

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

**SPRING, 1998
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PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE SPCNI TREASURER

Check List of Named PCI Cultivars

Lewis Lawyer, Editor: 59 pages. Lists and describes Pacific Coast iris and named hybrids through 1995. \$6.00 postage paid.

Diseases of the Pacific Coast Iris

Lewis & Adele Lawyer: ALMANAC, Fall 1986. 22 pages, 9 photographs. \$3.50 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.

SEED AVAILABLE

Seed of species and garden hybrids is available for \$1.00 for the first packet and \$.50 for each additional packet from the Seed Distribution Chairmen listed in the column to the right.

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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

DEADLINES: March 1 and September 1. Back issues are available for \$3.50 each, postpaid. Complete chronological index \$2.00, postpaid. Index by subject matter, or by author, \$4.00 each, postpaid. Please address the Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After six months on the job and trying to follow in the footsteps of the Lawyers, Terri and I are finally getting our feet wet. Lewis and Adele always amazed us with their meticulous records on iris, but it is with their computer skills they really excel. The conversion of records to a new Filemaker program was a real experience, and we hope at this time we have everything in order. This was something Lewis didn't tell us about when we offered to accept our positions. Now we can look forward to hearing from you, collecting memberships, and keeping the financial accounting. That is the fun part of our responsibilities.

This year's El Niño brought an abundance of bloom to our garden. We had so much, that I thought every plant was going to have bloomout. It was really thrilling to see so many new and old varieties putting on a show. The primary lesson I learned was to keep the plants high and dry. Good drainage seems to be the secret. We have a landscape customer who always plants hundreds of plants on raised beds without amendments in temperatures up to 110 degrees with fantastic results. After the first year they receive no water except for natural rains. Living in an area of an abundance of *I.douglasiana*, we see many of the best plants growing on slopes or cuts made for highways.

Having a commercial garden, we typically line out many plants in the fall. This year's rains prevented us from doing this, so we planted our divisions in biodegradable paper sleeves over the winter and

then planted in the spring when we had a one week break from the rain. They were all planted in raised beds and are doing so well that we intend to follow the same process this year, rain or shine.

Being an internet surfer, I am always pleased to see home pages of other societies. They are outstanding examples of how to get the word out about different species of iris and to share knowledge and pictures. I think it is time for our society to leap into the electronic age. Lewis (who agrees) and I have discussed possible content for a site, and now will evaluate how to proceed. It is our hope there is a member or friend who would like to do the task for us. This will be discussed at our meeting in Denver this year and hopefully volunteers will come forward. Lacking this, we will discuss proceeding with a professional to do the initial setup. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have pictures, articles from the Almanac, sources, and membership information etc. available to the world? Of course, if any of you have any comments, please let me know as this will be a project for and by our membership.

I hope we can put El Niño behind us and all have beautiful plants and blooms.



FROM THE EDITOR

The second PCI I ever saw was in a garden during the 1975 AIS National Convention in San Diego. I had previously seen what I now know was *Iris hartwegii* sbsp. *australis* in wooded fields along the road to Lake Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mountains of Southern California, although I don't remember thinking of them as garden subjects. But in Sanford Roberts' garden when I saw Joe Ghio's CALIFIA, I thought it was the most beautiful iris I had ever seen.

I had grown all kinds of iris from the time I was in high school. Then, in 1935

when I was at U. C. Berkeley, Prof. Essig took me to see, not only his garden, but also those of Carl Salbach and Professor Mitchell. How I missed recognizing the PCIs then, and for all those 40 years, I shall never know.

But after seeing Califia, everything changed. By the time of the 1978 National Convention when our garden was on tour, we were growing 55 named cultivars and 12 Ghio seedlings, largely through the generosity of Joe Ghio, who gave us one each of everything in his garden. This included not only his own introductions,

but also some old classics like Eric Neis' Amiguita, most of Marjorie Brummitt's cultivars, Dara Emery's Canyon Snow, Jack McCaskill's Fairy Chimes, George Stambach's Garden Delight, Roy Davidson's Lemonade Springs, Marion Walker's Ojai, Molseed's Sundance Eight, August Phillips' Native Warrior, Richard Luhrsen's Ami Royale, Ben Hager's Aromas, Thornton Abell's Pique, and Robert Hubley's Red Eyes. Sounds like a "Who's Who" of the early hybridizers.

At last I have found out what a PCI is. Now I have seen, not only *Iris hartwegii* sbsp. *australis*, but every other species in its native habitat. We have grown over

270 named introductions and even hundreds of our own seedlings in our garden. We have watched Joe and others make fantastic changes over the years. But what was the most spectacular clump in the garden this El Niño year?

As you might have expected, it was CALIFIA!

El Niño

A CHANGE OF OFFICERS

Adele Lawyer

In my new capacity as Co-Editor of the *Almanac*, I am pleased to announce that Terri Hudson has assumed my former position as Secretary-Treasurer.

According to Riley Probst, our AIS liaison officer, the duties performed by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris are delegated to three positions in other AIS Sections: Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chairman.

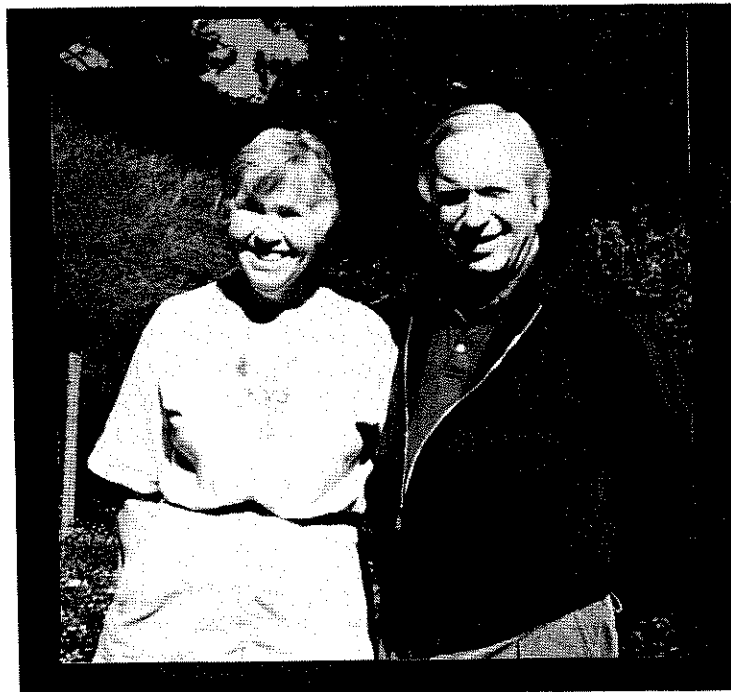
In SPCNI, requests for Membership or Information on our section are addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer. She maintains Membership records, receives Publication Requests, sends out Dues Notices, and deposits funds received into the SPCNI account.

It was fortunate that Terri had recently retired as an elementary school teacher. She was accustomed to performing her teaching job, sharing responsibilities of the Iris Gallery nursery with Jay in many ways, including hosting visitors, yearly production of their catalog, running their gift shop, and maintaining their lovely home. This consists of Terri and Jay, son, Tod, who is handicapped with an injury suffered in an accident about 8 years ago, and mother, Helen, who has been an asset in every way.

Although I warned Terri that it could be a consuming job at times, she is the

type of person who likes to be occupied to the hilt, is naturally efficient, and was sure she would enjoy doing it.

Since Jay Hudson will continue as President for the next two years, and will



Terri and Jay Hudson

remain as an officer for at least two more, it is an added advantage for them to be able to work together. Lewis and I have also enjoyed a similar partnership in all areas of our life, and we have found it to be not only pleasurable, but also a very productive arrangement.

