

RegistrarRecorder_Report_Fall_2007

Registration numbers change too rapidly (63 registrations and reserves were received on October 12th) in the run-up to the end of the registrations year to yield a valid picture of revenue and statistics. A summation of the registration year appears in each annual R & I booklet and we confidently assume that this is an item that each AIS officer, Director and committee chair purchases annually, rendering a partial report unnecessary.

One item on the registration form results in greater problems and difficulty in interpretation than the rest of the form, total. The beard description section, as now written, leads to confusion between 'tip' and 'end'. 'Tip' refers to the top portion of beard hairs while 'end' is the outermost third of the beard. A significant percentage of registrants confuse tip and end terminology. Hopefully in the ensuing year, we can craft, with assistance and input from hybridizers, a better and less ambiguous beard description section of the registration form.

The current requirement to complete the parentage section of the registration form until seedling numbers are entirely traced back to named cultivars often results in registrations that consume a third of an R & I page. With the majority of gardeners utilizing computers, a search of IrisRegister.com can easily find where a previous registration listed a complete expansion of a numbered seedling which is now appearing again in new crosses. We request that the Board permit the registrars to list unexpanded seedling numbers where such numbers have been previously fully described back to named cultivars in the current or previous R & Is.

The Registrations and Introductions index continues to stubbornly resist completely computerized compilation. This section of the 'Registrations and Introductions' booklet has continued, unchanged, since the first stand-alone R & I published in 1956. It is produced by a database query yielding each Registrant and Introducer's list of cultivars. These cultivar listings are then formatted; ALL CAPS indicating current year registration, Title Case indicating introduction and ALL CAPS underlined indicating registration and introduction by the same registrant/introducer in the current year. The formatted cultivar listing for each registrant and introducer is finally imported to a page layout program for preparation of the printed R & I. When the use of computers reaches nearly universal acceptance the production of this yearly index can be discontinued. The geek half of the Registrar/Recorder team will achieve nirvana at that time.

Increased postage, especially abroad, will increase expenses of this office during the coming year.

We request that the Board, in consultation with the Publication Sales Director, set the number of R & Is to be printed for 2007.

Anne and Mike Lowe,
Registrar/Recorder