

They Are Here—Check The Hybridizers Websites And Select Those New Iris For Your New Home!

“Growing iris is not just a hobby; it is a lifestyle.”

You will be moving into your new home soon. You have all that new virgin soil that never had iris planted in it. That is the best kind of soil to plant your iris in. There is a lot of room in your new gardens to plan how you want to build your beds and what you want to put into them. You will have a new garden area; your iris will thrive and grow beautifully.

Have you seen that most of the iris sellers and hybridizers have their websites up and running with their new introductions and all the iris they sell? You can get online and check out all the beautiful colors, types, and sizes. Pick iris that fit the garden space you have, and that match your climate. Plan a color pattern or design you would like to make in your garden. You can decide what type of other plants to go with your iris. You can plan on garden art or wind art to place in your garden. You might even want to choose iris for a themed garden. You could pick Star Wars named iris, or Harry Potter named iris, or even ones with things from your favorite books. Then you could put garden art that matches your theme.

The deadline is drawing near, and you cannot win if you do not enter. Get that computer keyboard clicking and use your imagination. Think about gardens you have seen that you liked. Pick your favorite colors and types of iris. Pick out materials to build your gardens with and decide shapes and ways to make the beds interesting.

The Ackerman Youth Essay Contest for 2023 is encouraging you to dream about planting iris in your new home that does not have any flower beds yet! You invent a new garden where you plant only your favorite color(s) of iris and mix different companion plants in with them. Please be creative, and full of details when you write your essay. Write about the shape of your garden and where the plants will be in it. Be very descriptive and elaborate on everything. Maybe even draw a map of your new garden. Get your Mom, Dad, Sister, Aunt, Teacher, or anyone to read it over after you write your first draft, and help you think about how to add to it or make it have more details. Here is the official theme:

You just moved into a new home that has no iris. You decide to plant an iris garden with iris that are only two colors. They can be blends or shades of these colors. What two colors would you chose? Why would you choose to plant these colors? Choose companion plants and/or garden art to go in your bed. List a few names of the iris you would like to plant and list some of the companion plants you would use. Maybe describe what design or shape the bed(s) would be.

Remember to get someone to check your grammar and spelling. Check out the other rules below and send it to me, Debbie Strauss at debbie@loveirises.com or mail it to me at 2213 Hereford Blvd, Midland TX 79707 by the deadline of March 21, 2023.

There are three age group competition categories, thus awarding three 1st, three 2nd, and three 3rd place prizes: one in each age group! The age groups are **9 and Under, 10-12, and 13 and Over**. All three age groups will receive a \$100 prize for First Place, \$50 prize for Second Place, and \$25 prize for Third Place (courtesy of The American Iris Society Foundation). Winners will also receive a new 2023 iris from one of our wonderful hybridizers. And of course, there are just a couple of other easy rules:

Essays should be written in **500 words or less**. The deadline for getting the essay finished and submitted to me is **March 21, 2023**.

To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow. – Audrey Hepburn