

Gardens Committee Report Fall 2013

The report begins with the **motion to accept as policy the charter of the Committee for AIS National Collections, Display and Test gardens, and the guidelines presented in this report.**

Charter: To manage, consult, enumerate, evaluate, inform and promote the AIS Garden System. The charter reflects the charter of the AIS;

Charter of AIS as stated in the statement of purpose in our bylaws:

- Section 2. The purposes of The American Iris Society, hereinafter called the AIS, shall be to develop the science of horticulture and any activities related to the study, propagation and culture of the genus Iris; to stimulate and foster interest in horticultural pursuits, conservation and protection of these plants; to cooperate with other organizations, public and private, in the scientific and horticultural education of all those interested in learning any phase of the genus Iris, by any and all means which may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors of the AIS. These shall include but are not limited to:
 - (a) encouragement and support of scientific research, including those pertaining to the solution of diseases related to but not necessarily exclusive to the genus Iris, and investigation and conservation of the genus in the wild;
 - (b) collection, compilation and publication of data concerning the history, classification, breeding and culture of Irises; and
 - (c) education of the public through exhibitions, public display gardens, published standards for judging and local, area, regional and national meetings open to the public.

The Gardens Committee is Defined on P. 2

The National Collections, Display and Test Gardens Committee

Purpose: To coordinate efforts between the greater horticultural world and the various units of the American Iris Society with respect to National Collections, Display and test gardens, and to facilitate their creation, administration, and communication.

Definitions and Goals:

1. National Collection: A garden dedicated to the preservation of a defined, cohesive group of Irises, species and cultivars. It may start as a prototype with the ultimate goal of being part of the American Public Gardens system of National Collections.
2. Display Garden: Gardens that simply display the glories of the iris.
 - a. Public: Gardens at botanical gardens, and other venues open to the public.
 - b. Private: Usually home gardens open for display during selected bloom periods, visitors should check to see if a garden will be open on a specific day and time.
3. Test Gardens; Gardens which may or may not be display gardens or national collections but have agreed to take measurements and record observations of plant growth in the garden.

Goals for Action:

1. To create a national registry of each type of garden with a short description
2. To suggest standards for the gardens;
 - a. National Collection: To explain the qualifications needed to become an official APGA National Collection and to aid in that process.
 - b. Display gardens; To give clear notice to visitors the constraints of the garden. Example; Is it wholly or partly wheelchair accessible. To create a sign designating it as an official AIS Display garden.
 - c. Test Gardens: to formulate consistent ways of taking measurements, and recording them in a national data base.

Criteria for Official AIS Iris Gardens;

Gardens must be open for all to view sometime during the Iris bloom season for that garden. Private gardens may require appointments but should as an official AIS garden have some announced open garden days.

Gardens must report, yearly, as to the scope of Iris material in the garden. Some gardens may wish to list cultivars while others may just wish to give an overview such as “confined to Standard Dwarf Irises”. A form is provided.

A short statement of purpose should be provided such as; To display a collection of newer introductions, or To show the historic development of Tall-bearded; or To show the variability of a certain Iris species; Or to demonstrate the use of Iris in the water garden landscape; etc.

Gardens must indicate the handicap accessibility or limitations;

Approved gardens may purchase and display the AIS Official Iris Garden Sign.

Official AIS Iris Gardens will be listed and described on the internet so that visitors may seek out these sites to see and learn about Iris.

Gardens requesting Official AIS status must complete the following form accompanied by photos.

Criteria for Display Gardens:

The purpose of a display garden is to show off Iris to the public, so they may see the diversity and beauty of the Iris. Showing the Iris well grown and at their best.

Any public garden displaying a variety of Iris, may be listed as an AIS Display Garden; usually these will have members of local AIS affiliates that volunteer and work in the Iris garden. Affiliates that have the human and financial resources are encouraged to aid in creating Iris Gardens in public places.

Individuals who have created a garden featuring Iris may also become a AIS display garden.

In addition to display these gardens may also be National Collection Gardens and/or Test gardens. But not all National Collection or Test Gardens will be display gardens although they are strongly encouraged to do so.

Criteria for National Collection Gardens:

The purpose of a national collection garden is to preserve a group of Iris, alive for posterity. The value of a particular group of Iris may not be understood at present but once lost it is too late to discover later.

AIS National Collections are of two types; Putative National Collections, and recognized National Collections. The first, is formed as a stepping stone to becoming a national collection recognized by the American Public Gardens Association. The second is a garden recognized by the APGA as a national collection as is following all of their rules and procedures.

APGA rules include an Excel spreadsheet listing all cultivars or botanical taxa with fields denoting their provenance, location in the garden, and condition. National collections should also include a legal agreement as to the disposition of the collection in the case of death or disability of the owner, to ensure the plants are not lost but transferred to a new collection holder.

National collection put preservation of the plants first. They may also be display gardens and would follow those rules but are not required to be display gardens and accessible to the public.

AIS Display Garden Form.

Location;

- Street address;.....
- Town.....
- State, zip.....
- Contact information;
 - E-mail.....
 - Phone.....

Contents:

- Types of Iris/number of cultivars
 - TB.....; BB.....; IB.....; MTB.....; SDB.....; MDBs.....:
 - SIB.....; PCN.....; SPU.....; JI.....; LA.....; SPX.....; SPEC.....;
 - AR.....; AB.....; Other.....
- Special Types of above
 - Rebloomers.....; Historic.....;
 - Award candidates.....;
- What is the purpose or emphasis of the display?

- Do you have companion plants with garden settings or a collection?

Is the garden wholly or partly handicap accessible?

Does the garden include interesting features, pools, waterfalls, fountains, Garden Art.?

Is everything clearly labeled or mapped?

Are toilet facilities available?

Does the garden include Hybridizer's seedlings, If so, whose?

What calendar dates are reasonable times for viewing bloom?

Are there any other attributes that should be mentioned

Please include an image of the overall garden

Note this data should be updated yearly.

Suggested Themes/Types of display gardens;

General iris display; This type of display garden would provide a cross section of all types of Iris showing the diversity of the genus.

Judges garden: This type of display garden would attempt to plant at least 50% of the iris in a particular group that have received a high commendation and would subsequently be eligible for higher awards.

Hybridizer garden: This type of display garden would feature irises from a particular hybridizer or Irises from hybridizers of a particular state or region.

Taxonomic garden: This type of garden would assemble for display as many irises within a certain taxonomic group as is practical.