PACIFIC COAST IRIS SECTION MEETING 1998 AIS CONVENTION, DENVER

Adele Lawyer

President, Jay Hudson, opened the meeting shortly after 12 noon. He introduced himself and discussed a plan to create a web page for our society. It was his opinion that this could be started up for a cost of about \$300. With the help of a friend versed in the technology involved, Jay offered to prepare the page, himself. Gigi Hall moved that an expenditure of no more than \$500 be authorized to establish a Website. The move was seconded and approved by a voice vote of those members present.

It was announced that Santa Rosa and Fort Bragg-Mendocino, California will be the location of the 1999 Expedition.

Since transplanting bare root PCI cultivars has not been successful for many, Hudson described a method he is using to ship and sell native iris plants. His method involves growing individual plants in hard plastic sleeves made for the growth and transportation of forest tree seedlings. These tapered plastic sleeves are about 3 inches wide and 10 inches deep, with generous drainage holes. Roots have adequate room for growth, and the shock involved in digging and packing them at shipment time is eliminated. The iris are put into the

sleeves in late fall when the roots are fresh and white, and shipped and/or planted out directly in the spring. Biodegradable sleeves are also used for shipping.

Discussion on the ease of establishing Pacificas in the garden using seed, rather than transplanting plants was initiated by members of the audience. Ralph and Laverne Conrad, who garden at Bonsall in the San Diego, California area, recommended the practice. They retain the seedlings they prefer and discard those less favored. Although they grow a few varieties produced by their favorite hybridizers, their garden is noted for the profusion of their beautiful seedlings.

A question and answer period took place following the discussion, with Gigi Hall and Lewis and Adele Lawyer joining Jay Hudson at the podium.

Jay Hudson followed this portion of the meeting by showing pictures he took of about 90 Pacificas from his garden.

We were disappointed that our Section was scheduled for the lunch hour. It also overlapped with the Siberian Section, which we had to leave when it was only half way through in order to set up for the SPCNI displays.

EXPEDITION 1999

Expedition 1999 is still in the planning stage. Our tour Chairman, Colin Rigby, has decided to start the trip from Santa Rosa, California, which is accessible from the San Francisco Airport via the Airporter.

At the present time it is planned that we will spend the first night at Santa Rosa. The next day, we will leave our cars at the motel, and take an overnight bag on the bus, which will take us to Fort Bragg and Mendocino. We will visit Jay and Terri Hudson's beautiful Iris Gallery, and Mae Lauer's private garden in the Fort Bragg area. Mae has a large garden in which PCI purchased from the Rigby's Portable Acres some years ago, have flourished. The Mendocino Botanical

Garden is another special stop. Here are planted many species of flowers, shrubs, and trees suited to the cool, seaside location. Included is a collection of PCIs, ranging from those selected from the wild up to current introductions. A trail through the garden leads to sea cliffs where *I. douglasiana* is native.

Other stops such as the tempting nursery at Heritage house is a possibility. We may go farther south on the coast highway the next morning, or see other areas on our return to Santa Rosa.

The date should be sometime in mid to late April. Reserve some time to enjoy the trip to one of the most picturesque areas in the country. Details will be given in the Fall issue.

REQUEST FOR SEED

On behalf of Colin Rigby

Colin Rigby tells us that he is sold out of seed and looking forward to receiving more to replenish his supply. Last year it was necessary to disappoint many who requested seed.

In regard to hybrids, Mixed Garden Seed is a good choice to collect and also to purchase. It is easier to put harvested seed into a single container. And those growing seeds of this category should find something which suits their fancy among the progeny. - If there are an appreciable number of seeds produced by a single cultivar, please send these seeds in separate packets. It is nice to know the identity of at least one of the parents.

There are always many requests for species seed. Some individuals with large properties need many seeds to naturalize in special areas. Douglasiana growing in mats and huge clumps could spare a few seeds without diminishing their position in the environment.

We hope that those of you who live near areas where the species grow will collect seed to share with others who want to grow them. Tenax, innominata, douglasiana, fernaldii, purdyi, munzii, and macrosiphon are always coveted. We

have also collected the yellow-orange *I. hartwegii* that grow in the Cow Creek area of Stanislaus National Forest in Tuolumne County. Seed has been scarce at the higher levels there lately, since death of trees from drought and beetles have caused foresters to fell trees and drag them away, scraping other vegetation, including native iris along with them. It is probable that the iris will regenerate in time.

Hope someone will collect seed of the lavender *hartwegii*, which we have never seen.

Please remember to be thoughtful when collecting seed so that you do not remove all the seed from any of the plants. It is largely through the seed that native iris areas remain intact. Plants die off from vagaries of the weather, the invasion of insects and other predators just as they do in our gardens. It is the seed that preserves them from year to year. And it is the portion of the seed we collect that enables us to enjoy them, without guilt, in our gardens.

Please send seed to Colin Rigby, Seed Chairman, whose address is on Page 2, inside the front cover.

I. INNOMINATA AND I. CHRYSOPHYLLA SEED AVAILABLE FROM BILL FERRELL

Bill Ferrell

We were successful in collecting some seeds from the *I. innominata* population at China Flat, but too late for distribution through the Fall *Almanac*. Although 95 percent of the seed pods had split and scattered their seed, we were able to get enough to distribute, although in limited quantities.

I will be able to send 15 seeds per family of *I. innominata*, and 5 seeds per family of *I. chrysophylla* from the population collected.

If members are interested, send your request to
Bill Ferrell,
P. O. Box 698,
Philomath, OR, 97370.

CORRECTION

Steve Taniguchi's color picture in the 1997 Fall edition of the *ALMANAC* which was labeled 'Pacific High x Ghio Seedling'

should have been labeled, 'Ghio seedling x Pacific High'.



Garden Delight (Stambach '75)



Vernon Wood seedling 9620. Photo: V. Wood



Iris Hartwegii in Sierra foothills above Sonora California

Photo Paul Martin
Golden, Colorado

THE WINTER OF 1995-96 OR WHATEVER HAPPENED TO MY PCIs?

Bill Ferrell,, Philomath, Oregon

The last winter and spring might be called the year of the big flood, the year of the freeze, or the year of the slug. Take your pick; they all fit! - The winter weather in late January was quite balmy, and then in February we got a freeze lasting a week or so when temperatures fell to the low teens. When spring came it was very wet with rain day after day for weeks. Great weather for slugs and fungi.

So how did this affect my PCIs? Disaster for many, while others fared quite well. All of my new varieties (about 20 planted the previous fall) were dead after this. Established clumps were variable. Some very healthy clumps going into the winter were wiped out completely, while others survived pretty well. This was quite a contrast with the species *tenax*, *douglasiana*, and *innominata*, which not only survived, but bloomed profusely. Species *bracteata* and *chrysophylla* have never done well for me here, and this year was no exception.

I put all of this together this way: In terms of weather, the warm January days promoted the breaking of dormancy for the unwary hybrids with genes from warmer climates. Not so for the 3 species above. They'd seen it all before, metaphorically and evolutionarily speaking, and they stayed dormant. In contrast, the subsequent freeze killed some of the tissue of the cultivars which had broken dormancy, and in turn opened them up for crown rot; - and it was all downhill from there in the subsequent wet period. Those which survived, even though a number are doing well vegetatively now, are of course subject to that same syndrome if the weather behaves as it did before.

The behavior of the various clones of *tenax*, *douglasiana*, and *innominata* was quite impressive. I didn't see a single clump that suffered from this rather extreme winter and spring. I was especially impressed with a yellow-flowered clone of *douglasiana* which had dozens of blooms.

