

A question has come up before the AIS Board of Directors concerning whether or not to continue the practice of recording the date of Introduction of an Iris.

The reason this issue came up is some lesser known hybridizers with smaller businesses find it expensive to maintain a website and have fewer options to offer their irises for sale in a way that meets the AIS definition of "Offering for sale to the public."

In our preliminary discussions we were focused mostly on what impact doing away with an Introduction date would have on the awards system.

However, in a discussion with a hybridizer a new issue came up and we would like to have your comments about it.

Catalogs and websites generally list the Introduction date with the description of the iris. The age of the iris from the introduction date is often used to determine pricing. First year introductions are priced generally in the \$50-\$60 range (for Tall Bearded), second year introductions at \$30-\$40, and third year introductions even less (\$15-\$20).

As the system works today, if an iris business sells introductions from other hybridizers they will generally offer second year introductions from the third party hybridizers. An iris registered by some other hybridizer in 2019, introduced in 2020 by the originating hybridizer, then might be sold in 2021 by some other business and listed as a 2020 Iris (1 year old)

If we do away with Introduction dates, the date listed with irises will be the registration date. In the example above, the iris registered in 2019 that had been listed in a 2021 catalog or website as a 2020 (the year of Introduction) would now be listed as a 2019 (thus two years old from registration) and consequently priced significantly lower and generate less income for the business.

In many cases irises are not offered for sale for several years after registration resulting in a greater disparity between the registration date and the date it is offered for sale and a consequential lower price.

How is the purchasing public to understand that a 2, 3, or 4 year old (by registration date) iris may in fact be on the market for the first time and deserve a price higher than an iris of the same registration year that has been on the market for several years.

Iris businesses that offer only their own registrations don't face this problem. They can offer an iris in the year of registration.

I would like to have your opinion on whether or not you think abandoning the Introduction date will have a significant effect on your business revenue and whether you are in favor or against the change (for any reason). I would appreciate a commentary on this from you but if you can't spare the time: please choose one of the following

Absolutely Do It In favor No Opinion Against Totally Against