in most of the areas with hot summers, it is best to plant them in a part of the garden where they receive moderate shade during the hottest part of the day. In most areas, some summer watering is required to keep them alive, and there is no easy formula for the amount of water to use in hot climates. Wet soils and hot weather promote disease. In the absence of a local grower who is already growing them successfully, you will have to de-

velop a strategy of your own.

Transplanting is most successful when the roots are plump, white, and actively growing. This is best done in the fall along the California coast, but some growers in other regions prefer spring. When you receive your plants they should be moist and should be planted as promptly as possible. Soaking the roots in a solution of Subdue (6 drops per gallon of water) for 20 minutes is helpful in their survival. (The Subdue dosage can be higher and the soak period longer without toxic effect). Once in the ground in pots or in the garden, they should be watered immediately and kept moist until they are well established. In colder climates it is best to keep fall transplants in pots over winter, moving them into the garden after all danger of frozen soil is over. Once established in your

garden, they can withstand considerable freezing; but mulching is desirable under severe conditions. Unlike bearded irises, the Pacific Coast natives resent being divided yearly and it is best to let them grow undisturbed unless you have reason to move them.

To see if your plants are ready to be moved, scratch away some soil from around the base of the plants to see if plump, white roots have appeared. If the roots are ready, move them according to the methods outlined above.

Bloom season varies widely according to locality. In most areas, peak bloom is about 20 days earlier than tall bearded bloom time. In California the earlier varieties can start blooming in January, peaking in mid-April. In Oregon and Washington it is a month to a month and a half later.

SOWING SEEDS IN ARKANSAS

Robert Ward

When is the best time to sow seeds of the Pacific species and their hybrids in Arkansas and similar central United States areas? Taking into consideration the climatic periods and being located in zone seven, several attempts and methods have been used with degrees of success.

The climate periods for the Little Rock region can be stated as being the typical four seasons. From December through February, the climate is cool to cold, with rain, snow, and sleet at times. There are times when mid February shows signs of approaching spring, as *Acer dasycarpum* flowers (it started this year on February 5) and the bees come from their hiding places for about three weeks. During March, the climatic conditions begin to moderate with higher temperatures and copious amounts of rain. The Japanese maples send forth their bud leaves and the ground-cover bamboos start to push. In April and May, the temperatures continue to climb into the 60's and 70's, with more rain. When June, July, and August come, with the hot, southern winds and little rain, the environment dries out. September, October, and November bring climate changes toward cooler periods and the fall rains. During this period, however, there are many scattered high temperatures until December brings on winter again.

All the above is mentioned in order to discuss the opportunities for sowing iris and other seeds. For this region, the optimum time for planting is in the fall season. There are several reasons for this, but the primary one is that many seeds require a cold period to start germination. Also at this time there is ample moisture to

aid in the breakdown of the seed coats as they are attacked by good and bad microbes.

December and high summer seem to be the least desirable times for planting, December because of the fluctuating temperatures, and summer because, even if they do germinate, the little seedlings have to be overwintered in a greenhouse environment which has its many problems.



To keep the seeds at a prescribed garden niche, I fit an 18-inch circular light fixture into the soil, and as the weather becomes colder, I place a plastic cake cover into position (see Photo) to protect the emerging seedlings from the cold. This method is used for seeds planted from November through February.

Another method is used for seeds planted directly into the soil in March for mass plantings. These plantings are covered with a mulch of pine needles to protect them from the birds and heavy rains.

Iris munzii still must have protection until well-established clumps can be left to themselves. They are protected with plastic domes. (See photo on the right which shows the plastic cover stretched over a frame and held down by rocks to keep it from blowing away)

For those people in other parts of the country that are rainless, Arkansas, which normally averages around 45 inches, ended 1990 with 65.56 inches. [Ed. comment: So that's where all our rain went!] And for those of you who don't know Little Rock, it has been described as having many houses among a forest of oak and pine trees.



Iris munzii under its plastic cover.

