

Report No. 7Nomenclature, Registration and Check List.

The January, 1923, Flower Grower contains a letter from Mr. Dykes on the subject of introduction of varieties. He says in part: "In the November issue there is a reflection on varieties to which I am supposed to have given names. May I take this opportunity of pointing out that four of them were given by Messrs. Waterer Sons & Crisp and not by me, to plants which they claim to have received from my garden several years ago. In fairness I must say I have never authorized these names nor had opportunity of deciding whether the plants in question should be distributed as seedlings raised by me." This brings out clearly the fact that no firm should introduce a variety without being authorized by the originator. Mr. Sturtevant in commenting on it states that of course it may happen in complete good faith but that it is unfortunate for all concerned. There is mention of the fact that originators ought to take every precaution to see that a name is new and as yet unused. This Society can offer its facilities in this matter. There is comment upon giving to varieties names which are pleasing in sound or express something about the flower and the undesirability of personal names is here mentioned as it has been on several other occasions. Reference is made to the Code of Horticultural Nomenclature in preparation by the American Joint Committee.

For some years it was the custom of the American Iris Society to register Iris names until October 31st of any given year. The list was printed in the Bulletin of the January following, but registrations were published also in the horticultural press as soon

as they had been approved. By arrangement with The Iris Society (England) names were passed on by both Societies before finally registered. To allow time for this, the date for closing the American registrations was in 1930 advanced to August 31st. The following notice was printed in 1930:

"In submitting names it is advisable to send several choices marked as first and second, etc. As there are over eight thousand names in the new Check List it can readily be seen that it is easy to pick a name that cannot be approved. No name which has been used before will be approved. This includes all the sections so that there will not be for instance, a Bulbous sort with the same name as a Tall Bearded.

"Names must be submitted to the Registrar. Full description which includes parentage (if possible), color, type, section, etc., etc., should accompany the application, as well as a statement whether the seedling has already been introduced, and when, and by whom (giving full address). Applicants should, if registering for the first time, also give some slight biographical details about themselves, such as whether an amateur, nurseryman, etc., that the files of the Society may be kept up to date. No person other than the originator may register a seedling unless permission to make such registration has been granted by the originator in writing, and notice of such permission must be sent to the Chairman of the Registration Committee at the time such registration is made."

From Bulletin No. 34, January, 1930.

#### CODE OF NOMENCLATURE

##### Priority

Rule 1. No two varieties of Iris shall bear the same name. The

name first published for a variety shall be the accepted and recognized name except in cases of varieties officially declared obsolete.

A. Where a variety name through long usage has become thoroughly established in horticultural literature for two or more varieties, it should not be displaced or rectified ~~w~~except in cases where a well-known synonym can be advanced to the position of leading name. The several varieties bearing identical names should be distinguished by adding the name of the originator or any other term or definition.

B. The paramount right of the originator, discoverer, or introducer of a new variety to name it, under the limitations of this code, is recognized and emphasized.

#### Form of Name

Rule 2. The name of a variety of Iris shall consist of a single word whenever possible, or compatible with most efficient service to horticulture. Only under exceptional circumstances should more than two words be used.

A. No variety should be named unless distinctly superior to existing varieties in some important characteristics, nor should a name be published (other than mere registration) until it has been determined to perpetuate and distribute the variety.

B. In selecting names for varieties the following points should be emphasized: distinctiveness, simplicity, ease of pronunciation and spelling.

C. Names should be spelled and pronounced in accordance with their derivation.

D. The name of a person should not be applied to a variety

during his life without his expressed consent, nor in general should names of individuals be used without good reason.

E. The use of a possessive noun, as, or in, a name is not admissible.

F. The use of a number either singly or attached to a word should be considered only as a temporary expedient.

G. The botanical classification shall not be used as a part of the varietal name of a garden hybrid.

Rule 3. In the full and formal citation of a variety name, the name of the author who first published it, and the date of this publication, shall also be given.