My conclusion from this is that for reliable growth and flowering in the Pacific Northwest we need to have more *tenax*,

douglasiana, and *innominata* genes in our plants. Perhaps crossing them with cultivars which show some resistance to the conditions I've described above is the place to start. Below are listed the cultivars which are doing very well vegetatively now as I write this in mid September.

Cultivars Doing Well, September 1996

Agnes James	Hot Number
Amiguita	Mini Ma
Big Money	Mistress Perry
Black Eye	Ojai
Canyon Snow	On and On
Charter Member	Santa Cruz Beach
Fallen Plums	Skylash
Gold Dusted	Smoky Wine
Hands On	Smuggler's Cove

Wild Time

When I compare this list with that of several years ago (1991) and a different sort of winter, the names appearing on both lists as surviving well are Agnes James, Canyon Snow, Mini Ma, and On and On. The comparison is not altogether valid because some of the cultivars available last year were not in my garden in 1991. It is noteworthy that 3 of the 4 in both lists are close to species; in fact, 2 of them are species variants collected in nature.

Addenda: I sent the above paragraphs to Colin Rigby, Duane Meek, Terry Aitken, and Lorena Reid for comments. Lori and Colin pretty much agreed with me, and Duane added Big Wheel and Upper Echelon. Terry had considerable reservations about the matter. He thinks that the problem lies in the transplanting process: seedlings and established plants do OK, but plants newly transplanted are the problem. Perhaps he would develop his ideas more at length for the ALMANAC.

Editor's note: This article was sent to us in time for the fall 1997 issue. Unfortunately, it was misplaced and we didn't find it until the interior of our house was painted and we had to move everything off the shelves and out of nooks and crannies. In this El Niño year his experience continues to be of current interest.

THE LATE-BLOOMING HYBRIDS, 1998

Lewis Lawyer, Oakland CA

You are probably getting tired hearing about our "late" (late-blooming) hybrids. But walking out into the garden and seeing this spectacular display of flowers when, for all practical purposes the PCIs are finished, really excites me. The "lates" have grown from last year's 15 clones, with the addition of 97 one-year-old seedlings, about half of which are blooming in this, their first year. The two irregularly-shaped plots where they are planted are equivalent to a 7-foot by 8-foot area of almost solid bloom, an impressive sight for this late date.

On May 15, there were 196 open flowers on our "late" hybrids. On that day there were just 4 flowers still open in our plantings of named varieties. The 138 clones of named varieties had peaked with 501 open flowers on April 19, five days before the first "late" selection opened. The "late" bloom peaked on May 11, 23 days after the named varieties, with 203 open flowers.

Of the 4 flowers still open in the named varieties, 2 were on FLAMENCO QUEEN, and one each on JEAN ERICKSON and TIDY WHITE. Two other clones, DEL RAY and PACIFIC RIM, still had one faded flower each, but both were too far gone to be considered as being still in bloom. Del Ray is the latest-blooming named cultivar we grow, having a 16-year average bloom date of April 19 and this year opening May 1, just seven days earlier than "Late Doug". As in the past, however, it does not have a long bloom period, and this year, 15 days after first bloom, there are no more buds to open. Pacific Rim is also a relatively-late bloomer, but has had a lengthy bloom span in our garden. It has averaged a first-bloom date of April 9 in

the six years we have grown it. This year its first bloom opened on April 19.

In our own munzii-derived crosses which are normally about five days later than the other varieties, 16 flowers were still open on May 15th. Five of these were on a 2-year-old, open-pollinated seedling



Year-old Seedling "Lates". Photo May 20

clump with 7 bloom stalks on this, its first year to bloom. This clump started blooming May first, and with further testing may turn out to be a genetic late. The other blooms were on Sierra Dell and 9 un-introduced, non-late seedlings.

Jean Erickson which, like our own crosses, is a munzii-douglasiana combination, had been in bloom for 45 days, Sierra Dell for 40 days. Of our seedlings which were still in bloom, XP214A and XP224A had both been in bloom continuously for 60 days, not unusual for either of them. Two others were XP181A and XP228B which had been in bloom 45 days.

Ten days later, on May 25, Jean Erickson still had a single open bloom. A clump of Foothill Banner had sent up 4 new bloom stalks and had 4 open flowers, a pretty sight except that the 16 stalks it had at the beginning of the the season, are now down to two. The "Lates" still had 109



Left: Part of planting of 1-year-old seedling "Lates". Right: One-year-old Planting of Lawyer selections, XP1A through XP321A. Total 37 clumps, all but 5 of which had bloomed. There were no blooms or buds remaining when this Photo was taken May 20.

open flowers, but most of the new crosses were finished. One line, a cross of a Foothill Banner sib by Late Doug, remained in full bloom and comprised about a third of the total bloom count.

Early in this breeding project we learned that how late a cultivar started blooming was not nearly as important as how long or how late it continued to bloom. Bud count, branching, and the

number of flowers per inflorescence are the factors which maximize its value in extending the bloom season. The next article will concentrate on that subject.

P.S. There is still a little space left on the page, and I think you should know that it is June 15, there are 23 flowers open on the lates, and Adele is still making crosses.



Clump of "Late Doug". May 20, 1998

BRANCHING AND MULTIFLOWERING

Lewis Lawyer, Oakland, CA

The "lates", which must be branched in order to fulfil their roll in extending the season, gave us a good opportunity to continue our study of the benefits and problems inherent in branching. As was the case when I first discussed the subject in the Spring, 1987, ALMANAC, the only fault I have found with branching is that when you have three large flowers open at the same time on a tall stalk, a heavy rain may cause it to topple. This should have happened with the "lates", since they were very tall, but, although we noted a hundred or so cases of 3 open flowers per stalk, only four of them were toppled. This is partially due to the fact that they didn't start blooming until most of the rains were over. We did, however, have measurable amounts of rain and much wind.

On our shorter-stemmed, multi-flowered cultivars, which often have 2 open flowers, toppling is not a problem.

Of the 267 named varieties which we have grown, only 16 percent have ever produced a branched stalk in our garden. And this, despite the fact that most of the early breeding was with *Iris douglasiana* which, seemingly, would have assured the integration of branching into the early gene pool. Did the early hybridizers find branching and select away from it, or just by chance miss finding it in the wild?

Branching, of course, is relatively unimportant in the early cool season when a succession of cultivars assures a continuous bloom. We find, even then, however, that a clump of a branched cultivar such as Harland Hand, can do wonders for your flower count during the three weeks or so it is in full bloom. This is also true for some of our munzii-derived, multi-flowered hybrids like XP224A, which, in the early season can account for up to a third of all the flowers in bloom that day.

Branching and multi-flowering are a necessity in the "lates". Without them, as you move into the warmer days of May and June, even the latest to bloom is finished blooming almost as soon as it started.

We became interested in branching when it appeared in Sierra Butterflies, selected as XP3K in 1981. XP3K is a cross between XP1C, a pure blue munzii-derived hybrid and Soquel Cove, a Ghio selection

which is 1/4 each Pasatiempo, munzii, Ojai, and Aptos. XP1C was selected from open pollinated seed of Thornton Abell's 66-44-30, which we have grown in our garden for 18 years with never a sign of branching, but with 3 and occasionally 4 flowers on its single unbranched stalk. Likewise, neither Soquel Cove (2-flowered) or its parents Pasatiempo (2-flowered), Ojai (2-flowered), or Aptos (1- or 2-flowered), has ever branched in our garden. So, while we gladly accept the branching of Sierra Butterflies, which we know had to come from *Iris douglasiana*, we will never know exactly how it got there. Its occasional 4 flowers per spathe obviously came from *Iris munzii*, since that is one of only 2 species known to have 4 flowers on a single stalk, and we know that Thornton Abell's 66-44-30 occasionally carries this trait.

