

## ABOUT THE COLLECTION

**GENERAL:** The collection currently consists of 430 varieties of tall-bearded iris. It has been crafted and developed over many years to reflect the finest varieties in the iris world, and is continually analyzed and updated to capture new trends, color advances, etc. At the same time, many of the varieties contained, especially the earlier Dykes Medal winners and the majority of pre-1980 introductions can no longer be readily obtained from commercial sources.

**GARDEN LAYOUT:** The garden design consists of a series of eleven (11) arcs, bisected by a middle walking path. Varieties with similar colors are grouped together to create the overall garden effect of a painter's palate. The purposes of this design are to demonstrate the tremendous diversity and combinations of colors found in today's tall-bearded iris, and to evoke a visual impression that conveys the notion of the iris as the true rainbow flower.

### YEARS OF INTRODUCTION:

Period	Total	% of Collection
Pre-1980	66	15
1980-1989	48	11
1990-1999	167	39
2000-2010	149	35
Totals	430	100

### MEDAL/AWARD WINNERS:

Medal/Award	Total Awarded	In Collection	% of Total in Collection
Dykes Medal (1927 – 2010)	75	71	95
Wister Medal (1993 – 2010)	44	45	98
Award of Merit (2000 – 2010)	257	159	62
Honorable Mention (2000 – 2010); top 10 only	114	74	65
AIS Symposium, aka Popularity Poll, Top 100 (2000-2010)	180	155	86

## **Explanation of Medals and Awards:**

The following is a summary of medals and awards given by the American Iris Society (AIS) to tall bearded iris. "Tall bearded" is one of many classification types within the iris family, which also includes, for example, Siberian, arilbred, spuria, dwarf bearded, Louisiana, Japanese, etc.

**Dykes Memorial Medal (DM):** The Dykes Medal, named for one of the co-founders of the AIS, William Rickatson Dykes (1877-1925), is the highest award of the AIS, and all classification types are eligible. It is awarded to no more than one iris per year. Irises are eligible as a Dykes Medal candidate for three years following winning a classification medal; for tall bearded iris, this is the Wister Medal. Only AIS registered judges may vote. The Dykes Medal was first awarded in 1927.

**Wister Medal (WM):** Each year the Wister Medal is awarded to three (3) tall bearded iris. This is the top award within the classification type tall bearded. In order to be eligible for the Wister Medal, an iris must have previously earned both the Honorable Mention and Award of Merit, and is eligible as a candidate for the Wister Medal the second year receiving an Award of Merit (AM). Again, only AIS registered judges may vote. The Wister Medal is a prerequisite for Dykes Medal eligibility. The Wister Medal was first awarded in 1993.

**Award of Merit (AM)** awards are given to irises from each classification type annually. Any iris is eligible the second year after previously winning an Honorable Mention (HM). Only AIS registered judges may vote.

**Honorable Mention (HM)** awards are awarded each year to irises of each classification type. Registered tall bearded irises are eligible the second year after introduction.

**High Commendation (HC)** awards are reserved for seedling irises, viewed in the garden by AIS judges, under seedling number or registered name, which have not been introduced into commerce yet. Any seedling of any established classification type that receives five votes is granted an HC award.

**President's Cup (PC)** and **Franklin Cook Cup (FC)**. Each year the AIS holds a national convention in a selected region of the United States. Hybridizers typically send their most recent introductions to the visitation gardens to be displayed for observation and judging. The President's Cup is awarded to the most popular iris hybridized by a member within the host region, and the Franklin Cook Cup to the most popular iris by a hybridizer from outside the host region. Votes may be cast by anyone attending the national convention.

**AIS Symposium:** Each year all members of the AIS are eligible to vote by ballot for the One Hundred Favorite Tall Bearded Irises. This is sometimes referred to as the **Popularity Poll** or **Top 100**. Each AIS member is allowed to vote for a maximum of 25 varieties on the list. Voting was first opened up to the general membership in 1952. Prior to that time, from 1940-1951, only accredited judges could vote.

The list of candidates included on the ballot consists of:

- The 100 top varieties in the previous year's Symposium
- The tall bearded iris eligible that year for the Dykes Medal
- The tall bearded iris eligible that year for the Wister Medal
- The tall bearded iris eligible that year for the Award of Merit
- The tall bearded iris that won the Award of Merit the previous year
- The tall bearded iris that won an Honorable Mention the previous year