

## Some Iris Basics

Iris are a considerable member of the *Iridaceae*, a family of monocots that includes Crocus and Gladiolus.

Iris grow either rhizomes or bulbs. In the world of Iris there are 4 groups that are commonly referenced:

- Species
- Bearded
- Beardless
- Bulbous

Bearded irises are divided into seven subgroups by height and bloom period:

**MDB:** Miniature Dwarf Bearded (2"-8")

**SDB:** Standard Dwarf Bearded (8"-16")

**IB:** Intermediate Bearded (16"-27 ½")

**MTB:** Miniature Tall Bearded (16"-27 ½")

**BB:** Border Bearded (16"-27 ½")

**TB:** Tall Bearded (27 ½" and higher)

**AR/AB:** Aril/Arilbred

Bearded Irises prefer a neutral to alkaline soil; adding lime is suggested in the PNW.

Beardless Irises are generally more acidic loving. These include Japanese (JI), Siberian (SIB), Pacific Coast (PCI), Louisiana (LA) and Spuria (SPU) irises.

Species irises, those irises not genetically altered by human intervention, can vary quite a bit in their requirements, so research for each individual species is recommended.

Bulbous irises are true bulbs (underground layers of modified leaves) as opposed to rhizomes, essentially a horizontal stem that is a food reserve from which root and shoots emerge.

# King County Iris Society

Serving the  
Gardening Communities of  
King County  
Snohomish County  
and  
Pierce County  
since 1946



[www.kcis.org](http://www.kcis.org)

Encompassing the Greater Seattle/Metro area, the King County Iris Society (KCIS) is a group of active gardeners growing many kinds of irises. Our foremost function is to inform fellow gardening devotees and agricultural professionals about the many different types of irises and how they can be utilized to enhance any landscape. Our membership consists of novices, experts, commercial growers, and hybridizers. We host flower shows and rhizome sales as well as several fun activities throughout the year. Our meeting programs include notable hybridizers, garden speakers, or garden updates of interest. For excellent, in depth information on specific classes of irises, Judges Training sessions are open to any who may be interested in attending. Regular meetings include a short business meeting, refreshments, and door prizes of irises, iris items and/or other garden goodies.

Our yearly schedule typically includes a judged Iris Show in May, an exhibition Show in late June, a Bearded Iris Sale in August and a Beardless Iris Sale in September. We have fun at our sales preparation parties and at the holiday party in December. All of our events, plus culture tips, are covered in our monthly newsletter.

KCIS is an affiliate of the American Iris Society (AIS), a North American non-profit organization dedicated to iris. Members of AIS receive the *AIS Bulletin*, a quarterly national publication. KCIS is also affiliated with AIS Region 13, a regional division. Included with your King County Iris Society

membership is a subscription to the AIS Region 13 semiannual newsletter.

If you like to grow irises, would like to learn more about them, and meet other iris fans (no pun intended), we invite you to join us. For more information, feel free to contact us using our on-line contact form, visit our website or join us at one of our meetings. Our regular meetings are held September thru April, at 7:00pm at:

**The Center for Urban Horticulture  
University of Washington  
3501 NE 41st St, Seattle**

Meetings are on the first Monday of the month, or the second Monday if the first is a holiday. Visitors are welcome! Details and program subjects can be found on our website.

**King County Iris Society  
www.kcis.org**

AIS Region 13  
www.aisregion13.org

American Iris Society  
www.irises.org

If you would like to become a member of KCIS, please complete our registration form and send to:

**KCIS Membership Chair  
PO Box 45594  
Seattle, WA 98145-0594**

## **King County Iris Society Membership Application**

(This information *will not* be shared outside of KCIS. **Please print legibly.**)

Please enclose \$15.00 membership fee with this application form.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Evening phone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How many irises do you grow? \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the types of irises that you grow:

MDB SDB IB MTB BB TB AR/AB  
JI LA PCI SIB SPU SPECIES

I don't have a clue. I think one is purple!

Would you be interested in having visitors to your garden on an appointment basis?

Yes                      No, thanks.

What would you like to accomplish as a member?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_