SEED SCARIFICATION

A Function of the U.S. Postal Service

Duncan Eader, Arcadia

[Ed. Note] So that you know what is going on here, I should tell you that this all started when I sent some seed to Duncan last year in small packets in a plain envelope, first class mail. Shortly thereafter I got this letter from him stating in part: "I want to thank you for the three packets of seed which you so generously sent to me. Unfortunately the Post Office must have had some type of a crusher, or someone may have stomped on the envelope. I am enclosing two of the envelopes so you can see some of the 'blood' (the envelopes were stained a dirty brown color) from the injuries. I have planted the seeds and hope that the embryos in at least a portion of the seed were not fatally damaged. I'll let you know what happens. Maybe cracking the outer coating on PCN seed will facilitate germination, like 'scarifying' does on certain seeds of other species. ¿Quién sabe?"

I decided to include this information in the fall ALMANAC as a warning to all seed shippers to enclose your seed envelopes in a padded mailing envelope. Now read on for the communication just received from Duncan:

Last fall, Lewis Lawyer sent me some hybrid seed, and I reported back to him that the rather rough handling by the Post Office had flattened the envelopes and that the extruded juice had stained the paper. I was sure that not all the seed had been excessively damaged, but I hastened to plant it all before the damaged seed could dry out. The results were somewhat amazing, as can be seen from the following table.

Seed Germination Following P.O. Scarification

Hybrid Number	Planting Date	Seeds Planted	Seeds Germinating
XP151B/XP165B	11/2	8	4
Sierra Dell x C. Bluebird	11/2	17	12
Sierra Dell O.P.	11/12	20	18
" " " "	11/18	22	22

Germination was very good except for the first two, which were in the worst condition after the crushing action. [Ed. comment: Even those germinations are quite good for *I. munzii* material. My germination runs from 20 to 85 percent and averages 55 percent.]

All that germinated seem to be healthy seedlings and are putting out normal growth. I hope to be transferring them from the seed pan into individual pots by early March.

Something else I noted this season - PCN seed planted after November 1st, germinated in less time than seed planted in September or October under the same procedures. In fact, those planted earlier did not germinate until after the November plantings were up.

That ends Duncan Eader's report, but it certainly suggests that more can be learned about PCN seed germination. We don't yet recommend that everyone send their seed to the Post Office for scarification, and we know that planting methods have been discussed before, but maybe we still have something to learn, and we would welcome input from everyone who has experience with seed-germination enhancement.

MY PATCH

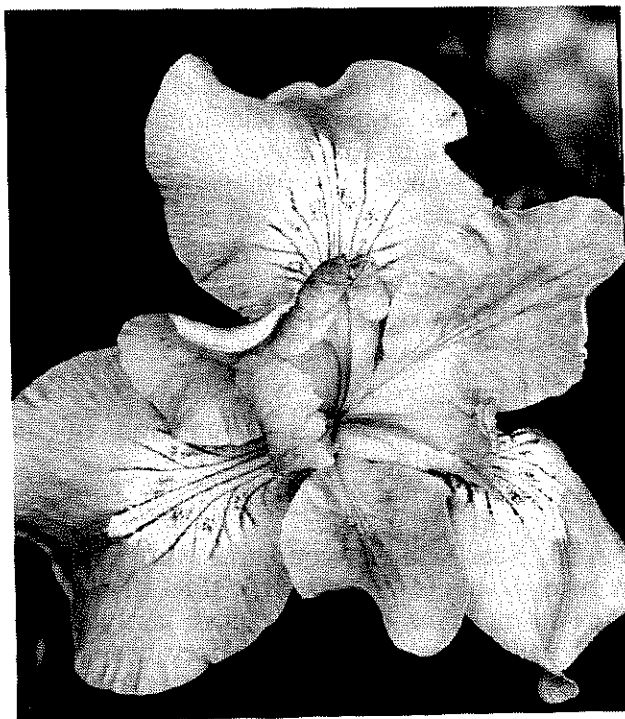
Dora Sparrow, New Zealand

My seedling patch of Pacifica iris is in Christchurch, New Zealand. The media in which they are planted is soil from my garden plus compost and fine pinebark. When necessary to produce a more porous mix, coarse sand is added. Hoeing between the rows every month or so, produces and maintains a friable soil. After seedlings have grown for about 3 months, dolomite is dusted between the rows, hoed in, and sprinkled. This results in observably improved growth.

