



# PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

September 2009

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## President's Message

### TIME FOR RESTING, THINKING AND GIVING THANKS

As the old adage goes, time flies when you are having fun. If that is the case then this summer was a blast! We were busy, very busy sometimes. But it was all worth it. We made new friends. Found new talents. Pushed new limits. Touched the hearts and lives of new iris lovers. We were meaningful. Thank you. There were ups and downs, but that is what makes a life - even the life of a club like ours. Its life is like the seasons. We all grow, give and then rest, just like the seasons.

With our busy season behind us, we can look forward to some restful days. So while you are resting, let's think about ways we can share our iris knowledge with the community. How can we enrich our community to make it a better place to live? How can we share our knowledge? As a club, we are full of talent and bursting to share our passion with others. This was tested briefly in Chino and Yarnell with our first ever out of town rhizome sales. The local response was overwhelming. Thank you to all who donated their iris, time and hearts and souls for all the activities we have had this summer! Not only do we have rhizomes to share, but we have knowledge, enthusiasm, camaraderie and the joy of gardening.

Some of the ways we are looking forward with the community are with the planting of the Dyke's Medal Winner's Garden at Yavapai Sculpture Garden slated to begin this fall; Ongoing maintenance and enlargement of our presence at the Sculpture Garden; Our booth at Mortimer Nursery's Outreach Fair on Saturday, September 12th to answer questions, provide a dig and divide demonstration and pass out free rhizomes to the public; Providing rhizomes, soil amendments, planting guides and fertilizer for the first school youth program; Beginning discussions with Margret T. Morris center to help out with their therapy gardens; Presenting dig and divide demonstrations throughout the year at various locations; Presenting our Annual Spring Show at Mortimer Nursery for us and the public to enjoy; and Developing a list of iris related books to donate to the public library.

We are growing and making an impact on the community. They are beginning to rely on our presence at Sharlot Hall for our annual rhizome sale, at the Farmer's Market for their rhizome 'fix', at the annual Mother's Day events at Mortimer's and so on. We are becoming a fixture and with that comes responsibilities to give back - back to each other as individuals and back to the community as a whole; to educate and enhance our world around us. We are in an activity of beautification. We beautify our surroundings, our lives and our souls. To continue down this path, we need the help of all members, not just a few. Let's take that beautification beyond our own front yards and spread it to our local area and the areas that surround us. Let's give everyone the "iris virus"!

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. Happy Resting.....!  
Diane Clarke

Snowflakes melt alone - but together they can be traffic stoppers!  
Teamwork allows common people to attain uncommon results.  
Some people want it to happen, some wish it to happen, others make it happen. ...Anonymous Your next volunteer opportunity is listed on page 4.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 9, 10—Fall Trek  
Lompoc, CA

See registration insert  
Don't delay, register now

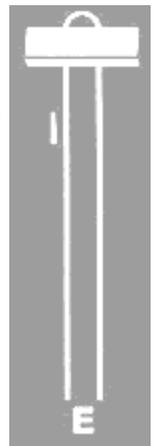
November 14—Kathy Chilton  
International Iris Show  
Florence, Italy  
Officer elections



Halloween Halo, John Weiler, 1990  
Rebloomer

## Plant Markers -Special Members Price

Doris Elevier has ordered a new supply of plant markers in two sizes. We are now offering 25 of the 11 1/2" @ \$8.00 and the 5 3/4" are 25 for \$7.00. Doris is also willing to order only the name plates which frequently get bent beyond use. We need to order these soon so you can get everything labeled before the winter. Give Doris a call or email. if you wish to purchase only the name plates



## Thoughts of a Gardener New to the Prescott Area

Roger Osgood

As I grew up in Las Vegas, I was introduced to gardening by my mother, who loved roses and irises in particular. I recall during my early days in school how she would dig in the soil by day and pour over seed catalogues by night. In those days, the 50's, it was nothing to spend \$30 dollars on a newly introduced iris. Oh, for the good ol' days.

