

# CEDAR VALLEY IRIS & DAYLILY SOCIETY

“The Club Plant Program –  
Steps to the Evaluation Process”

March 9, 2024

# HISTORY

Since the 1990's CVIDS has purchased newly hybridized cultivars for the purpose of evaluating these new plants in our gardens. Members qualify to be assigned one of these daylilies by completing the requirements listed in our club handbook.

The club plants are purchased and then descriptions are presented in power point form and printed lists at our April meeting. In May, distribution is held by means of a lottery-type drawing to those members who have qualified.

Those eligible to choose a club plant will be notified after April 1, deadline for payment of dues.

On the CVIDS website there are lists of the club and auction plants from 2003 through today. If you want to delve further into the history of the Club, just check out the Newsletter/Archive sections which go back to 1990.

A surprise to me was when the club was organized and for at least the first dozen years, there was as much interest in iris as daylilies. Then it seems daylilies took over and when I joined in 2012, there wasn't any mention of iris.

However, thanks to a few dedicated iris enthusiasts, irises are being purchased and made available by auction as well.





But getting back to the club plant program, it's purpose has remained the same from it's inception. The club raised money through public plant sales in order to purchase newly hybridized cultivars from various growers all over the country.



Members then grew the plants for two years and offered the increase through a silent auction bid process.

A newsletter from 1999 proclaimed the program to be “a great success and virtually self-sustaining”

It was a little different then in that members had only the daylily name list to go by. They made their choices and then mailed their bids to the chairperson.

## More interesting facts:

In looking back through the website's database from 2006 through 2012, the average number of members eligible to choose a daylily was 50 to 60. But the remaining plants to be auctioned was anywhere between 70 and 140!

This chart from 2010 shows page 7 of the lists of plants purchased for that year. There were 200 total and 55 members eligible for the club plants with the remaining 145 to the live auction.

2010 CVIDS Plants for Distribution

	A	B	C	D	E
187	TOUCH OF ROYALTY	DOUGLAS 2002	22 X 6 ML SEV TET	cream lavender w/purple lavender yellow dbl edge	Z-4 10.00
188	TRIFECTA	RICE 2007	28 X 5.5 ML DOR TET	deep purple flower	Z-3 23.00
189	TURN TURN TURN	LAMBERTSON 2003	28 X 9 EM RE SEV TET	medium rose pink w/dark rose eye	Z-4 10.00
190	TWO CATS DREAMING	CLEMENTS 2010	46 X 5.5 M DOR DIP	black red slightly darker eye	Z-5 38.00
191	UNSEEN EVIDENCE	CLEMENT 2007	37 X 7.5 EM DOR DIP	rich purple w/large whitish veined wtm & edge yl gr throat	Z-3 40.00
192	VALENTINE DARLING	BELL 2006	36 X 5 M RE EV TET	soft pink w/rose pink eye & edge	Z-5 30.00
193	VICTORIAN BLUSH	POLSTON 2006	28 X 6.75 ML SEV DOR TET	rose pink w/chartreuse throat green heart strong ruffles	Z-4 50.00
194	WATERCOLOR MEMORIES	BELL 2008	24 X 6 EM RE EV TET	creamy orange w/purple & violet pattern eye & edge	Z-5 50.00
195	WAY OF LIFE	EMMERICH 2004	26 X 5.5 M RE SEV FRA TET	purple w/violet lavender eye & edge green throat	Z-4 10.00
196	WILD AT HEART	SALTER 2007	28 X 6 MID SEV TET	bright red & cream bitone w/gold edge	Z-5 25.00
197	WILD CHILD	SALTER 2002	24 X 6 M RE SEV TET UNF	coral w/gold edge	Z-4 11.00
198	WINTER SPRINGS	STAMILE 2003	29 X 7 M RE EV TET	cream white	Z-5 17.00
199	WINTER WOLF	ABAJIAN 2006	30 X 7 EM RE SEV TET	cream & lavender w/lavender blue eye	Z-4 25.00
200	WREN'S SONG	STAMILE 2003	25 X 7 EE RE DOR FRA TET	rose pink bitone gold edge	Z-5 11.00
201	ZIPPORAH	BELL 2008	30 X 6.75 L RE EV TET	soft lavender pink w/dark lavender grey eye & edge	Z-5 50.00
202					
203	updated4-11-2010				



I don't know why there were so many extras to be auctioned – maybe the hybridizers were very generous in the bonus plants. Or even the prices were not as high as today. ???