#### Publication.

Rule 4. Publication consists of (1) Registration by this Society (2) the distribution of a printed description of the variety named giving the distinguishing characters of plant, flower, etc., or (3) the publication of a new name for a variety that is properly described elsewhere; such publication to be made in any book, bulletin, report, trade catalog, or periodical, providing it bears the date of publication and is generally distributed among horticulturists; or (4) in certain cases the general recognition of a name for a propagated variety shall constitute publication of the name.

#### Revision.

Rule 5. No properly published variety name shall be changed for any reason except conflict with this code nor shall another variety be substituted for that originally described thereunder except as provided under the rules of the American Iris Society.

CHECK LIST

The compilation of a Check List of varieties was begun by John C. Wister in England in June 1919, and was continued in typewritten form. Through additions by E. H. Krelage and R. S. Sturtevant there was a constantly growing number of varieties, culminating in Revision #7, which in mimeographed form was sold to members of the Society some time in 1923. As this mimeographing had been done by Miss Helen Davis of Boston without cost to the Society the Board of Directors voted that proceeds of sales should be turned over to her. I can find no record of sales, or of any payments to Miss Davis. A smaller list, however, was published as Bulletin No. 4, in January 1922, through special subscriptions given to the Society by the following twenty prominent Iris nurserymen: Bobbink & Atkins, L. R. Bonnewitz, H. F. Chase, John Lewis Childs Co., Mrs. F. E. Cleveland, Mrs. J. Dean, W. J. Engle & Son, B. H. Farr, T. A. Havemeyer, C. W. Hubbard, Frank Koehler, Movilla Gardens, Peterson Nursery, Rainbow Iris Gardens, Roenfield Nurseries, Miss Grace Sturtevant, T. C. Thurlow's Sons, Inc., C. F. Wassenberg, Howard E. Weed and Wing Seed Company.

This was prepared for inclusion in the catalog of Standardized Plant Names which was under preparation by the American Joint Committee on Horticultural Nomenclature. It was published in advance of that work with the consent of that committee in order to facilitate checking and correction. It was the first publication giving a complete list of originators of Iris varieties and attempting to give proper spelling, classification, whether Bearded, Beardless or Bulbous and name of originator and date of introduction. It therefore has been a list to refer to in the compilation of all subsequent lists.

A second Check List was published in October, 1923, as our Bulletin No. 8, and was reprinted without change of paging from Standardized Plant Names. The list is longer and more complete than that in 1922 and is arranged entirely alphabetically and not divided by sections. A supplement to Bulletin No. 8, bringing it up to December 31, 1923, was also published and in connection with our rules of nomenclature it is interesting to publish here several regulations which were attempted but later apparently given up:

"On account of the confusion as to dates, arising from registration, or other publication of name by breeders before the general introduction of the variety into commerce, it has been decided hereafter, to list two dates on occasion. First, date of registration or publication, this date following immediately after the name of the breeder. Second, date of introduction into commerce, this date following the first date, if the introduction has been made directly by the breeder, or following the name of the person responsible for the introduction, if the breeder does not sell to the public direct. For example, Chasseur, raised by Vilmorin & Cie., and introduced by them would be given thus:

CHASSEUR, TB. (Vilm. 1919-23)

while Majestic, raised by Bliss but introduced by the Orpington Nurseries, would be given thus:

MAJESTIC, TB. (Bliss 1920-Orp. 1923)

while a variety named and registered, but not yet introduced would be given thus:

ACHERON, TB. (Sturt. 1923-N.)"

The Alphabetical Check List published in 1929 was edited by Mrs. Wheeler H. Peckham and the printing costs were met by an appropriation from the Society, by private subscriptions and by Mrs. Peckham. It is a book of three hundred pages, the result of years of painstaking work. Each Iris name is credited to its year of dissemination, its originator, introducer (or taxonomic botanist) and varieties are classified both botanically and according to color. There is an accompanying bibliography of originators, etc. Reference is made to the check lists published in Bulletins Nos. 4 and 8 and to the seven typewritten editions of a complete check list which had been prepared by the Society between 1919 and 1921. From the seventh edition much of the material was drawn and rechecked. Nursery catalogs were reconsulted and hundreds of letters to nurserymen were written asking for correct spellings, etc. Mrs. Peckham in a short article entitled "Acknowledgments and Excuses" apologizes for mistakes that may be found but quite readily calls attention to the fact that what many people believe to be mistakes are really corrections of old mistakes that have stood in print for years.

