

TAIS November 2014 Bulletin



Tucson Area Iris Society tucsoniris.org

Next Meeting – Potluck Luncheon - NOVEMBER 8, 1:00 PM. Murphy-Wilmot Library, 530 N. Wilmot Rd., 594-5420

Please bring a dish to pass. The beverage, plates, napkins and silverware will be provided. This facility has no kitchen or electrical outlets available, but we will be eating right at 1pm, so that should work fine. After we eat, I will introduce the Officers and Steering Committee Members for 2015. Several of our members will share tips for successful iris growing in order to help our newest members from other areas of the country. We will request suggestions for future programs from the members. [At the close of the general meeting, the Steering Committee will meet. We would appreciate having the other committee members join us for that planning session.](#) I would like to thank the Steering Committee for agreeing to meet following the general meetings to minimize the travel miles that are necessary for me to participate in the group. Again, thanks! Kristee West

50 YEARS and GROWING STRONG

2015 Theme

Yes, TAIS will be 50 years old in 2015. I, as a fairly new member, want to congratulate each of you that have supported the group. Despite rocky times, which I am sure every group has at some time, the group has new leadership, new members and a renewed commitment to encouraging the growing and hybridizing of flowers in the genus iris. My thrust for my tenure with TAIS, leading this group, will be to encourage our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to love, grow and hybridize irises for future generations. Before I moved to Green Valley, AZ (20 miles south of Tucson), I met 2 of your members and Paul Black, world famous hybridizer, from Oregon at a Region 23 Conference in Las Cruces, NM. I asked them, which irises grow easily and well in southern Arizona. All three said that tall bearded irises are, by far, the easiest to grow in southern Arizona. I brought 20 of my favorite TBs with me 3 years ago. They are flourishing here. I have also added some TB, SDB and MTB rebloomers that were suggested by your Region 15 Reblooming Iris Society gurus. I have met several irisarians who are growing Louisiana Irises here. I am happy to report that all are doing well. I am (as I suspect you may be) an iris addict! Thanks for electing me to your leadership. I look forward to your suggestions and support in the coming year. Thanks! Kristee West

Temporary potting of rhizomes in 1 gallon pots

These are mostly the unsold commercial rhizomes purchased for the TAIS plant sale this year. Melania, Angela and I have accepted them to grow in temporary pots for future sale. TAIS members may purchase them for \$6 or 6/\$30 and non-members may purchase them for \$7 or 6/\$35. I have 21 rhizomes of 11 varieties.

I used a coffee filter on the bottom, then 2 inches of Moisture Control Potting Soil, then a pinch of 10-10-10 granular timed release fertilizer and about 1 tsp of 0-18-0 Super Phosphate. This is the most important layer.

It will feed the new roots and keep them moist.

The next layer is 3 - 4 inches deep and can be any cheap potting or garden soil, followed by the rhizome, then about 1 - 2 cups of the cheap soil again. The soil settles to about half full pots once you have watered. I plan to sell my pots in November at the sale here in Green Valley at the Quail Creek Craft Sale, so I am not as concerned about having the pot full right now. If they don't sell, I will probably dump the pots to check the roots, make sure there are no bugs lurking in the soil

and repot them.

In the past, when I used 100% Moisture Control Potting Soil I have had some rot while I was on vacation. I am hoping that the cheap soil will dry out faster and keep the chance of rot down. I planted the morning after the sale. After 2 weeks, I noticed that the center leaves on some of the fans had already started to elongate. The Tasco rhizomes that I am planting are beautiful. If I have any left after the sale at Quail Creek, I'll bring them to the meeting.



Pictures from my yard.

Also look at the photos submitted by Tony Kutz, and the schedule for 2015 on our website, www.tucsoniris.org.