On the facing page are, above, a photo of the upper third of a branched stem of XP347 (XP 143B X Late Doug), bearing 3 open flowers. The photo was taken on May 15. To its right is a diagram of the entire stem drawn to scale. The area covered by the photo is delineated by the dotted lines. At the bottom of the page is a photo of the three open flowers taken from above.

The diagram shows the height where each branch divides, and the length of the branches up to the point where the pedicels attach. Above that point, it shows the length and number of pedicels and the ovaries which they subtend and which later become the seed pods. The showy flower parts which rise above the ovaries are not shown.

As with the other diagrams which will follow, the sequence of flowering is indicated in numbers from 1 to 5, 1 being the first flower to open and 5 the last. In this case, it was the "2s" which were open for the picture. In all cases the sheaths, which occur where each branch joins the main stem, are shortened to reduce confusion. In reality they are several inches long and cling to the stem for most of their length. We tried to show this, but it just looked like fat stems. The pedicels all arise from the same place on the stem end, and it is their varying lengths that space the flowers at different levels



Branching on XP347 (XP 143B X Late Doug)

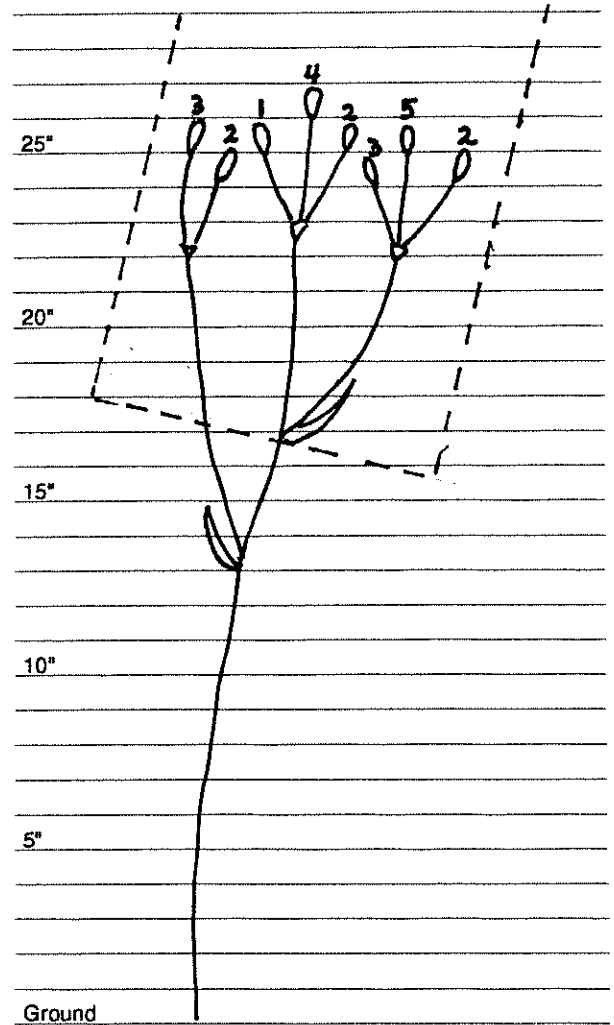
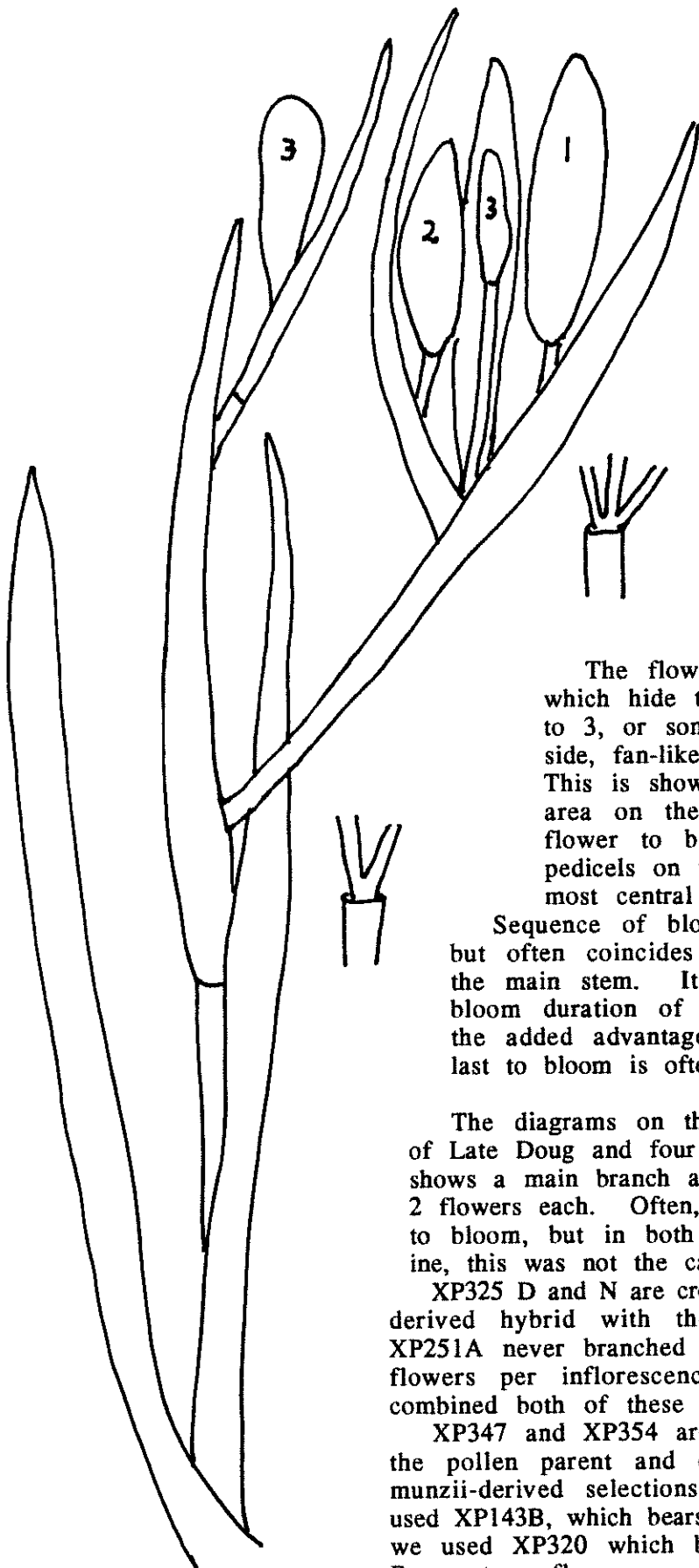


Diagram of XP347 showing sequence of bloom.
Drawn to scale. Photo area outlined.



Three open blooms on XP347 from above (see previous page),



This drawing was made exactly life size to show the structure of a branched stem and the parts that surround the flowers. Stalks are usually quite straight or gracefully curved, but occasionally are sharply angled where a branch attaches. Each branch is surrounded by a narrow leaf which attaches to the stalk immediately below the branch. Actually, the branch does not come off the side of the main stem like the branch of a tree. The main stem ends abruptly with a little flat shelf. From this stubby end, the two branches emerge side by side, making it difficult to say which is the branch and which is the main stem. This is shown in the little sketch adjacent to the branch area of the main drawing.

The flower parts are subtended by two bracts which hide the fact that, like the branches, the 1 to 3, or sometimes 4, pedicels also arise side by side, fan-like, in a straight row, from a flat shelf. This is shown in the little sketch adjacent to that area on the main drawing. Normally the first flower to bloom is on one of the two outside pedicels on the main stem, and the last is on the most central one or on a branch.

