

looks very prepossessing, much less could we say promising. But Hans and Jacob Sass saw possibilities in them and the possibilities have been evolving through the years into beautiful realities.

Although Henry Sass no longer grows seedlings himself, he still makes an annual pilgrimage to El Dorado. He spends a week to ten days there as the guest of John Ohl and Helen Graham, with perhaps a side trip or two to the Brizendine gardens in Topeka. He makes hundreds of crosses, helps to select seedlings—and gives sage advice.

Although the Sass gardens used to be considered “commercial,” like the gardens of their successors, they never produced enough money even to pay for their upkeep. The reason they continued in existence for so long is to be found in the simple desire to produce garden beauty. People like the Sasses should never be allowed to die, and maybe they don’t, because anyone who knows anything about modern irises, will know that in them is bred the spirit of people like the Sasses who made them possible.

## Awards at the International Iris Competition

The Italian Iris Society has announced the prizes awarded at the eighth International Iris Competition in Florence in May.

1st—Premio Firenze 1964

To MIDNIGHT WALTZ (Mrs. Laura Burbridge, Van Nuys, Calif.)

2d—“Ente Turismo” Medal and Louise Branch Cup (for best branching)

To HAPPY HOLIDAY (William B. Schortman, Porterville, Calif.)

3d—The Industrial Association Cup

To GEORGE SPECHT (Harold C. Fletcher, London, England)

4th—Honorable Mention and the Chamber of Commerce Cup

To Seedling M. 28/8 (Dr. C. C. Hall, Letchworth, England)

5th—Honorable Mention

To RUTH BROWN (H. Senior Fothergill, London, England)

6th—Honorable Mention

To POLARA HAVEN (Leo and Serlena Reynolds, Memphis, Tenn.)

7th—Honorable Mention

To SARAH AVERELL (Catherine and Kenneth Smith, Staten Island, N. Y.)

8th—Honorable Mention

To EARTH ANGEL (Mrs. Neva Sexton, Wasco, Calif.)

9th—To SEASHELL HAVEN (Leo and Serlena Reynolds, Memphis, Tenn.)

10th—Prize of the City of Florence (for best red)

To HEPHAISTOS (Victor von Martin, Hamburg/Main, Germany)

SPECIAL PRIZES:

Cup of the Florence Garden Club (for most original variety)

To SPOON OF GOLD (Lloyd Austin, Placerville, Calif.)

Cup of the Italian Society “Amici dei Fiori” (for best Italian iris)

To AGNES (Mary Senni, Grottaferrata, Rome, Italy)

The Commission of Judges was formed by: Mr. D’Arcy Blackburn (New Zealand), president; Dr. Peter Werckmeister (Germany); Marchesa Maria Pia Ginori Lisci (Italy); Dr. Federico Strada (Italy), and Dr. Gian Luigi Sani, permanent judge (Italy).