

National Test Garden Report, 1964

R. C. ALLEN, *Chairman*

The information compiled from the National Test Gardens shows a dedication on the part of a great many members of the A.I.S. in maintaining the test plants and scoring the seedlings. Unfortunately in 1964 entries were scored by iris judges in only four of the five official gardens.

Under the rules approved by the Board of Directors a seedling must have received an H.C. award and must not have been introduced to be eligible for entry. The group of entries completing the test in 1964 included 28 seedlings from 13 hybridizers.

A total of 51 accredited garden judges participated in the scoring: Denver Botanic Garden, 12; Fort Worth Botanic Garden, 9; Kingwood Center, 15; University of California, 15.

All entries were scored under local Botanic Garden Codes and no judge could tell the source or originator. The maximum judges' score possible, which was primarily flower and blooming quality, was 40 points; the botanic garden score on growth and horticultural quality was 60. In compiling the results, the judges' scores at each garden were averaged, the botanic garden score added and the national score was obtained by averaging the totals from each test garden. Unless the entry bloomed and was scored in at least three of the test gardens its rank was not considered significant and in the following table is indicated by an asterisk (*).

The top five entries on the basis of scores at three or more National Test Gardens were therefore:

(1) 56-16A (Smiling Maestro)	Nitchman	79.49
(2) 59-13	Smith	75.19
(3) 58-14A (Teen Angel)	Nitchman	75.18
(4) 55-23	Smith	75.13
(5) 61-34A	Olson	74.49

As chairman of the National Test Gardens I wish to express appreciation to the Botanic Gardens, judges and Regional Vice Presidents for the areas in which the gardens are located for their splendid cooperation and assistance in carrying on the program.

RANK OF IRISES ON BASIS OF AVERAGE TOTAL

(Top Eighteen)

Rank	Seedling Number	Hybridizer	Average Total Score
1.	55-48	Robinson	81.6*
2.	5-59	Ernst	80.05*
3.	56-16A (Smiling Maestro)	Nitchman	79.49
4.	15-B9	Goett	77.21*
5.	D60-32	Durrance	77.5*
6.	59-13	Smith	75.19
7.	58-14A (Teen Angel)	Nitchman	75.18
8.	55-23	Smith	75.13
9.	61-34A	Olson	74.49
10.	60-57	Smith	73.22
11.	C-163	Pickard	72.81

- 12. 60-46
- 13. 8-6PL
- 14. 59-20
- 15. V-1
- 16. 60-65
- 17. C-164
- 18. 59-87

- Smith 72.51
- Gibson 72.9*
- F. A. Brown 72.8*
- Van de Water 72.2*
- Robinson 72.*
- Pickard 70.72
- Varner 70.9*

*Incomplete score unless both judges and Botanical Garden scores were received from three or more gardens.

Walter Welch Awarded Foster Plaque



To the long list of honors and awards which Walter Welch has received now comes the 1964 Foster Memorial Plaque, awarded by the British Iris Society.

Walter Welch's Middlebury, Indiana, garden long has been a mecca for the devotees of dwarf irises. He studied art at the Chicago Art Institute for five years, and is a capable musician, playing both the piano and the violin. But it is in the field of iris growing as an avenue of creating beauty that he has won fame, and from his Middlebury garden and to him have come innumerable recognitions, including the AIS Hybridizer's Medal and the Caparne Medal in 1964 for his *FASHION LADY*. To these now is added this signal honor from the British Iris Society; and the *BULLETIN* and indeed all of the members of the American Iris Society join in congratulations for this well deserved honor.

CORRECTION OF MINUTES

In the minutes of the Chicago board meeting, on page 110 of the July issue, Item 3 of the procedures in regard to the regional test gardens incorrectly states that HM awards will be given. The sentence should read: That beginning in 1967 all HC awards will be given on the basis of performance in the regional test gardens.

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