Sequence of bloom on the branches is not definite, but often coincides with the second flower to open on the main stem. It is this sequence that determines the bloom duration of the cultivar; and in cultivars having the added advantage of 4 blooms per inflorescence, the last to bloom is often number 4 of this cluster.

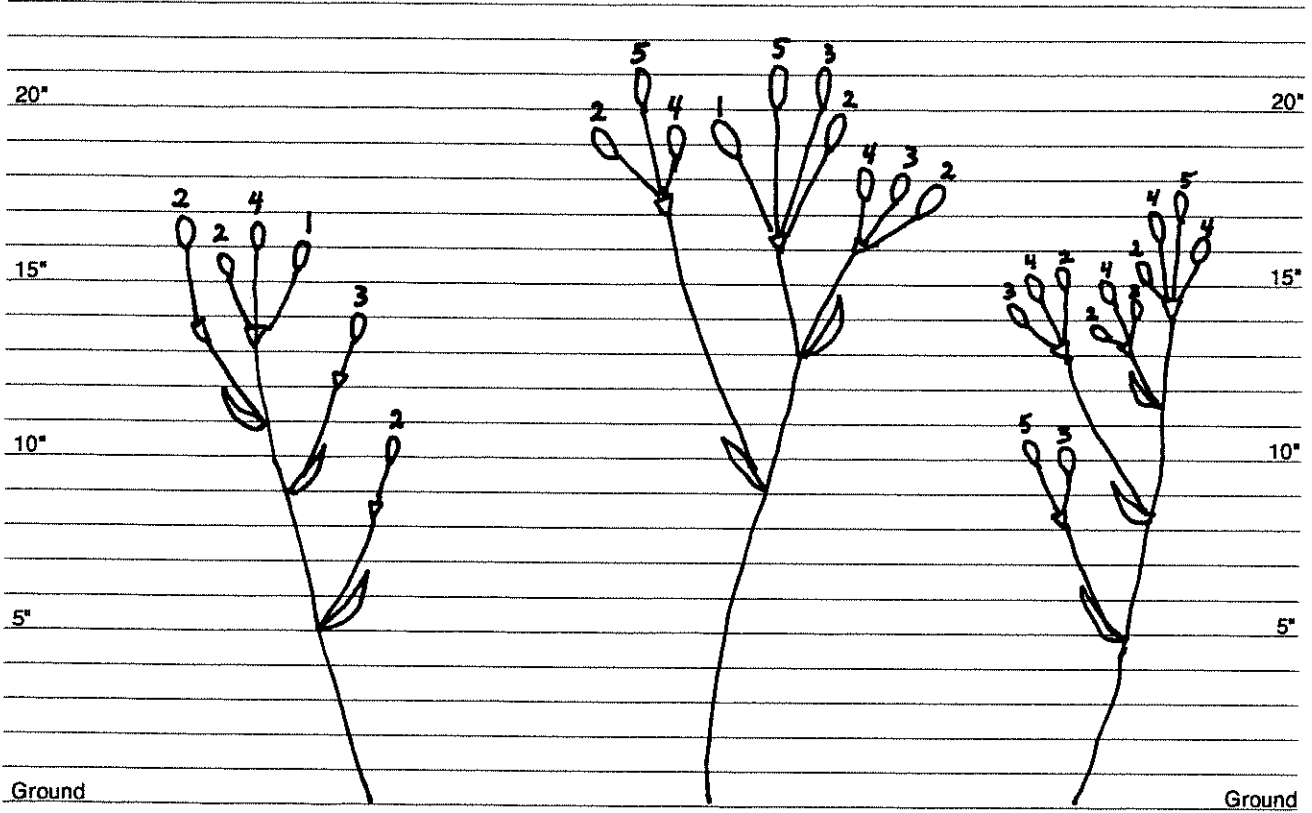
The diagrams on the next page show the configuration of Late Doug and four of its offspring. Late Doug typically shows a main branch and 3 (or 2) lesser branches with 1 or 2 flowers each. Often, one of the lesser branches is the last to bloom, but in both the examples we happened to examine, this was not the case.

XP325 D and N are crosses of Late Doug X XP251A, a munzii-derived hybrid with the same bloom date as Late Doug. XP251A never branched and Late Doug has never produced 4 flowers per inflorescence, but the combination of the two combined both of these features in most of the offspring.

XP347 and XP354 are both crosses involving Late Doug as the pollen parent and one of our branched and 4-flowered munzii-derived selections as the pod parent. In XP347 we used XP143B, which bears up to 5 flowers per stalk. In XP 354 we used XP320 which bears up to 9 large, pale blue Valley Banner-type flowers, and is both branched and 4-flowered.

As in the previous diagram, the numbers indicate the sequence of bloom.

