

COWICHAN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010

www.cowichanvalleygardenclub.com

Plant of the Month by Ali Morris Iris douglasiana or 'Pacific Coast Iris'

This plant is a perfect fit for our gardens.

It is native to the west coast from California to Washington State. It loves the wet winters and dry summers, and is evergreen, with stiff, glossy leaves.

It has been successfully hybridized to produce stunning flowers in many colours. The 3" flowers are born in fours or fives on branched stems. The only problem is that you can seldom find it in our nurseries...Specialty nurseries or seed catalogues are a good way to add this plant to the garden.

And just one more tip: if you cut it down to the ground in late fall/winter, the new growth will make this plant look like new. Ali



Pacific Coast Iris

Editors note: Thank you Ali, for contributing this column for us every month this past year. Ali will be retiring from this task and so I am looking for someone who would like to do the same thing for us in this coming year---sharing their garden favourites and inspiring us. Please contact me if you would like to do this. Thanks. Louise

June in the Garden

- Clean up rhododendrons, lilacs and azaleas after flowering.
- Feed hanging baskets, petunias, fuchsias and pelargoniums with 20-20-20 liquid fertilizer weekly.
- Cut chive clumps down to a few inches from the ground, a small section of the clump at a time, to keep fresh, tender new growth coming along.
- Take a moment to savour the beauty of your garden (ignore the hundred things that still need to be done).
- For more things to do this month, please see **Gardening Tips** on our **website**.

Coming Events

- **Open Gardens:**
 - **Sunday June 13, 1-4pm** Dawn Clemens' 7525 Richards Trail
 - **Thursday June 17, 6-9 pm** Beryl Lindley's 2942 Caswell Rd, Chemainus
 - **Sunday June 27, 1-4pm** Ali Morris' 751 Satellite Park Dr, Cobble Hill.
 - **Tuesday June 29, 6-9 pm** Rene Parada & Lyall Orme 786 Marchmont Rd, Duncan
- For full details on these open gardens, please visit **our website in the Members section under Open Gardens.**
- For more garden tours and plant sales throughout the Island, please see our **website under Events Calendar.**

Next Meeting -- September 8

Speaker: Patty Rose who works for Comox Strathcona Waste Management and teaches pesticide free gardening. She will talk about building compost and using mulches.

Parlour Show:

1. Blue Haze – A floral design featuring grasses and blue flowers.
2. September Salsa – A floral design.
3. Hardy Fuschia – one cut any variety.
4. Nerine – 1 cut.
5. Collection of flowers – 5 cuts, 1 container.
6. Dahlia – 1 cut, any variety, flower diameter less than 6”.
7. Dahlia – 1 cut, any variety, flower diameter 6” or greater
8. Flower Seed Growing Competition – Cosmos, 3 cuts.
9. Anything Goes – Open , non-competitive category. Enter anything you want!
10. Photograph – Poetry in Motion: A long shot or close-up of wind-blown grasses, wild or cultivated, in situ.

Set up: Elsie Olson team

Tea: Jennifer Ferguson team

Editor: Louise Ketilson

Contact me at: louise.ketilson@shaw.ca if you have suggestions or contributions.