My love of gardening was nurtured during those years and it expanded to include vegetables of all sorts. Of course, you can imagine how difficult it is to garden in the Las Vegas heat.

When I relocated to the Prescott area a year ago, Wilhoit to be specific, I was encouraged by the gentle climate we have here and I decided it was time to start an iris bed of my own. How happy I was to find a web site with the Iris Society in our area. I immediately signed up to become a member and volunteered to work the rhizome sale in August at the Sharlot Hall Museum. I was amazed to see how many iris lovers there are out there! The lines of visitors never stopped and many spent more than an hour carefully choosing the colors which would be introduced to their gardens. The PAIS members were available to make suggestions as to color and give advice as to how best to plant the iris for good growth. I understand the sale was a resounding success.

A second sale was held in Chino Valley at the Grow'n Crazy Nursery. I also volunteered to help set up for that sale. Most of the choice rhizomes had already been bought by the Prescott iris lovers, but there were still lots of wonderful colors to be had. The Chino Valley iris enthusiasts did not disappoint us. That sale did very well also... but we still had lots of rhizomes remaining.

Thinking that a last sale at Farmers Market would complete our project, we found that new rhizomes had been donated and our inventory was now, again plentiful.

Our president approached a new member, Dan, who lives in Yarnell, and he volunteered to host the sale in his garden. Between all of us, we plastered all the local establishments with flyers announcing our "last hurrah"! Skull Valley, Kirkland and Hillside were covered and an ad was placed in the Wickenburg Sun newspaper to let our friends to the South know about the sale.

The morning started cool and sunny. Our customers began arriving before our announced starting time, so anxious were they to get some great plants. Mother Nature had other intentions and within an hour, rain started to pour down by the buckets full. Only a few stalwart buyers braved the downpour. We were able to relocate our tables inside the garage, which made it possible to continue the sale. Amid all the laughter of being soaked to the skin, we quickly regrouped.

Our final customers were from the Prescott area. They drove all the way

to Yarnell to pick up some last great buys. I think we were well received by the Yarnell community. They are looking forward to another sale next year. So are we!

I am happy to have made new friends among the members of PAIS. It is always nice to share what we all love.... a beautiful iris. I can't wait to see my own new plants "show off" next spring. And, of course, I'll be right there when they ask for volunteers to help out at the next event. I hope to see you there, as well.



*PAIS CEO and CFO looking pleased as punch at Farmer's Market -Photo by Carolyn Alexander*

## Welcome to our New Members

We are happy to announce we gained a number of new members during our summer Membership Drive. We would like to get to know our newest members by interviewing them during our November meeting. It will be lots of fun with prizes awarded to the best Irisian Presenter and their New Member too

A break in the program will be given so all new members can be asked questions at the same time in a one on one interview privately. An Irisian will be given a series of questions to ask a new member and then they will introduce the new member to all of us with the information they learned from these questions. Don't worry the questions will be real easy like:

Where do you live?

How long have you live in this area?

Why did you join the Iris Society?

What would you like PAIS to do for you?

Have you grown Iris in the past?

How did you get started growing Irises?

How many Irises do you have? Between 1-30, 31-50, 51-100 or over 100

We anticipate meeting you at the November 14 meeting!!

## Iris Society Contacts

Diane Clarke, President 445-7067 agoseris6@yahoo.com  
Carolyn Alexander, Vice President 778-1551 artwest@cableone.net  
Claude Baker, Treasurer 445-9611 cvb@commspeed.net  
Ruth DeVries, Secretary 771-1051 gmama14@mac.com  
Doris Elevier, Membership 636-9610 doris1434@cableone.net  
Judy Book, Newsletter Editor 776-7217 jbook@cableone.net

## **New Member Welcome**

<b>Julie Auwen</b>	<b>Doris and Jim Pool</b>
<b>Patrick Beatty</b>	<b>Daniel Schroeder</b>
<b>Marianne Fannin</b>	<b>Coleen Scott</b>
<b>Marge Matheny</b>	<b>Katy Stanhardt</b>
<b>Roger Osgood</b>	<b>Dawna Thomas</b>
<b>Tatsue Parcell</b>	<b>Peggy Wells</b>

## Organic Gardening and Farmer's Market in Arkansas

Article and Photos by Doris Elevier

From 1989 to 2000 I gardened an area totaling 22,000 square feet consisting of four gardens. I didn't start out with four gardens. . . it sorta happened like it does with the "Iris Virus," and most of us know how that happens!