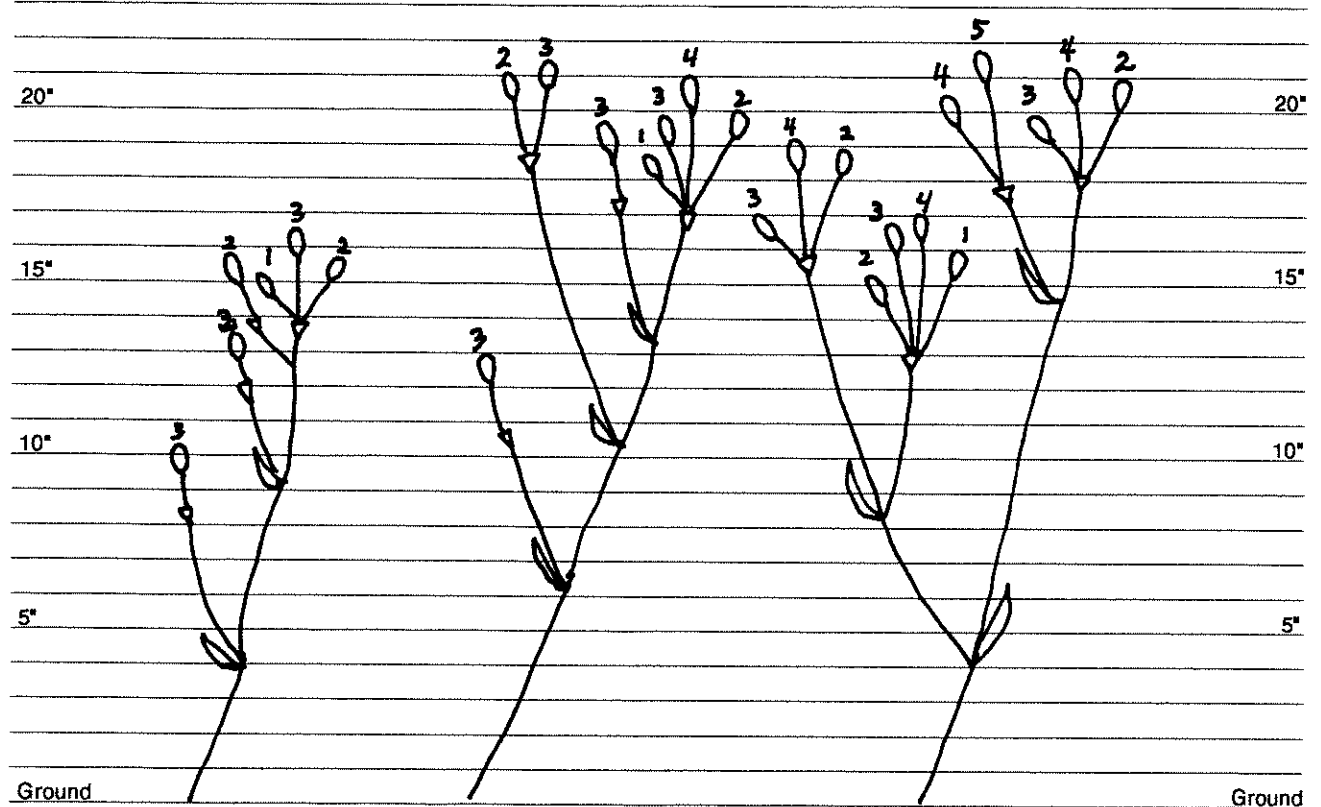
BRANCHING CONFIGURATION ON LATE DOUG AND FOUR OF ITS PROGENY



Late Doug

XP325D

XP325N



Late Doug

XP347

XP354

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

Bill Ferrell, Philomath, Oregon

In an excessively wet or cold year it appears to me that the Pacifica cultivars that are the most vigorous have one thing in common. They have the broad foliage of *I. douglasiana* in their heritage. The thriving survivors last year were (alphabetically), AGNES JAMES, AMIGUITA, BIG MONEY, BLACK EYE, BANBURY MELODY, CANYON SNOW, FALLEN PLUM, HANDS ON, OJAI, and SMUGGLER'S COVE.

Bob Ward, Little Rock, Arkansas

I would have had a good season for the Pacificas, but El Niño sent a hail storm on the 16th of April this year and destroyed all the flower stalks on most of the irises. It was to be a good year, but too much ice (about 1.5 inches deep) did too much damage.

Agnes James had 15 flower stalks, and several of Lawyer's XP seedlings would have bloomed, but they too were destroyed. Many of the innominatas did very well a few days later with about 8 flower stalks on three clumps. These were all very small plants, about 8 inches high. *Iris douglasiana* recovered quite well and produced 10 flower stalks.

For the first time *Iris thompsonii* clumps that have been growing here for 5 years, decided to flower; very blue flowers.

I wish I could have a better report, but El Niño sent me a smite.

John White, Minot, Maine

My *Iris tenax* in light shade, that bloomed during a rainy week in 1997 and selfed, yielded 22 seeds. And I now have 16 seedlings about 3 to 4 inches tall.

I got some more PCI seed in January and put it in a cold room, (50 to 52 degrees F. average) for 44 days. On March 1st I brought them into a warm room, and on March 5th a cross between Idylwild and Night Editor emerged. I am sure that a lot more will sprout in the next few days. I also have a large flat of yellow *Iris tenax*, sometimes called *gormanii*, which should emerge soon.

I went into the winter of 1997-98 with about 50 plants in the ground which survived the summer, of which 8 or 10 were plants that came through last year's winter.

We have had good snow cover from November 15th, and the garden still, (March 5), has 4 to 6 inches of snow cover. Down town there is very little snow and 10 miles down the road there isn't any snow. I don't think the ice storm did any damage to the gardens, but we had severe damage to all of our trees. Six or 8 of them will have to be taken down.

Adele Lawyer, Oakland, California

This was a record year for precipitation in the San Francisco Bay area. On our hill in the East Bay, we have received 50.11 inches to date, (May 26th), with light rain predicted for later this afternoon. Average rainfall is 18.20. In spite of the excess water, or probably in response to this, bloom was excellent on the PCIs this spring. Another surprise on the positive side is seed set. Preliminary observations show a normal seed set. No bees have yet been seen in the cold, wet environment; but I have witnessed ants and earwigs inside some of the flowers, and the gusty winds may have helped out on days when pollen was powdery enough to move.

Best performances of those cultivars established in the garden were CALIFIA, CANYON ORCHID, EMIGRANT, FLAMENCO QUEEN, FOOTHILL BANNER, GARDEN DELIGHT, GOLD DUSTED, GREENAN GOLD, HALFTIME, HARLAND HAND, IDYLWILD, JEAN ERICKSON, LITTLE JESTER, PEACOCK GAP, QUEEN CALIFIA, ROARING CAMP, SIERRA BUTTERFLIES, SIERRA DELL, SMUGGLER'S COVE, SCHOOL BOY, UPPER ECHELON, WILD TIME, and WISHING.

Our garden is plagued with crown rot disease, which is a continuing problem since use of Vapam fumigant is unlawful. In a PCI bed which we abandoned because most cultivars had died, there were a few stoical survivors, and this in spite of uncontrolled knee-high weeds! The most vigorous was CANYON ORCHID, followed by TIDY WHITE, SCHOOL BOY, and to our delight, FAIRY CHIMES. We were especially pleased to find this dainty, single-flowered little gem hiding under the weeds and blooming profusely, as is its habit. This was the only clump of this variety left in the garden! We are hoping that the 4 varieties mentioned may possess resistance or tolerance to crown rot.

Newer imports to our garden are still comfortably settled in pots filled with cozy planting medium and snail bait. We found their flowers to be beautiful. They have yet to confront the challenges of our garden soil, however. We will defer judgment for a later date.

Steve Taniguchi, Santa Clara, California.

This year was a very wet one. As a result, some of my plants developed what I think is crown rot. The leaves turned yellow, and there was a blackish discoloration at the base of the leaves. I soaked them with fungicide and they seem to have survived, though only time will tell. Another result of all the rain is that many of my plants have been subject to rust. However, an IDYLWILD x *I. tenax* seedling showed no signs of rust even though it is right next to plants that have rust. The flower shape is not that great, but I will keep the plant since it may have resistance to rust.

The plants I ordered from Bay View Gardens bloomed nicely. The best was BIG SMILE, which is a yellow self with the most perfect flower form I've seen. I liked it so much that I ordered another one this year! COMMON SENSE put up 5 bloom stalks, which is the most I've ever had on a first year plant.

I went to two iris shows this year. The PCIs I liked the most are: COZUMEL, EARTHQUAKE, and GORDOLA. I don't know how these people grow such perfect specimens.

Here is a summary of my "homemade" plants that bloomed for the first time this year: BIG WHEEL x SIMPLY WILD: one plant. The flowers were pinkish, but of "older" form. IN THE MONEY x MUNRAS: All three plants had rust. Two had medium yellow flowers, one of which had one branch. The third was an ugly off-yellow with a light bluish greenish wash on the falls. IN THE MONEY x RARE REWARD: One plant had a yellow flower and a purple signal that bleeds out onto the falls. The flower shape is OK, but on the small side. Some rust present. CANYON SNOW x IDYLWILD: Two plants, both with a little rust. One was white with bluish veins, the other had a "faded Idylwild flower". RARE REWARD x 93-02A: Both plants had two branches off the main stem. One plant had 7 flowers on its stem; but the flowers (which were a nice color) have lousy form, (folded in the center). The other plant had 6 flowers on its stem, but the flowers were small. Both plants had rust. 93-02A x Idylwild: Only one plant of this cross survived, but it is probably the best of my seedlings this year. There were two branches on the stem and a total of 6 flowers. This plant has a touch of rust. The flowers have better substance than 93-02A but are a lighter purple. I used pollen from this plant onto 93-02 in an attempt to get a darker purple flower with multiple branching.

Editor's note: In the Fall 1997 issue of the Almanac, 93-02 is pictured (Ghio seedling x Pacific High).

LAKE COUNTY EXPLORATION

Adele Lawyer, Oakland, California

In late April, Colin and Teresa Rigby made a trip from their home in Washington to the areas radiating out from Santa Rosa, California, to pin-point stopping points for our 1999 Expedition. Colin called to tell us that, to their amazement, there were no signs of *Californicae* iris plants to be seen in the areas where they were used to finding them.

