
WNYIS IRIS VIEWS

IRIS SHOW EDITION JUNE 4, 2016

MENNE NURSERY, 3100 NIAGARA FALLS BLVD

Western New York Iris Society invites all gardeners to exhibit NAMED IRIS at the Annual Iris Show on Saturday, June 4, 2016, in the Conference Building at Menne Nursery, 3100 Niagara Falls Blvd, just north of East Robinson Road. Bring Iris stalks with information by 9 AM and we'll help you do the rest. Exhibit cards and Show schedules will be available at the site. The theme for the Show, LAND OF THE FREE opens to the viewing public after judging at 1 PM after judging.

Contact Judy Tulcholski-Zon for information: [716-836-2573](tel:716-836-2573)

**Contact: Marilee Farry for reservations for Design Division: [716-668-1789](tel:716-668-1789)
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Iris blooms in Betty Schnellinger's spring garden

Maria talked about IRIS IN THE HEDGEROW GARDEN and here's more!



<http://plantnative.org/rpl-nypanj.htm>



<http://www.newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu/>

Having trouble finding plants for your Alkaline soil? Check out Chalk and Limestone Gardening and Success with Alkaline-Loving Plants for answers to alkaline woes! - See more at:

<http://www.hortmag.com/headline/plants-for-alkaline-soil#sthash.IDmG58Xw.dpuf>

PURPOSE

Providing at least one of the following conservation functions:

- **Habitat, including food, cover, and corridors for terrestrial wildlife.**
- **To enhance pollen, nectar, and nesting habitat for pollinators.**
- **Food, cover, and shade for aquatic organisms that live in adjacent streams or watercourses.**
- **To provide substrate for predaceous and beneficial invertebrates as a component of integrated pest management.**
- **To intercept airborne particulate matter.**

- **To reduce chemical drift and odor movement.**
- **Screens and barriers to noise and dust**
- **To increase carbon storage in biomass and soils.**
- **Living fences**
- **Boundary delineation and contour guidelines**

Hedgerow plants must provide abundant pollen and nectar resources. Multiple species with different blooming periods (early spring through late summer) shall be included in the planting. The actual number of species is dependent upon the availability of adjacent flowering plants. Plants that bloom during the same period as adjacent insect-pollinated crops can be excluded.

Just What Is a Hedgerow? A Few Notes on History, Form and Function

by [Adrian Ayres Fisher](#), originally published by [Ecological Gardening](#) | FEB 3, 2015

Helping a landscape regenerate includes paying attention to old stories



One of the books I keep by my bedside is a translation by Seamus Heaney of the medieval Irish classic, “Sweeney Astray.” In prose and verse it tells the story of Sweeney, the King of Dal Arie, who, falling afoul of the Christian Saint Ronan, is transformed into a sort of bird-man cursed to spend his life wandering the wild, in suffering and jubilation, from thicket to thicket, riverside to riverside, singing songs and saying poems as he goes.

Sweeney lives as a bird, roosting in trees and eating watercress, wild garlic, raspberries, sloes, and acorns; yet he remains a conscious, highly articulate being able to reflect both on his former life and life in the wild, the latter a life of cold and privation, but including its own leafy green satisfactions and exultations. He laments his isolation and exile, he praises his well-loved land, with all its named birds and animals, trees and flowers. Sweeney becomes the wild man of the woods, or the wild in ourselves made conscious. We humans may at times live in the wilderness, the wild may lodge in the innermost recesses of our beings, may inhabit our souls, but we never have been, never could be completely *of* the wild, which is why we are the one species that must eternally be learning to live *with* wild nature without wrecking it.

Heaney, reflecting in the introduction about this relationship, and his own deep inhabitancy of the same landscape Sweeney wandered, calls out “the green spirit of the hedgerows embodied in Sweeney.” In so doing, he calls out his own remembrance of a fertile landscape, half domesticated, half wild. ...

continued ...

The conscious, ecologically mindful approach recommended here is different from old methods, such as simply leaving alone what was already growing along the margins of a field, or leaving remnants of woods between fields, though these still have their place. It’s also very different from 18th and 19th century English enclosure hedgerows (mostly a single species such as hawthorn) and early 20th century “wildlife management” hedgerows constructed mostly of non-native, ultimately invasive species such as multiflora rose, autumn olive and buckthorn--as though native species hadn’t served that purpose perfectly well for thousands of years.

Post-modern hedgerow design and maintenance, therefore, require thought and intention at several scales, some systems and biological knowledge, and local ecosystem knowledge. Like Sweeney, and the Irish poet who first wrote his story, old-time hedgerow makers doubtless knew landscapes, ecosystems

and their denizens intuitively, in ways we don't; but they also had greater margins for error, there being more ecosystem tolerance of their actions.