I've always loved growing my own food knowing it was free from pesticides and grown in rich, healthy soil and I was just too darn good at it and soon I had enough vegetables to supply a food bank! SO I canned, froze and dried a lot of the fruits of my labor.

I applied to the Farmer's Market in Fayetteville, AR for membership. They had some really strict rules with most of them making good sense. One rule was that you could not undersell any other vendor. You could charge more but never below the minimum. I was accepted and went into full speed forward mode.

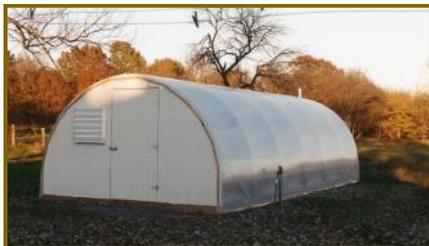
I bought a TroyBilt Tiller, the big 8-hp. model which I named "Tiller the Hun." It took two years for me to really learn the ins and outs of the market; what was grown in abundance and what wasn't. When you have 40-50 vendors all trying to find their notch in the market, you gotta think out of the box.

Not many grew potatoes and corn. I had the room for both. I grew and sold lots of fennel, large leaf basil, Italian flat leaf parsley but my favorite was rosemary. I had 14 varieties. I also had beautiful cauliflower, broccoli, cabbages, and specialty lettuces. Those heads of lettuce were very much in demand.

Depending upon the vegetable, I almost always charged the maximum. I was 100% organic and my produce was always washed and beautifully displayed.



About the third year, I realized I needed a greenhouse. We built a 12 x 30 ft. double-walled plastic with a motor that kept the two walls separated with air. How I loved that greenhouse! I started all my produce (and flowers) from seed. We later built another building, a shade building for plants when they graduated from the greenhouse.



Then I planted potatoes. . . 50 rows, each 25 feet long, of potatoes! The best sellers were the Yukon Gold and the red Pontiac. I also grew lots of the exotics, the purples and the fingerlings. Oh, and sweet potatoes too! Wonderfully flavored sweet potatoes, a variety named "Vardaman." It didn't ramble all over and had lovely purple foliage. Of course I did tomatoes too but mostly for canning. Too many vendors were selling them so I stuck

with potatoes and corn for my big sellers.

While I loved doing all this, I always love doing too much! In addition to the garden I had two flocks of chickens, one fertile flock, the Araucanas, and the Cherry Eggers without roosters. I had a commercial rabbitry with 55 working does and butchered about 25 a week for my market. To keep busier I got into Toggenburg dairy goats and made wonderful yogurt. Then I decided I needed some sheep since I love lamb. . . so I bought three bred Katahdin hair sheep ewes.



Minutes old Toggenburg goats

Was I out of my mind or what!



1 years growth on rhizome fertilized with rabbit manure

As the marriage went down hill, I gradually pulled back on my workload. The garden and the chickens were the last to go. Leaving that farm was one of the most difficult things I have ever done. I cried as I walked up and down the aisles of the garden, of the chicken house, the rabbitry, and through the many trees I had planted and bid farewell to "Tiller the Hun."

But life changes, we grow, we cry and we learn to let go. And we go forward to begin again. . .



### Daily Iris Fix

Linda Smith

I'm on Don & Dianne's list to receive my "iris fix of the day". They don't send a photo everyday, but often enough that you get to see lots of different, gorgeous iris photos. This allows you to see irises we may not have in the area yet and in small doses.