On May 10, intrigued by this comment, Gene and Joanne Loop drove Lewis, and me to the roads just south of Clear Lake, California to check on iris in the areas where we had known them to be in previous years.

When we arrived at the areas at Red Rock and Bottle Rock Roads where we had visited these *Iris macrosiphon* friends many times before, we were delighted to find them freshly in bloom just where they belonged! This bloom date is about 2 weeks later than years when we have seen these lavender iris in bloom previously. The diminutive, hot pink *Mimulus nanus* and other wild flowers were still accompanying macrosiphon on Red Rock Road.

Although this cool, wet spring had influenced a late bloom date at our home garden also, we somehow hoped that the

weather may have been less influential here than in Alameda County. We were anxious to show the yellow colonies of what we believed to be macrosiphon to the Loops, who had never seen them in bloom because their flowers opened close to a full month later than the lavender macrosiphons on Bottlerock Road.

When we arrived at their habitat, a mile or so down Harrington Flat Road, which branches off of Bottlerock, we couldn't believe the change in the land. New residences had sprung up along major areas of the road. Many trees had been removed, and economically-constructed homes built. The properties were large, with room for horses, dogs, and vegetables. We found no iris leaves on either side of the road, but possibly they will appear later. They are not normally deciduous, however.

In preparing this article, I referred to Lee W. Lenz's, *A Revision of the Pacific Coast Irises*, and find that *I. fernaldii* is related to *I. macrosiphon*, both having long perianth tubes. However, the perianth tubes of *fernalidii* are never stemless as are many macrosiphon plants, and they are usually taller than macrosiphon. Other differences, such as the bright red-purple stained *fernalidii* bases, and the

fact that they are known to bloom later, make me realize that the yellow macrosiphon identity we have previously assigned to them is possibly incorrect.

There are, therefore, a few things we have learned from this trip:

This is a late bloom season.

The macrosiphon population on Bottle Rock and Red Rock Roads is intact.

The accompanying wildflowers on Red Rock Road are still exciting.

The yellow iris on Harrington Flat Road are probably *Iris fernaldii*.

The persistence of this delightful population is seriously threatened by the encroachment of housing onto their habitat.

And of less significance to most of our readers, I gained a new recipe at our breakfast stop, en route. - Omelets, made while we watched, using non-fat eggs such as Egg Beaters, were flipped over onto serving plates. Then we could choose to sprinkle them with many pre-prepared additions: tomatoes, peppers, (green, mild chili, or jalepeño), onions, bacon bits, cilantro, cheese. And then we could top them with sour cream, salsa, or more cheese.

There are many pleasures to life, - not all of them in the wild!

LINING OUT SEEDLINGS

Lewis Lawyer, Oakland CA

We line out our seedlings in rows a foot apart, and spaced 6 inches apart in the row. In the past, (through 1995), we have always washed the roots between digging and planting. Survival has been close to 100 percent by this method. In 1995 we decided to try planting alternate plots without washing. By chance, one plant died in the plots where the roots were washed, and all survived in the plots where the roots were unwashed.

In 1996 and 1997 none of the roots were washed, and we had 100 percent survival in both years. I am beginning to believe that transplanting seedlings and perhaps older clones also, is best done without washing. You can reason that, since more humus and soil particles are left clinging to the root hairs, there is less disturbance, and they adjust more quickly to their new environment.

The small seedling plants with their washed roots were previously transported to the planting area in glass jars half filled with water. Plants with unwashed roots are now teased out of the pot of planting mix, untangled, and laid flat on a thick layer of the moist, pulverized planting mix, and covered with a thin layer of the same material, which consists of two thirds sifted oak-leaf mold and one third peat moss. The layered plants are carried to the planting area in shallow plastic refrigerator storage containers.

After transport to the planting area, both the washed and unwashed seedlings were handled the same. Using a narrow trowel, we dig a deep, narrow hole, deep enough to accommodate the roots. The plant is positioned, the hole partially filled with soil, and watered with sufficient water to settle the roots. After the

water has soaked in, more soil is added and again watered.

Perhaps none of you wash the roots, as it is, but I just want to convey to you my opinion that it is unnecessary.

Reasoning that since it works well with small seedlings, it would probably work on older plants too, this year we didn't wash the roots of our older transplants either. We transplanted 118 cultivars, 66 into the garden and 52 into pots. One plant failed to make it in the garden planting, and 2 in the pots. I consider that satisfactory, and intend to continue planting without washing.

Remember, however, we were able to dig and replant within a matter of minutes. PCI roots don't stand drying; so if the lag time between digging and planting is longer than a few minutes, the roots would have to be placed in water or damp soil. Also, this El Niño year gave us ample rainfall following planting, and keeping the plants well watered after planting is a must.

Another warning: plants dug from a bed where a root disease is suspected should be thoroughly washed and the plants dipped in a solution containing Subdue, 1/4 tsp per 3 gallons of water.

CROSSING TAG ENEMIES

Adele Lawyer

We rely on paper string tags to keep track of the pollen parents of our hybridizing efforts. The crossing tags, however, had a hard and painful season this spring. Conversely, it was a vintage year for the slugs, snails, earwigs, and weeds!

Weeds were magnificent. Each luscious specimen extended upward and outward to exceed the limits of their botanical guidelines. Slugs and snails produced families within them. Emerging from the weeds, it was a short climb onto the dan-

gling white tags with their "Come take me" attitude. They ate both sides of the tags, so that nothing but shallow, irregularly excavated paper remained.

The felony was not discovered until we returned from a short trip. From that time on, we have covered the tags with the plastic, waterproof, fadeproof labels we use to identify plants in the garden. These have never been an attraction to snails. Some of the tags were left uncovered; so we have an experiment.

NEW MEMBERS and ADDRESS CHANGES

Brown, Dana and Vernon
Rt. 3, Box 118,
Lubbock, TX 79401

Champion, Lillian
P.O. Box 1798
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Crosby, Paul
23612 S, Scotsdale Terrace
Peculiar, MO 64078

Keating, Iris
6 Tunnel End, Preston-on-the-Hill
Warrington, CH, WA4 4JX, England

Lewis, Shirlee
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Anaheim, CA 92805

Mann, Sandy
601 Crane,
Turlock, CA 95380

Maxwell, Mary
924 Parkwood Drive,
Modesto, CA 95350

Niswonger, Dave
822 Rodney Vista Blvd.
Cape Girardeau MO 63701

Patten, Dorothy
1124 W. Perkins Street,
Ukiah, CA 95482

Probst, Riley
418 North Van Buren,
St. Louis, MO 63122

Sterling, Cynthia
1035 Loma Vista Drive,
Napa, CA 94558

Vergara, Scott Gregory
P. O. Box 690
Forest Grove, OR 97116

Zalewski, Thomas G.
1617 12th Street,
Anacortes, WA 98221

ADDRESS CHANGES

Danny Hills, Wayne Hughes,
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Portland, OR 97286

McCaskill, Jack V.
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Porter, Louise
19605 River Road #61
Gladstone, OR 97027

SPCNI TREASURER'S REPORT, 1997

		<u>CK ACCT</u>	<u>TOTAL ACCT</u>
	<u>BALANCE Jan 1, 1997</u>	<u>\$6054.63</u>	<u>\$6,054.63</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
	Dues	870.00	
	Dues Through AIS	114.00	
	Sales of Cohen Booklets	88.00	
	Sales of Lenz Booklets	106.00	
	Sales - Back Issues Almanac	60.00	
	Sales- Check List	85.00	
	Seed Sales	285.10	
	Deposits for SPCNI Expedition 1997	2640.00	
	Interest on Checking Account	44.21	
	Donations	\$10.00	
	Trans from Savings Acct	\$500.00	
	<u>Total Annual Receipts</u>	<u>\$4802.31</u>	

