



## The American Iris Society

News & Notes Special Edition Awards Announcement August 13 2021



## AIS Announces the 2021 Iris Medal Winners!

Each year the [American Iris Society](#) judges vote for the top irises in each of the classes based on the irises performance in gardens. And this year there are twice as many winners to catch up with the missing pandemic year!

The 2021 winners have just been announced! Beginning with the Dykes Medal Winners - ['Daring Deception'](#) by Thomas Johnson, above left, and ['Reckless Abandon'](#) by Keith Keppel, above right - all the votes can be seen in this [printable awards list \(PDF\)](#).

In addition to the Iris Medal Winners for all 15 classes, 6 for the Wister Medal and 2 for each of

the other classes, the list also has the Walther Cup (all classes eligible) and has the Honorable Mention and Award of Merit irises in each class.

Congratulations to all the winners!

The World of Irises will have its first posting about the winners, the Dykes Medal Winners soon. Check the [World of Irises](#) regularly to learn about more winners.

Did you know that the AIS website has the yearly lists of winners, including number of votes, for 1999 to the present in PDF format on this [page](#)?

And the Iris Encyclopedia has pages devoted to each of the awards with pictures of winners. Start [here](#) for a list of the awards. For example, this is the [Dykes Medal page](#). There will also soon be a [gallery with pictures of 2021 winners](#).

## Thank You AIS Judges

The AIS Judges have a difficult task each year. After observing lots and lots of gorgeous irises, they have to vote for which is the best iris this year in the garden for each of the classes. And choose irises to vote for at the various levels, High Commendation for seedlings, Honorable Mention and Award of Merit before they are Medal eligible. It requires dedication to learning about, growing, and evaluating irises. Thank you to all the AIS Judges!

Are you interested in voting to choose which irises become Medal Winners? By becoming an AIS Judge you will be eligible to vote.

Learn more from the Judges Training Chair in your Region. And see the [Judges page](#) on the AIS website for more information.