I've been on their list for over a year and have had no trouble with junk mail or other types of computer problems from being on their mailing list. They send via blind copy so you do not have to worry about your e-mail being broadcast to the world.

If you'd like to receive an iris fix, here's the contact info: [ddmcqueen@rogers.com](mailto:ddmcqueen@rogers.com); Just e-mail them and ask to be added to their iris fix of the day.

## What Next?

Your recently purchased iris are planted, the iris beds are free of weeds and dead leaves and it is time to have some deserved R & R from the garden. Perhaps it is time to explore the world of iris from your favorite easy chair.

The books listed below are available to all residents of Yavapai County. Go to your local library and request the book through interlibrary loan or go online and place a hold on the title you want to read. It can be delivered to your local library, usually in fairly short order. Most of the books listed below reside at the Prescott Public Library, but don't let that stop you.

*Classic Irises and the Men and Women who Created Them* by Clarence Mahan. "The book is a history of garden irises. It tells the stories of the men and women who transformed iris species into the flowers of myriad forms and colors that grow in our gardens today. It actually does more than that. It helps us understand how this little flower has been kept in gardens all around the world for centuries. It shows the passions of the men and women who loved them and their hard work ensuring that generations to come would be able to love them as well." From an Amazon.com review.

*The Gardener's Guide to Growing Irises* by Geoff Stebbings. This book features a wealth of practical advice on irises' special garden use, cultivation, propagation, and pest and disease control. Illustrated with superbly detailed photographs.

*Irises: a Practical Gardening Guide* by Karen Glasgow. This illustrated beginner's guide to growing irises offers suggestions for which species and cultivars to use in landscaping the home. Glasgow explains the genus *Iris* (there are about 100 species), describing its rootstock, flower, and foliage. She discusses the flower's place in borders, water and bog gardens, rock gardens, woodland gardens and containers plus information on pests, diseases and propagation. Contains 120 full-color photographs.

*Tall Bearded Iris Pictorial Reference* by Janice Frizzell. One hundred fifty seven pages of color photos of iris. All photos are in alphabetical order, which makes finding a

particular named iris easy.

*The World of Irises* by Warburton and Hamblen, 1978 American Iris Society This book covers everything from the early development of irises, to culture and propagation, to insect pests and diseases, to novelty iris, to a couple of super chapters discussing the pigments of iris and iris genetics. One whole chapter is devoted to each of the various iris within the Genus *Iris*. An older classic with lots of great information.

*The Gardener's Iris Book* by William Shear. With fabulous photography by Roger Foley et al, this is an indispensable reference on irises for newcomers to these flags or old-times iris lovers. The author describes all the essential care needed for a spectacular display of these beautiful flowers. The book is divided into sections that treat irises with similar growing characteristics, e.g. those requiring substantial moisture or those that thrive in dry conditions. These useful subdivisions allow the reader-in-a-hurry to concentrate on the irises that thrive in an environment most closely resembling his or her own garden.

*Iris, Flower of the Rainbow*, Graeme Grosvenor. Grosvenor is an expert on irises, having studied the genus over a 30-year period. In this encyclopedic work, he divides the authoritative text into four chapters, each describing a different group. In great detail, Grosvenor documents height, countries of origin, colors, blooms and blooming times, species and hybrids, and recommended cultivars. He gives information on requirements of sun, soil, drainage, and fertilizing and on pest and disease control, along with planting instructions. Grosvenor gives suggestions on landscaping with irises and on companion planting. In another chapter, he describes the mechanics of hybridizing. There are many pages of remarkable color photographs and a few helpful line drawings. *Editor's note: The descriptions of these books were taken from a variety of sources on the internet.*



*As part of our mission to educate, our club would like to donate books about irises to the public library, so please send Diane your suggestions for books that you would like to see in the collection.*

## Sculpture Garden

The iris in the sculpture garden out did themselves this year and the growth and bloom have been phenomenal which means it is time to dig, divide and replant iris. However before we dig and divide, the iris need to be cleaned up. There are many dead leaves and the clumps look unkempt. So if you can't dig, you can help cleanup the beds and that can be done any time. The sooner the better. So find another willing member and hurry on over to the garden in the cool of the morning.

