

## Dwarf Iris Society of America



The Dwarf Iris Society was founded in 1950 by gardeners who were im-

pressed by the early bloom, dainty shape, lively color and rugged persistence of the dwarf irises and wished to improve and popularize them. The Dwarf Iris Society has many activities including display gardens, awards, judges training, popularity symposia, a slide library, educational materials, and supports research on the dwarf irises. The Society also has a Newsletter, a Robin program, a Cultivar Conservation program, plant sales, and national conventions with the American Iris Society. If you want to enjoy the dwarf irises even more we invite you to join the Dwarf Iris Society.

Miniature Dwarf Bearded (MDB) irises are classified as those that do not exceed 8" (20 cm) in height when blooming under normal conditions. They are the first of the bearded



irises to bloom in the spring, often blooming through light frosts and moderate snow cover. They produce low mounds of tiny leaves smothered by an abundance of flowers

with crisp substance, and clear colors. Their color

range includes shades and tints of nearly every color in the visible spectrum along with browns, tans, buffs, wines, purples, lavenders, orchids, creams and white. They can be all one color, bicolor, spotted, speckled and veined flowers. The beards may be any shade from white, tangerine, to almost black. Because one may select MDBs for gardens from Maine and the lower Canadian provinces to southern California and Texas, and from British Columbia to the Carolinas, they are among the most versatile and desirable of bearded irises.



The most important dwarf ancestor of all our modern MDB varieties is the diminutive species *Iris pumila* still found growing in sunny exposures from central Europe east to the Ural Mountains. Many clones were collected and hybridized to produce the "pumilas" and "pumila-type" MDBs. These are the smallest and most cold tolerant of the group, but do not always bloom well in warm climates. Another hybrid-type of MDBs was created by crossing *I. pumila* with tetraploid tall bearded irises, followed by repeated intercrossing of such hybrids selected in each generation for small size.



(Continued on back)

## Dwarf Iris Society

Membership Rates	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Single Annual (One member, one year)	\$ 6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Single Triennial (One member, Three years)	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Dual Annual (Two members, one year, same address, one Bulletin)	\$ 8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Dual Triennial (Two members, Three years, same address, one Bulletin)	\$ 18.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Annual (Under 19 years of age, full Membership privileges)	\$ 4.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Triennial (Under 19 years of age)	\$ 10.00

Life memberships are available. Contact the DIS at the address below for more information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone & E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment  
 Check



## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

Dave and Deb Miller  
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# The Dwarf Iris Society of America



Please come join us!



These are the 40-chromosome "MDBs" which are generally more reliable than the pumilas in warm regions. Crossing the two types produced other showy MDBs with characteristics intermediate between the two parent types. A number of other short bearded iris species have been used to produce MDBs, but they are not often used for primary crosses today. MDBs require only a warm, sunny exposure and a well-drained neutral soil of average fertility. They are excellent rock garden plants, make colorful edgings to garden borders and paths, and are striking subjects in patio and porch planters and troughs. Some miniature dwarf irises bloom again in the fall. These are called reblooming irises.



Miniature Dwarf Iris Society is a section of the American Iris Society

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



# Miniature Dwarf Bearded Iris

