



The American Iris Society

News & Notes

Special Edition Awards Announcement August 13 2023

AIS Announces the 2023 Iris Medal Winners!



Each year [The American Iris Society](#) judges vote for the top irises of each class based on garden performance.

The 2023 winners have just been announced! Beginning with the Dykes Medal Winner - '[Don't Doubt Dalton](#)' by Tom Burseen, the [AIS Special Awards Summary](#) has links to all the Special Award winners.

All the votes can be seen in this [printable awards list \(pdf\)](#). In addition to the Iris Medal Winners for all 15 classes, 3 for the Wister Medal and 1 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](#) blog will soon have a series of postings about all the 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 individual 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 also is a [gallery with pictures of 2023 winners](#).

Thank You AIS Judges

AIS Judges have a difficult task each year. After observing lots and lots of gorgeous irises, they have to vote for the best in-garden iris for each of class. They also vote for irises at the various levels, High Commendation for seedlings, Honorable Mention and Award of Merit before they are Medal eligible. It requires dedication to learn about, growing, and evaluating irises. **Thank you all AIS Judges!**

Are you interested in electing irises that may become Medal Winners? Become an AIS Judge!

Learn more about being a judge from the Judges Training Chair in your Region, see the [Judges page](#) on the AIS website for more information.

