

Encyclopedia Report Spring 2019 By R. Pries

As always work continues on the Iris encyclopedia:

A new backup system added:

There is now a min-server that resides in my office that backs up the wiki every night. As a part of our disaster planning it was felt that even though the wiki is backed up nightly on the main server if our IT person Tim Valenzuela should die suddenly the wiki would only persist until the last payment to the server company expired. This way we always have a copy that could be moved to a new server. **I suggest it would not hurt to do something similar for the AIS website, docs, register, etc. Note this could reside anywhere since it can be set up so all you do is plug it in to power and the internet. Preferably in the home of someone not controlling the main server.**

Images added:

John Black continues to maintain our format by adding the larger images to pages. Terry continues to add new images for new cultivars and old. So far after 2 years of requiring images with registration there does not seem to be any appreciable increase in the percentage of new cultivars with images. The wiki and sites such as Dave's Garden and The National Gardening Assoc. (All Things Plants) essentially have the same timing for inclusion of images since they essentially still come from Facebook, catalogs, etc. All of which are out there WAY before our checklist appears. And AIS is not special in displaying new cultivars unlike what one might expect from the agency that registers the cultivars.

Novelty area:

The Encyclopedia is set up so that each section has its own playground/web. Mostly few have taken advantage of this. Betsy has taken on a project of linking and listing all the horned, flounced, and spooned irises. See Novelties at <http://wiki.irises.org/Main/InfoNoveltyIris> She also has finished going through all of the AIS old bulletins and pulling out descriptions for new introductions.

Taxonomy changes:

The World Checklist of botanical names maintained by Kew is currently being updated. So far only a few new Iris species have been added but I expect some substantial revisions in the iridaceae as a whole. It will be interesting to see if they accept any of the genera that some taxonomists are trying to split out of the genus Iris. So far they have not.

Iridaceae Web:

Since I anticipate an increase interest in the taxonomy of the iridaceae I have been working diligently on revising, updating, and improving the Irid web on the wiki. In this regard I would like some feedback. Since the web involves around 60 genera including Iris and not just a small group within Iris like the other webs is it better to have a different structure of the web's opening page. **Please choose which format you like the best:**

1. A page similar to all the other webs with one larger image and the rotating gallery of images
2. Something like this: <http://wiki.irises.org/Ird/WebHome>
3. Or Something Like this: <http://wiki.irises.org/Main/InfoClassificationFamilyIridaceae>

The first is more consistent with the rest of the encyclopedia but does not emphasize the diversity of the Iris family.

Note there are about 2,000 species in the iridaceae and with the exception of Gladiolus most have a relatively limited number of cultivars, on average in the 1-30 range. So the entire family excluding iris's 60,000 pages probably will be covered both species and cultivars by about 5,000 pages. So far I probably have about 500 pages. But if just counting the botanical names this is about 25%.