

# Canadian Iris Society

## **2011 Canadian Iris Society (CIS) Iris Sale:**

**Date:** Sunday, August 14, 2010

We welcome you to attend our annual iris sale. Come out, say hello and pick up some really excellent high quality irises at this event. The plants on offer are American Iris Society (AIS) registered and named iris cultivars. Ask us about the iris for sale or feel free to ask iris growing questions and we'll be glad to advise and help.

The CIS Iris Sale is held as a fund raiser for the CIS and the sale is open to the public. Please ensure that the iris brought for the sale/exchange/trade are correctly named AIS registered iris cultivars only please. Donations of sale iris are gladly received.

**Time:** Set-up from 10:00am (the receiving and sorting and pricing of the sale iris)

The CIS relies on the generous donations from members of registered AIS iris varieties for this CIS iris sale. Your support of the CIS is appreciated.

There is an exchange/trade of irises from 12:30 to 1:00pm (this part is for CIS members only)

The public sale starts at 1:00pm

**Location:** Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG), 680 Plains Road West, Burlington, Ontario

RBG main building, rooms 3 and 4

contact: Ed Jowett, 1960 Sideroad 15, RR#2 Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0

phone: 905-936-9941 | e-mail: [jowettfarm@copper.net](mailto:jowettfarm@copper.net)

CIS website: [www.cdn-iris.ca](http://www.cdn-iris.ca)

## **CIS Iris Sale - Iris Needed! - can you dig it?**

Some of our CIS members may not be aware of how to donate their extra iris to the Society for our sales. We really need your help to make the CIS Iris Sale a success and this gives you a chance to have your iris go to a good home, rather than into the composter!

**When to dig:** Iris can stay out of the ground safely for quite a while, since their roots are fleshy and they hold water in the rhizome as a reserve. The size of the roots and rhizome gives a fairly good indication of just how long they will survive out of ground-Siberians have thin roots and rhizomes and do not tolerate such abuse, but tall bearded are much more forgiving. You could plan on digging a few days to nearly a week in advance for our sale with no ill effect.

**How to dig:** A garden fork is the tool of choice, since it does no damage to the roots. Lift the clump out of the ground, and shake or wash away the excess soil, so you can see the underground structure. Then identify the rhizomes with healthy leaves and roots, and cut them off of the parent plant. These new parts are what we call divisions. The old bits without leaves and with dried up, dead roots can be thrown out. You should be looking at quite a pile of divisions anyway if you started with a mature (three year old or more) clump. It should be painless to donate a few of those divisions for sale at this point, since you likely don't have enough soil and friends to deal with them all!

**Labelling:** This is an important step. Each division should have its correct AIS registered name put on it at this point. If you dig more than one clump before dividing them, you need to keep

track of them before this point, since they look alike when they're sitting there on your lawn! A permanent black marker is the easiest, just write directly on the leaves. (Sharpie fine point permanent marker works well) If for some reason you only know the colour, don't try to invent a name, just call it "pink" or "blue" as appropriate. If the irises are headed for the sale table, no need to price them at this point-the helpers at the sale will mark them with the appropriate sale prices.

**Wash n'dry:** A nice touch is to hose them down, and let them dry. Put them in a cardboard box or paper bag in the garage until the day of the sale. Hot temperatures and plastic bags will cause sweating, which is not a good thing!

**Bring 'em on in:** If you have any questions about how to do this or when and where the sale is, please call the people listed as event contacts. They are all really nice and would be glad to help. It is best to bring the plants in well before the sale so they have time to be priced and sorted out onto the sale tables. We'd be glad to meet you and you're welcome to stay to help or look around if you are bringing in plants.

**Thanks!**