Post-modern hedgerow/shelterbelt

This is no longer the case. Rather than inhabiting a fairly whole ecosystem, we are faced and in future increasingly will be faced with the daunting task of helping marginal, damaged, even dysfunctional and ruined, landscapes and ecosystems recreate themselves. What was the landscape before-- fifty, a hundred, two hundred years ago? What grew there in those times? What were settlement patterns? How, even in limited fashion, can we help the piece of land in question convalesce and recover to at least a semblance of its old complexity and fertility? While in residence? And do this in the face of climate change? We must be co-creating with nature, whose complexities remain beyond our current true understanding. It behooves us to learn as much as possible, and to follow nature's lead so as to be of aid and to avoid doing foolish things. As I have written elsewhere, so much of learning an ecosystem requires imagining backwards, so much of restoration mandates thinking forwards.

IRIS FOR THE HEDGEROW GARDEN

Iris sibirica (White Swirl pictured)
Grows 20" to 40" tall with flowers in-
blue-violet, occasionally white



Iris cristata

General Description:

3"-5" (7-12cm) tall, with lavender, blue, or white flowers,
with yellow or orange crest

Distinguishing Features:

Small hairy rhizomes, corkscrew filaments attached to seeds (D.Kramb, 05-
OCT-03)

Preferred Habitat:

In leaf litter of the forest floor, but not heavy shade (D.Kramb, 05-OCT-03)

Wet sunny or half shaded places in humus rich soil with peat admixture.

Moist (not wet) soil and full sun to part shade.

Hardiness:

Estimated Zone 3-8 (D.Kramb, 05-OCT-03)

Native Range:

USA, Canada (widespread throughout Eastern North America) (D.Kramb, 05-
OCT-03)

Appalachian and Ozark Mountains (D. Kramb, 14-SEP-04)

Additional Comments:

One of the most floriferous cultivars is 'Sam's Mini'. It has smaller flowers than the
typical species but copious amounts. The color is a deep violet and the blooms
smother the plants in early May in northern Delaware.





Iris tectorum

Hardy to at least USDA Zone 6

Iris with fat rhizome, fans of broad ribbed leaves 2,5-5cm wide. Flower stems are slightly branched about 25-35cm tall with two or three flowers from each set of spathes. Flowers are about 8-10cm in diameter, lilac with darker veins and blotches. Very dissected crest on the falls.



Iris versicolor

As the botanical name implies, this species varies greatly in flower color. It generally grows from 18" to 30" tall, and prefers moist conditions.

The leaves are olive to grayish green without any distinguishable midrib. Some may have stiff leaves while others may be arching. The stalks can vary from 10" to 58" in height with 2 to 5 branches. Each branch may have 2 to 5 flowers. Flowers may vary in color in shades of purple, violet, blue, lilac, wine red, pink, and white. Depending on site, location, and number of flowers, the flower time can vary from 3 to 20 days. Flowering time of plants in the far north is from 3 to 7 days. Size of flowers is from 2 to 4 inches. Standards are upright, narrow or rounded, flat or horizontal, and in most cases half the size of the falls. Falls are pendant or flat with or without a yellow signal, but always veined with white zonal area surrounding the signal. Stylearms are the same length as the standards or longer with nice contrasting colors, mostly bordered by white. Seed pods are cylindrical, three edged, with three carpels carrying two rows of D-shaped dark brown seeds. Seed pods contain from 40 to 120 seeds per pod. Seeds tend to grow bigger in southern climates. They require 6 weeks of cold treatment, but in natural settings will germinate in spring time when temperatures reach approx 68-72 degrees F. Seedlings will bloom the second year.

Preferred Habitat:

Requires moisture, similar to Louisiana irises. Swamps, meadows, and wet shores. Grows in moist meadows, ditches, marshes, near lakes, creeks and rivers. Can be

found growing along side of *Iris setosa*, *I. virginica* var. *shrevei*, *I. virginica* var. *virginica*, and *I. x robsuta*.

Hardiness:

At least Zones 3-8, probably 2-10. Native Range:

Northeastern USA, and north into Canada This species occupies the largest territory of any North American iris. It grows from northern Newfoundland, westward to Wale River, Hudson Bay, Quebec, to Saskatchewan, southward to South Carolina, and west to Arkansas.



I missouriensis

General Description:

24" (60cm) tall, with blue or lavender flowers veined on white ground with yellow signal.

Grows to 24" tall. Flowers are blue or lavender. Falls have a white ground, or nearly solid with a peacock's eye signal and raised mid-line ridge flanked in yellow.

Distinguishing Features:

Leaves are thin with extremely tough fibers running from tip to base.

Preferred Habitat:

Poor soil at the edge of small ponds. Full sun.

Hardiness:

Estimated Zone 3-9 Can withstand quite a bit of drought and heat once established.

Native Range:

Western North America, Canada to Mexico



Iris pallida

General Description: 16"-43" (40-110cm) tall, with fragrant lilac-blue flowers with yellow beards

Hardiness: Estimated Zone 3-8