DEBITS

	ALMANAC Spring, 1997	1169.20	
	ALMANAC Fall, 1997	1065.88	
	Secretary - Treasurer	82.60	
	SPCNI Expedition 1997	1558.05	
	Supplies	10.17	
	Publication Reprints	30.20	
	Mitchell Medal	16.00	
	Seed	10.49	
	Trans. to interest acct.	6750.12	
	Corporate Cost	10.00	
	<u>Total Annual Debits</u>	<u>\$10702.71</u>	
	<u>BALANCE Ck Acct, Dec. 31, 1997</u>	<u>\$154.23</u>	

SAVINGS ACCT. DATA

<u>BAL JAN 1</u>	0.00		
<u>Deposits</u>	6750.12		
<u>Interest</u>	138.77		
<u>Withdrawals</u>	500.00		
		<u>Bal Dec 31</u>	<u>6388.89</u>
			<u>\$6,543.12</u>

REGISTRATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS 1997

ADEPT (J. Ghio, R. 1997). Sdlg. PD-245N2. CA, 14" (36 cm.), EM. S. mahogany rose; F. apricot rose, deep maroon signal. Local Girl X PG-172A, Charter Member sib. Bay View 1997

ARTFUL DODGER (J. Ghio, R. 1997). Sdlg. PD-219V4. CA, 14" (36 cm.), ML. Golden tan self, small maroon signal. PF 159H: (PI-MIX-B2, unknown, x PH-132bo: ((Bubbly x (Solid Citizen x Lighthouse Point x Mission Santa Cruz))) x National Anthem)) X School Boy. Bay View 1997.

BIG SMILE (J. Ghio, R. 1997). Sdlg. PD-204B. CA, 12" (31 cm), EM. Medium gold self, signal slightly lighter. PF-254R: (PI-MIX-R, unknown, x Eagle Eyes) X School Boy. Bay View 1997.

CROSS PURPOSE (J. Ghio, R. 1997). Sdlg. PD-243E2 CA, 12" (31cm). M. S. heliotrope; F. heliotrope, undertoned apricot, large neon violet signal. Local Girl X PF-174H2: ((Las Lomas x Shaker sib) x Villa Montalvo). Bay View 1997.

EYE CONTACT (J. Ghio, R. 1997). Sdlg. PD243F3. CA, 14" (36 cm), ML. Rosy lavender, F. with black-purple signal. Local Girl X PF-174H2: (Las Lomas x Shaker sib) x Villa Montalvo). Bay View 1997.

FALSTAFF COTTAGE (Brian Price, CA, R. 1994). V. H. Humphrey 1997.

GOLDEN SCISSORTAILS (Robert Annand, R. 1997). Sdlg. 91-100APCI. CA, 15" (38 CM). ML. Golden yellow, F. with brown-veined wash, yellow gold signal; S, tips cut to form thin central segment. CA hybrid, parentage unknown X *I. hartwegii*.

HARBOR HIGH (J. Ghio, R. Sdlg. PD-273M5. CA, 12" (31 cm), L. Marine blue, streaked silver when mature. PF-191S3: ((Los Californio x San Andreas x Sierra Dell) X Seabright Cove. Bay View 1997.

KENAI LADY (Norma Barnard, R. 1997). Sdlg, NB 91-306P. CA, 14" (36 cm), EML. Ruffles very pale butter yellow, F. with bright yellow lance signal. Seed from Shepard Iris Garden. Parentage unknown.

LADY DOUBLELOON (Norma Barnard, R. 1997). Sdlg. NB 91-117P. CA. 16" (41 cm), EM. S. and style arms golden yellow, veined gold, laced; F. dark gold, golden yellow rim, large gold signal with light brown rays at top and bottom; ruffled. Seed from Shephard Iris Garden. Parentage unknown. Paradise Iris 1997.

LADY FIREWORKS (Norma Barnard, R. 1997). Sdlg. NB 91-47PE. CA, 16" (41 cm), EM. S. and style arms velvety red purple; F. velvety red purple, large gold signal with purple rays. Seed from Shephard Garden. Parentage unknown.

LADY JETFIRE (Norma Barnard, R. 1997). Sdlg. NB 91-305P. CA, 16-18" (41-46 cm), ML. Redblack self, F. velvety. Seed from Shephard Iris Garden. Parentage unknown.

LADY OF SKYE (Norma Barnard, R. 1997). Sdlg. NB 911-133P. CA, 14-16" (36-41 cm), EML. S. and style arms pale lavender blue, blue veining; F. pale lavender blue. lavender blue veining, white rim and area around narrow gold signal; ruffled; slight fragrance. Seed from Shephard Iris Garden. Parentage unknown. Paradise Iris Gardens.

MASCOT (J. Ghio, R. 1997). Sdlg. PF-185-12. CA. 16" (41 cm), L-VL. Red black self, rosewater halo on all petals, fuchsia black petal reverse; style arms violet. Mantra X PH-230D3: (San Andreas sib x National Anthem). Bay View 1997.

MOON PEARL (Nora Scopes, R. 1997). Sdlg. PC 106. CA, 15" (38 cm). M. S. white, F. white, central cream yellow flush. Parentage unknown.

PEACOCK LADY (Norma Barnard, R. 1997). Sdlg. NB 94-2. CA. 14" (36 cm), EM. S. soft gold veined maroon; style arms soft gold, washed maroon; F. maroon, soft gold rim, small gold signal, iridescent blue-washed blaze; lightly ruffled. Lacylady X unknown.

RAZZLEBERRY LADY (Norma Barnard, R. 1997) Sdlg. NB 91-90 CA, 12-14" (31-37 cm), ML. S. and style arms raspberry,

veined brown; F. raspberry red, black raspberry signal with lighter veins below; lightly ruffled. Seed from Shephard Garden. Parentage unknown.

SANTA ROSALITA (J. Ghio, CA, R. 1998). Bay View 1997.

SIERRA AZUL (J. Ghio, R. 1997). Sdlg. PD - 194F5. CA, 11" (28cm), EM. Light azure blue self, small cream signal. PF142ltbl: (Deep Blue Sea x Sierra Dell) X PF-191T3: ((Los Californio x San Andreas) x Sierra Dell). Bay View 1997.

SONAM (Jean Pryard, R. 1997). CA, 12" (30cm). M. S. golden cream, veined purple; style arms golden cream, medium purple midrib; F. violet, wide cream gold margin, large yellow signal. Seedlings from Ghio seed.

STAR WITNESS (J. Ghio, R. 1997). Sdlg. PD-205C, CA 12" (31cm), EM. Creamy yellow

self, white signal. PF-154U: (PI-MIX-R, unknown, x Eagle Eyes) X PH-266H: (Las Lomas x Aftershock sib.). Bay View 1997.

STEINBECK COUNTRY (J. Ghio, R. 1997). Sdlg. PD-196H2. CA, 12" (31cm). ML. Buckskin self, mahogany signal. PF-148M2, Point Santa Cruz sib. X Osocales. Bay View 1997.

VELVET LADY (Norma Barnard, R. 1997). Sdlg. N 94-4P. CA, 14" (36cm), ML. S. blended purple; style arms light purple; F. dark purple, small gold signal; ruffled. Lacylady X NB 91-305P. Paradise Iris 1997.

WITH THIS RING (J. Ghio, R. 1997). Sdlg. PD-264K5, CA 15" (38cm). ML. S. Apricot with orchid wash; F. apricot with orchid halo, black maroon signal. PF 188-O, Osocales sib. X PG-a72A, Charter Member sib. Bay View 1997.