Like those of so many other SPCNI members I'm sure, my patch has yielded some pleasant surprizes. Not so much with a fantasy of color, which interests us all, but one of mine which is a third generation seedling from Soquel Cove, is outstanding in the quality of the flower, which is full and round with good heavy substance of petal, nice ray marking, usually two terminal flowers on a stem about 18 inches tall, and even with dots, no less! *

This spring, one group of seven or eight seedlings were also different. They were the third or fourth generation from seed sent to me by Dr. Lee Lenz in 1978. One plant from this seed which I called, "Cornflower," has always shown a strong influence when crossed with other Pacificas. And this year, open-pollinated seed from Cornflower has produced vigorous plants with strong, dark-green, finely ribbed foliage, 36 to 40 inches tall, and 28-inch flower stems with two terminal flowers and one branch. Many of the flowers are velvety in texture and their color range is in shades of white, lavenders, and dark and light blue. They are very handsome, and lovely for flower arranging. The seed pods are interesting, too; they are elongated, coarse you might say, with the seed standing out down the pod like a rib cage. They suggest my recollections of the SPCNI Spring Expedition trips I have taken the past two years,

with memories of drifts of tall-growing *I. douglasiana*. I suppose this group of seedlings could all be from one pod of seed.



Dora Sparrow's dotted flower

*(Ed. note) Dora Sparrow has applied for a name to register the unique variety pictured above, which has five discrete, V-shaped, violet dots arranged around the creamy blaze on each of the falls. We have never seen a pattern like it anywhere. The flower color is a most attractive creamy apricot-pink, with an ethereal turquoise blush on the falls, and we are sorry that the black and white reproduction fails to capture the color or the substance; neither does it do justice to the dot pattern. It is at times like this that we wish we were a very wealthy organization with funds enough to picture all the PCT's in color.

COLOR PRINTS

Lewis Lawyer

We have had more inquires and comments about the color prints which we tip in to each issue of the ALMANAC, than any other aspect of the publication. Five different members have told me how they send their prints to specialty color print professionals, but don't seem to get prints as good as ours. We are happy that you appreciate the color but are a little hesitant to divulge the

secret of our success. But, here are the top-secret facts: we send them to our local One-Hour photo shop, *Presto Prints*, in San Leandro! For example, we took the film for today's print down to them at 1:30. By 3:10 they had six color variants of our print, from which we chose one. At 5:30 we picked up the 350 prints, and tomorrow they will be tipped in. Too simple!

SPCNI TREASURER'S REPORT, 1990

<u>Balance Jan 1, 1990</u>		<u>\$1776.67</u>
RECEIPTS		
	Dues	903.00
	Dues Through AIS	466.00
	Sales of Cohen Booklets	64.00
	Sales of Lenz Booklets	242.84
	Sales - Other Publications *	208.50
	Seed Sales	290.44
	SPCNI Expedition 2	2564.08
	Miscellaneous	32.00
	Interest on Checking Account	125.06
	<u>Total Annual Receipts</u>	<u>\$4895.92</u>
DEBITS		
	ALMANAC Spring 1990	558.50
	ALMANAC Fall, 1990	582.83
	SPCNI Expedition 2	2636.36
	Seed Supplies	110.84
	Secretary - Treasurer	163.27
	<u>Total Annual Debits</u>	<u>\$4051.80</u>
	<u>BALANCE Dec 31, 1990</u>	<u>\$2620.79</u>

* Includes Almanac back issues, Almanac Index, Check lists, etc.

NEW CHECKLIST

Lewis Lawyer

We are preparing for an update on the Pacific Coast Iris Check List to be issued some time this summer. Since this new issue will be based on the information in the old, we would appreciate hearing from anyone who has found an error of any kind in the previous list. This includes errors in spelling, spacing, layout, anything that might annoy you.

We would also appreciate any suggestions on how to make it better. We believe we have improved on the type to make it more legible, and attach a sample of a couple of entries below.

ALL AROUND (Ghio, R. 1981) Sdlg. PS-197T 15" (38cm) EM. White ground dark blue plicata markings; yellow signal. PV-163I: (Pacific Moon x California Native) X Primo. Bay View Gardens 1982.

ALMA ABELL (Lenz, R. 1973) 18" (46cm) S. bluish lavender; F. bluish lavender with turquoise and yellow spot on falls. Parentage unknown. Longview Iris 1980. HM 1982.

We plan to present all the sections that were included in the last issue, but have already considered some modifications. Any suggestions along this line would also be appreciated. What would you like to know that you haven't been able to find in previous check lists?