Call or email Ruth DeVries if you can help with this worthwhile project. Ruth will schedule the next work day.

## Identifying and Treating Bacterial Soft Rot

Article and photos by Candy Peters

Three weeks ago, I started to notice a few of my iris leaves were turning yellow and dying. I decided to research the problem on the internet and here is what I found. A few of my irises were infected with Bacterial Soft Rot. This is a serious iris disease. Bacterial Soft Rot is in the soil and it becomes active when the conditions are right.

### Symptoms:

Leaves turn yellow and collapse suddenly. At the base of the leaves and rhizome there will be a slimy, soft rot and a foul smelling odor.

### Causes for Bacterial Soft Rot:

Thrives in hot, humid weather above 80 degrees

Lots of moisture at the base of the iris

Heavy soils with low oxygen content

Extended periods of rain

Over crowded iris beds

Iris growing in too much shade

Dead leaves and foliage in beds which encourages warm, moist conditions

### Prevention

We cannot control the weather but we can take these preventive measures

Don't over watering during hot, humid weather

Amend your soils to help with drainage

Divide your iris every three years for better air circulation around their bases

Plant in full sun

Keep iris beds clean

### Treatment for Bacterial Soft Rot:

This disease can be spread; so disinfect all your tools with 1 part household bleach and 9 parts water. Dig out the infected iris, cut away all infected tissue. Disinfect cutting tool after each cut so bacteria is not transferred to the clean cut. When rot is gone tissue will be white and solid. Soak rhizome in a 9 to 1 water/bleach solution for several minutes. Place the rhizome in sun to callus over. Replant in new soil or replant in new location.

If you don't want to dig the rhizome out, cut away infected parts and sprinkle infected area with Comet. Let damaged rhizome area remain open to sun to callus over. In a few days, add new dirt over exposed area.

If you find you are too late and there is only an empty shell left, you must kiss your poor iris goodbye.

My conclusion was too much rain too often and heavy clay soil.

Happy Gardening!



*Signs of soft rot, leaves turning yellow and falling over.*



*Bacterial soft rot in Mary Frances*

*Editor's note: In order to get to know one another better, we would like to feature a member's gardening story every month. Don't be bashful, email your story to me. Our members would love to hear about your experiences. You can also mail your article to 2175 Aspen Acres Dr. Prescott, AZ 86303. I am also collecting your helpful hints on growing irises. We don't all use the same techniques and we would like to hear what works for you.*



*Chickasaw Sue  
J. Gibson, 1982*

## IRISES THAT BLOOM MORE THAN ONCE? By Linda L. Bartell—Region 6, Zone 6A

Rebloomers (or remontants, as they are sometimes called) are found in all bearded iris varieties – from miniature dwarf to tall. A few of the beardless varieties (like Siberians) that bloom a second time are called ‘repeaters.’ If you’re interested in trying your hand at growing rebloomers, the first step is to learn which cultivars rebloom in your climate zone. The quickest way would be to go to the Reblooming Iris Society website. Also, several hybridizers’ catalogs have zone information on the rebloomers that they carry.

Rebloomers need, first of all, to be established: minimum one year in one place in your garden. Some may take another year or two before they’ll put on their rebloom show. For optimum results: A) The soil must be rich and well drained. B) They must receive a full day of sunshine, if possible - minimum four hours. The more sunshine, the more rebloom (and you must remember to take into consideration the position of the sun in relation to your rebloomers in the fall. C) They need extra water and fertilizer.

