

The New Style Guide for the AIS Bulletin
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I have decided to put together this little guide in an effort to nullify confusion about how to properly format articles for the AIS *Bulletin*. Consider these guidelines subject to revision as necessitated by the evolution of our magazine. The objective here is to maintain some standards for publication while not allowing the details to become cumbersome for contributors. The editorial staff would greatly appreciate your assistance and cooperation.

The Grammar of Cultivar Names

The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants, Eighth Edition (International Society for Horticultural Science, 2009) will serve as the principle guide by which all nomenclature will be evaluated. Cultivar names should appear as follows (or if not submitted in this case will be corrected to conform to this standard):

Acceptable: ‘Pinnacle’ (single quotes)

Unacceptable: PINNACLE, Pinnacle, “Pinnacle” etc.

Please note that a plant breeder in the eyes of the academic literature is considered an author of a cultivar. Authorial contributions are noted in academic journals in the sciences by reference of their name and the year in which their work was published or released. For example:

Acceptable: ‘Pinnacle’ (Stevens, 1949)

Unacceptable: ‘Pinnacle’ (Stevens, ‘49), ‘Pinnacle’ (Stevens 49), ‘Pinnacle’ (Stevens 1949), etc.

The reference to the year of introduction in its entire four-digit format eliminates the need for special circumstances for years from prior centuries that might conflict with similar, two-digit dates of the present (i.e. ‘09 could stand for 2009, 1909, or 1809). The Code, and any other plant sciences publication that this editor is familiar with, also has no provisions for truncating year references in the first place.

<<(Lankow/Aitken, 1996) instead of (Carol Lankow by Terry Aitken, 1996)

Exceptions

1) If a cultivar is mentioned more than once in article after having been appropriately cited, subsequent mentions will not warrant additional citation.

2) Cultivars used in breeding formulas (i.e. ‘Pinnacle’ X ‘Flora Zenor’) shall not be subject to developer citations. For example:

Acceptable: ‘Pinnacle’ X ‘Flora Zenor’

Unacceptable: ‘Pinnacle’ (Stevens, 1949) X ‘Flora Zenor’ (Sass, 1941), etc.

3) If the originator of a cultivar is listed earlier in the sentence where cultivar mentions are readily affiliated with that developer, that individual’s name shall be omitted from the citation. For example:

“In the case of R41-4, the Blyth line began with 'Sunset Snows' (Stevens, 1965) and includes his varieties 'Twist and Shout' (1973) and 'Outer Limits' (1972).

4) If a cultivar named is used adjectivally to describe a pattern, trait, or influence, the originator need not be cited. For example:

Acceptable: The ‘Debby Rairdon’ pattern.

Unacceptable: The ‘Debby Rairdon’ (Kuntz, 1965) pattern

The AIS *Bulletin* and The American Iris Society

These are subtle details worth noting. Officially our publication is the *Bulletin of the American Iris Society*. References to the *Bulletin* should be noted in italics (just like in this sentence). Legally, our society is known as The American Iris Society, much like The Ohio State University and other institutions.

Iris in the Vernacular

When used in the vernacular or common language, the word iris should not be capitalized. Its usage in that circumstance represents a common name, just like bachelor’s buttons or columbine. The word *Iris* should only be italicized when referring to a specific species in Latin case. For example:

Acceptable: *Iris pallida*, *I. pallida* (if used in a list where *Iris* has already been used)

Unacceptable: Iris pallida, IRIS PALLIDA, PALLIDA, *pallida*, etc.

The various classes of bearded irises are frequently abbreviated (SDB for standard dwarf bearded, eg.) Plural forms of the acronym (e.g., SDBs) should be accompanied by a single “s” without an apostrophe since the latter indicates possession in grammar. Imagine that SDBs represents a short-hand form of standard dwarf bearded, not standard dwarf bearded’s.

It is also common to reference other groups of irises in the vernacular. Group names with a proper noun as the root word (e.g. Siberian, Regelia) should be capitalized. All others when referenced in the vernacular should not be capitalized. For example:

Acceptable: Siberian irises, spurias, arilbreds, etc.

Unacceptable: siberian irises, Spurias, Arilbreds, etc.

Showing parentage

All to the left of the large X are seedlings combined to make the pod parent and since they are seedlings they have a small x.

DOUBLE DARE . . . Zurbrigg #57: (Tennison Ridge x Matrix) x (Chuckles x (Northward Ho x Rock Star))) X Double Vision.

Common Phrases and their Treatments

The program used to train American Iris Society judges is called judges’ training and should **not** be capitalized unless preceded by American Iris Society or AIS. Such presentation is not preferable and should be avoided for clarity. Similarly the handbook used in this program is referred to as the judges’ handbook, unless formally addressed as the AIS Judges Handbook, in which case the plural possessive is dropped.

The title of President (and other officer titles, including judgeships such as Emeritus Judge) is capitalized when used as a form of address, as in AIS President or MIS President. If it follows a person's name, it should be treated per the AP Style Guide, as in "Jim Hedgecock is the new president of the Spuria Iris Society."

Specifically regarding the address of judges in common language, judge should **not** be capitalized as a descriptor of a job even when preceded by AIS (e.g., AIS judge), unless used in a formal title of address AIS Emeritus Judge, which is not preferable for journalistic style.

The phrase "AIS Sections" is considered nonstandard, and in this instance, the word section should **not** be capitalized.

Seasons are **not** capitalized unless part of an issue reference: e.g., the Spring 2011 issue of *The Medianite*.

Convention **not** capitalized unless used as part of a formal title of a specific convention: e.g., the 2014 AIS National Convention.

The organization is led by the American Iris Society Board of Directors or the AIS Board of Directors. Reference to this body should be limited in common language and should never be abbreviated, including but not limited to AIS BOD, BOD, the Board, AIS Board or any variation thereof.

Categories of membership, no matter how august, are never capitalized: e.g. life member.

When mentioning *Iris*—first mentions in paragraphs are always spelled out, thereafter in the same paragraph abbreviated: e.g. *Iris pallida*, *I. pallida*. Beginnings of sentences always start with the full spelling so as not to begin a sentence with an abbreviation.

When in doubt, refer to the most recent edition of the Associated Press Style Guide for basic grammatical and stylistic guidance.

Dates Always use Arabic figures, without *st*, *nd*, *rd* or *th*.

Use an *s* without an apostrophe to indicate spans of decades or centuries: *the 1890s*, *the 1800s*

Boilerplate

The *Bulletin of The American Iris Society* is issued and published quarterly by The American Iris Society, a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. All editorial inquiries should be addressed to the Editor Kathleen Sonntag, editor@irises.org. All other inquiries should be addressed to the Membership Secretary Tom Gormley, aismemsec@earthlink.net.

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Deadlines for receiving materials are February 15 (April Issue), May 15 (July Issue), August 15 (October Issue), and November 15 (January Issue) with earlier receipt desirable. All images should be submitted electronically in a minimum 300 dpi resolution for publication. Failure to provide quality images at time of submission may result in those images not being published. Manuscripts should be submitted via email in MS Word format without excess formatting and nonstandard fonts. The Editor reserves the right to schedule submissions for the appropriate issue regardless of the date of submission.