A Discard List of Bearded Iris, containing names of superceded varieties or of varieties believed to be obsolete, was compiled by Mrs. Peckham and Prof. J. E. Hill in 1931. It was presumably for the use of Test and Display gardens.

Report No. 8  
Classification.

The February, 1923, Flower Grower contains a long article on the color of Irises and the methods used for describing these colors. Ridgeway's chart is referred to as are other color charts.

Bulletin No. 13 contains our first classification. Mr. Sturtevant gives some historical notes beginning with de Bure who reported seedling records as early as 1837 under the heading of aqualens, variegata, plicata, sambucina, swerti and pallida. This method, however, was not systematically used until Barr in 1873 published an adaption of it. Farr first published it in America in 1909. While satisfactory at first, this system became confusing with the introduction of many new wild types and new varieties. R. W. Wallace was the first to abandon it in his 1916 catalog in which the Irises were grouped based on time of bloom and prevailing color.

During 1919 and 1920 there had been considerable discussion on classification but no official action was taken because the publication of a classification was then under consideration by the Royal Horticultural Society. The International Iris Conference in Paris considered the subject and published a system adapted from that used by Vilmorin which combined color and genetic considerations. Neither the English nor the French system includes any real proportions of new varieties and therefore the American Iris Society after much delay decided to take some definite step in this direction. The Classification was based generally upon the following system:



Type 5. Pink, etc.  
5a. Queen of May  
5b. Lohengrin  
6a. Cluny  
6b. Caprice

Type 7a. Mauve  
7b. Rose Unique  
7c. Kochi

Class 1A. Lavender (Plicata).

Class 1B. Lavender (Bicolor) R.H.S. IV.

Type 1a. Lord of June  
1b. Amas  
1c. Baronet  
1d. Trojana

Type 2 (Old Neglecta group)

Class 2C. Yellow Bicolor (R.H.S. Class 7)

Type 1a. Minnehaha  
1b. Gracchus  
a. Honorabilis

Type 3a. Maori King  
3b. Argynnis

Class III. Blends

Type 1a. Lavendulacea  
1b. Afterglow  
1c. Quaker Lady

Class IIIB. Blended (Plicata)

Type 1. Pancroft  
2a. Mary Garden

Class IIIC. Blended (Bicolor)

Type 1. Mme. Blanche Pion  
2b. Navajo  
2c. Red Cloud  
3a. Rev. Wurtelle  
3b. Nibelungen  
3c. Jacquesiana

Class IVa. White (self) (R.H.S. Class 1)

Type 1. Kashmir White

Type 2. Mrs. Horace Darwin

Type 3. Innocenza

Class IVb. White Plicata (R.H.S. Class 2)

Type 1. Fairy

Type 2. Anna Farr

2b. Mme. Chereau

Type 3. Bridesmaid

3b. Parisiana

Class IV. White (amoena) (R.H.S. Class 3.)

Type 1. Mariposa

Type 2. Rhein Nixe

2b. Ann Leslie

Type 3. Thorbeck

Study of classification continued after this publication. Mr. Campbell attempted a number of changes but it was not until after the publication of Mr. Schreiner's own classification that the basis for the present system was laid. Mr. Schreiner conferred with Mr. Wister, who in 1927 published in his Iris book an adaptation of Mr. Schreiner's scheme. This with further modifications led to the following classification which was published in the Alphabetical Check List in 1929:

## Bearden Iris Color Classification - 1929.

Color Group	Subordinate Color Tones								
	Blue Toned			Yellow Toned			Pink to Red Toned		
Predominant	Self	Feath- ered	Bicolor	Self	Feath- ered	Bicolor	Self	Feath- ered	Bi color
Color									
WHITE Symbol	W W W 1	W 2	W 3	W 4	W 5	W 6	W 7	W 8	W 9
BLUE	B 1	B 2	B 3			B 6	B 7	B 8	B 9
RED	R 1	R 2	R 3			R 6	R 7	R 8	R 9
BLEND (Shot or Squalens)	S 1	S 2	S 3	S 4	S 5	S 6	S 7	S 8	S 9
YELLOW		Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	Y 5	Y 6		Y 8	Y 9