It’s best (but not necessary), to keep your rebloomers together, as they need more water and fertilizer – two things that could have a detrimental affect on spring-only bloomers. Most iris go dormant in mid-summer, but you don’t want your rebloomers to do so, therefore, you must make sure they never go more than a few weeks (or less in a hot, dry climate) without water. Fertilize six weeks before spring bloom, as with oncers, then immediately after bloom, and, finally, once or twice with liquid fertilizer beginning in late August or September to give them that extra boost they need to go through another bloom cycle. If freezing weather threatens your fall bloomstalks, snap them off at ground level or cut them as close to the ground as possible. If the buds are a good size and showing color, bring the bloomstalks in the house and put them in a vase of tepid water. They should open. Or, if you know the cold snap is predicted for only a night or two, carefully cover them until morning.

Rebloomers tend to be more vigorous than oncers (for obvious reasons) and also tend to bloom first in the spring. Whereas spring-only bloomers don’t need to be divided more than once every 3- 5 years, rebloomers usually need division every 2- 3 years – and to keep the rebloom going, always leave in place a couple rhizomes from the clump to be divided. Then, while your newly replanted rhizomes are getting established elsewhere, your original (but thinned out) clump will continue to rebloom without interruption.

The iris listed below have rebloomed in the Prescott area. We would like to add your rebloomers to the list so call or email Judy with your reblooming iris.

Angles Blush	Immortality
Autumn Tryst	In the Red - SDB
Autumn Wine	Istanbul
Billionaire	Jennifer Rebecca
Blatant	Las Vegas
Champagne Elegance	Matrix
City Lights	Marty Richards
Concertina-IB	Misty Lady
Clarence	Next in Line
Crimson King	October Sky
Decker	Over and Over
Duo Dandy	Pink Attraction
Flower Showers -SDB	Romantic Evening
Halloween Halo	Royal Knight
Happy New Year	Soft Returns
Honey Glazed -IB	Time to Shine - SDB
Hot	Ziggy

### PAIS Education Needs You!

Article and Photo by Carolyn Alexander

You---yes, You---can make a difference by sharing your Iris skills with others in the community and with PAIS members. You don’t think you know enough? You’d be surprise once you begin answering questions how much you really know and while you are helping others you have an opportunity to broaden your own knowledge of iris. PAIS is all about education. This summer I was asked to speak to a group at Mortimer’s Nursery on how to ‘Dig and Divide Irises’. I was actually surprised at how much I really new when the questions came flying at me. Doris Elevier has volunteered to do the next Iris talk at Mortimer Nursery on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Way to go Doris!

Here is how it can work: listed below are things I learned this year that may help you grow better iris, so I’ll pass them along. I have tried most of these ideas myself as I increased my iris beds from 200 named variety irises (spring 2009) to 360 irises now. I can’t guarantee these ideas will work for you or even if they sound feasible. I’m just sharing what someone has shared with me. *Continued on page 7*



Abby & Me ,Tom Burseen  
2003

If they work for me I won't know until next spring when I witness how tall and healthy the irises are at blooming stage or in the summer when I dig and see the size of the rhizomes.

It is amazing what you can learn by sharing with other club members. It all starts with getting involved and coming to our club meetings and other events. Be sure to save November 14, 2-4 p.m. on your calendar for our next PAIS meeting.

### Soil Conditioning Most Important

Clay soil is too hard to dig. Make raised beds and leave the old soil where it is. Or you can use 'AZ Best - Alka-Liche' to soak your clay soil to make it easier to dig. It is available from Ace Hardware on Hwy. 69 in Prescott Valley.

Getting the right ratio of soil to mulch (about 50%) and what to buy is important. The best is 'Southwest Forest Product-Soil Conditioner & Seed Cover' available at Mortimer Nursery or Prescott Valley Nursery on Hwy. 69.

Creating a compost bin was covered at our February 14, 2009 PAIS meeting. If anyone needs the notes I'll be happy to send them. Just email me at [artwest@cableone.com](mailto:artwest@cableone.com).

### Feeding Your Iris—Next Most Important

If you are planting iris rhizomes you need to start with a good root stimulator. The best is 'Monty's Root & Bloom liquid (2-15-15 ratio), you can get this from our own PAIS member Linda Rossman.