Hybridizers and sales people should be especially alert to errors in their own introductions. Please take this as a personal plea to be especially diligent about entries of your own introductions.

We have asked Roy Davidson to help with the historic entries, but if there are any of you who have access to material of this sort, please look it over and see if we are missing any information. I would rather find the errors before we print, than after.

All of this is, and will be in the computer, so once we get the errors corrected, they should never occur again. Also we intend to make enough disc copies so that the failure of one computer will not result in the loss of all the data.

NEW MEMBERS and ADDRESS CHANGES

NEW MEMBERS

<p>McCarthy, Stephen A. 211 Fort Van Tyle Road, Port Jarvis, NY 12771</p>	<p>Wohlars, Marcel C. P. 94, CH 1031 Mex, Switzerland</p>	
<p>Bender, Pat 4123 NE 186th, Seattle, WA 98155</p>	<p>Meloy, Anne 2435 Marquette Way, Fairfield, CA 94533</p>	<p>Greater Kansas City Iris Society, 79 North 76th Street, Kansas City, KS 66111</p>
<p>Brooks, Patricia D. 102 Jefferson Lane, Ladson, SC 29456</p>	<p>Modlinski, Jerzy 6227 Oakdale Avenue, Woodland Hills, CA 913657</p>	<p>Yerba Buena Nursery 19500 Skyline Blvd. Woodside, CA 94062</p>
<p>Brown, Pauline J. Westlees Farm, Logmore Lane, Westcott, Dorking Surrey RH4 England</p>	<p>Mougey, Ruth Route 3, Box 77 Charles City, IA 50616</p>	<p>ADDRESS CHANGES</p>
<p>Burnett, Naud P.O. Box 8427 Dallas, TX 75205</p>	<p>Naylor, Benjamin F. 258 Washington Court, Sebastopol, CA 95472</p>	<p>Brown, Mary E. 809 S. Sprague Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98409</p>
<p>Gasser, Judith Dorr 13576 Polk Street, Sylmar, CA 91342</p>	<p>Oliphant, Roy 40 Senior Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708</p>	<p>Ferguson, Mary 231 Thiebes Road, Labadie, MO 63055</p>
<p>Gorenstein, Charles 5 Sand Oaks, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677</p>	<p>Payne, Carol D. 1080 Fern Ridge,, Felton, CA 95018</p>	<p>Goldstein, Libby 2223 Benson Road S., Renton, WA 98055</p>
<p>Hess, Evelyn L. 349 Iris Drive, Salinas, CA 93906</p>	<p>Peterson, Jay E. 1812 Holly Drive, Mc Kinleyville, CA 95521</p>	<p>Jacobsen, Lyle 1659 Allyn Avenue, St. Helena, CA 94574</p>
<p>Kelly, Terry 615 Richmond, El Cerrito, CA 94530</p>	<p>Robinson, Patricia G. 1515 N. King Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706</p>	<p>Kentizer Jr., R. D. 1765 Reservoir Road, Sequim, WA 98382</p>
<p>King, Rebecca J. 1600 Sierra Avenue, Napa, CA 94558</p>	<p>Thomas, Don 145 Mac Arthur Road, Felton, CA 95018</p>	<p>Neville, Mr. Maxwell 252 Gaffney Street., Pascoe Vale, Victoria Australia</p>
<p>Law Jr., Dr. John T. 5125 Leona Street, Oakland, CA 94617</p>	<p>Thomason, Doug P.O. Box 386, Clinton. MO 64735</p>	<p>Pellett, Elizabeth A. R.R. 4, Malview Drive, C-21, Ganges, B.C. Canada V0S 1E0</p>
<p>Lundquist, Margaret 2011 Castle Drive, Bothell, WA 98021</p>	<p>Willoughby, Mr. & Mrs. Lynn 4228 S.E. Steele, Portland, OR, 97206</p>	<p>Richards, Richard C. 5885 Cowles Mt. Blvd., La Mesa, CA 91942</p>
<p>Mallereau, Jacqueline 1702 47th Street, Seattle, WA</p>	<p>Wing, Robert C. & Betty P.O. Box 2368, Kirkland, WA 98083</p>	<p>Spellman, Doreen 5799 Oak Knoll Road, El Sobrante. CA 94803</p>