Meantime Dr. Reed had been working on a color classification for Japanese Iris, and in July, 1928, published the following:

## SCHEME OF CLASSIFICATION"

Class 1. Falls white, in single varieties the standards are white, white edged with pink or lavender, or more or less uniformly colored.

Single - Snowbound, Tsuru-no-kegoromo, Apollo

Double - Goldbound, Gekka-no-nami, White Wings.

- Class II. Falls with a white zone around the yellow blotch and with veins radiating outwards more or less to the margin. The areas between the veins are rather uniformly flushed with lavender. The garden effect is white.  
 Single - Morning Mists, Ondine, Zama-no-mori  
 Double - Kumomo-no-sora, Zephyr.
- Class III. Falls with a white zone around the yellow blotch and with white veins radiating outwards more or less to the margin. The color is quite uniformly distributed between the veins and consists of tints and shades of blue, blue-purple, and red-purple.
- A. Blue, blue-purple  
 Single - Kamata, Dominator  
 Double - Kumo-no obi, Mt. Hood, Pyramid
- B. Red-purple.  
 Single - Helen von Siebold, Red Riding Hood, Datedogu  
 Double - Choseiden, Beth Hallock, Blushing Empress.
- Class IV. Falls with deeply colored veins and the areas between more or less dotted with color, the pigment quite unevenly distributed.
- A. Blue-purple.  
 Single - Oku-banri, Toledo, Mase-bauri, Wister's Favorite.  
 Double - La Favorite, Idzumagawa, Victor, Warai-hotei.
- B. Red-purple  
 Single - Aoigata, Topaz, Masako's Mirror  
 Double - Rose Anna.
- Class V. Falls with deeply colored veins and with the color between them uniformly distributed; lighter tints of lavender and lavender-pink, mauve, and rose-purple.
- A. Blue hues - lavender.  
 Single - Amethyst, Airship
- B. Pink hues - lavender-pink, mauve, and rose-purple  
 Single - Pink Progress, Mirage, Quakeress  
 Double - Norma, First Love
- Class VI. Similar to Class V. except that the colors are the darker shades of blue-purple and red-purple.
- A. Blue-purple  
 Single - Oyodo, Violet Beauty, Paragon  
 Double - Kuro-kumo, Oaho-kun.
- B. Red-purple  
 Single - Nightfall, Shadow  
 Double - Mahogany, Taiheiraku, Shishi-ikari.

Class VII. Falls splotched and marbled with various tints and shades of red and blue-purple.

- A. Lighter tints
  - Single - Mars.
  - Double - Iso-no-nami, Senjo-no-hora.
- B. Darker shades
  - Single - Granite
  - Double - Thunderstorn

Although apparently never authorized by the Board of Directors (at least I can find no record of it) and although objected to by many at the time and many more since, the following new classification was announced in Bulletin No. 42, January, 1932, and reprinted in subsequent years.

"The dwarf, intermediate and tall bearded types are to be classified according to height instead of season of bloom, but the latter will be noted by the addition of the letters E.M. F. and FF for early, mid-season, late and very late blooming habits. This will enable the dwarf bearded section to take in all former so-called intermediates and tall bearded varieties of a height under 16 inches, and the intermediates all former tall bearded of a height between eighteen and twenty-eight inches, reserving for the tall bearded section only those attaining a height of 30 inches or more--this section will then include some of the newer intermediates that attain a height of 30 inches. BREEDERS IN FUTURE WHEN SUBMITTING VARIETIES FOR REGISTRATION WILL THEREFORE INDICATE THE EXACT HEIGHT AND THE BLOOMING SEASON."

I cannot find any evidence that this new system was approved or adopted by the Iris world.