Irises need to be feed in the spring and again in the early fall. If they are rebloomers you need to feed them in the late summer to encourage new flowers. To encourage flower bloom use Triple Super Phosphate you can get this at most nurseries.

When you purchase fertilizer, be sure the choice you make is low in nitrogen or less than 11%. I was using 'AZ Best-All Purpose 10-10-10' that you can get at Mortimer Nursery or Ace Hardware in Prescott Valley. Barry Golden always recommended any fertilizer with less than 10% nitrogen. I got a large bag of AZ Best 10-10-10 at Ace Hardware for \$11 and it wasn't on sale!!

The second number is phosphate which encourages bloom. Another good choice is 'Bayer Advance Systemic Rose & Flower Care' granules which is higher in phosphate (8-12-4). In Prescott we had a lot of problems with aphids and thrips this spring because of the mild winter. If I had been using Bayer this would have been under control. The liquid Bayer has a slightly different ratio and absorbs faster so may be the best choice. Apply this starting in February or at the first sign of aphids and/or thrips.

Some members who have horses encourage us to try using horse manure for fertilizer, but I haven't as yet. Another member suggested we use 'Estrella Brand - Alfalfa Horse Pellets' (ingredients Alfalfa Hay & Cane Molasses) which you can get at Olson's Grain for a bag of 50 pounds @ \$7. That's the cheapest fertilizer I've ever bought. I just put it out this week so it is way too soon to know how helpful it will be however

they were 50% broken down in 24 hours. These pellets can be used when you are planting , early In the fall and again in the spring. Pellets can burn the rhizome so they need to be scattered around the iris not on top of the iris.

Linda Rossman also sells 'Monty's Joy Juice-Liquid Plant Food' which is a ratio of 8-16-8. She is definitely in the know with over 2000 named iris in her yard. I'm using it for the first time this year so we will see how much bigger my irises are next spring. Linda also recommends using Grandma's Unsulphured Molasses mixed ¼ cup with one gallon of water on your newly purchased rhizomes until they start to show growth. You can get it at the Grocery Store or Costco.

When I got my rhizome shipment from the Kaspereks at Zebra Gardens they recommended getting a soil test. (See soil testing information below.)

Sounds like I know a lot about irises, not really, I'm just getting started and I'm willing to share what I hear and keep learning. When I moved here 4 years ago I knew almost nothing about irises and planted only about 10 rhizomes that year because the critters didn't bother to eat them. I wanted to learn and know how to care for them so I joined PAIS with idea of learning just that. I wasn't very involved and only went to a few meetings the first couple of years. That was my mistake and I corrected it, as you can't learn and enjoy all there is about Irises without getting in there with others and doing it. Don't make it your mistake too, join in, it's lots of fun and you will be surprised at all you learn about the care of irises. Come to the meetings and ask any member your questions and we will be glad to offer our advice.

### Soil Testing

The Arizona Cooperative Extension office tests soil for ph content only for no charge. Take no more than 8 ounces of soil in a plastic baggie or jar to 840 Rodeo Dr., Bldg C, Prescott. 445-6590 . Your results will be returned in 2 weeks.

For a more comprehensive testing send your soil sample to

Gardener's World

Attn: Rita  
3401 E. Baseline Rd.  
Phoenix, AZ 85042  
602 437 0700

Select 2 cups of soil from various planting areas and stir well. Place in zip lock bag. Be sure to include in your package your name, address, phone # and email address. The cost is \$49.50 and you will

get results for the following:

PH  
Electrical Conductivity  
Calcium, Ca  
Magnesium, Mg  
Sodium, Na  
Potassium  
Nitrate-N,NO3-N  
Phosphate-P,PO4-P  
ESP  
CEC

You will be given results in units and levels-medium, very high, etc. He offers amendment recommendations and of course is promoting his products. However this test is a good way to determine what your soil needs for good flower production. The nursery owner is a member of Sun Country Iris Society.