Today we are trying to be more aware of the number of plants we need but still have a good assortment to auction. That's especially important for those members not eligible for a club plant but still want to purchase a new cultivar.



In the past we received many single fans from hybridizers. But with the turnaround time of 2 years, we have made it a point of purchasing double fans.





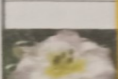
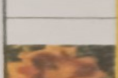
This has really made a difference as the plants received are bigger, seem to adjust in the garden better and multiply quicker, allowing the increase to be returned in the 2 year period.

Also in the early years of the club, there were many evergreen varieties which we've found are not as compatible in our cold climate. Even some of the semi-evergreens don't fair as well.

Some do, however, but I prefer dormants and do look for that when making my choices.

# Choosing Your Plant

At the April meeting, members view a slide show of the purchased daylilies as well as receiving a written list. It's important to review each plant noting the various characteristics such as bloom period, height of scapes, buds and branches, color and type of flower.

	Calvary's Story	\$100	Simpson	2021	25"	5"	E,M	Sev	Tet	Fragrant	14-19	3-4		Lavender-pink with a deep violet-blue eye etched magenta and a matching ruffled edge of magenta and violet-blue over a gold to green throat. (Painted Butterfly X In Stitches)
	Candy Colored Kisses	\$100	Simpson	2022	26"	5.5"	E,M	Sev	Tet	Fragrant	18	4		Luscious bubble gum pink blooms with a glowing hot pink eye and matching ruffled edge over a gold to green throat. (Sail Away with Me x Hearts on Parade) Vigorous, fertile both ways.
	Casper's Twist	\$60	Holmes, S.	2017	28"	8"	M	Sev	Tet		14	3	UF Spatulate	Very pale cream, in the peach range, with a large green throat, appears near white in the garden. (Dandelion Fluff x (sdig x Wanda Evans))
	Clowns to the Left	\$100	Selman	2022	36"	6"	M	Dor	Tet		24	4		Peachy yellow with ruffled edge, large rouge pink eye and matching partial picotee over glowing amber to yellow green throat. Four-way branching with 24 buds and fertile both ways. (LAST FOOL STANDING X FEATHER IN MY CAP)
	Debussy Arabesque	\$100	Selman	2021	36"	5.5"	M	Dor	Tet	Fragrant	15	3		Lavender bitone with chalky lavender watermark and cream picotee over yellow to green throat. Fertile both ways. (LAVENDER MOONCHILD X LILAC MOONCHILD)
	Dragon Flare	\$100	Selman	2022	36"	6"	M	Dor	Tet		18	4		Golden yellow with intense red eye and matching picotee over yellow to green throat. Fertile both ways. (HALLOWEEN DRAGON X DRAGON'S KISS)

## Club Plant Distribution in May by lottery

As you can see, Keith is using a lottery ball wheel to draw the paddle numbers. (Bob's making sure he's doing it right!)

Since you don't know when your number will be drawn, remember to have lots of cultivars on your list. It's also advisable to come early to look at your choices, making sure they look nice and healthy.



The May plant distribution has always been one of my favorites. The whole process of going through the list and picking my favorites is fun.

Then it's time to spin the wheel. Everyone's in the same boat, waiting and hoping.

When will my number come up? Will all my favorites be taken before I get my choice?

Yeh, I just got number 5 on my list. I'm happy!



After the drawing, the extra daylilies are then auctioned off and you get another chance to purchase a favorite. These plants are yours to keep and do with what you want.

The club plants, however, have restrictions as they technically are assigned to you for evaluation and then any increase should be returned in 2 years.





# Taking Your Plant Home

The first thing you need to do, even beforehand, is choose a good sunny spot with plenty of room. It's best to get it planted as soon as you can so get your bed prepared.

According to the late Gerald Hobbs, one of our charter members and hybridizer --



“If your soil is sandy or clayish, add compost which improves the drainage and retains moisture. Don't cram it between two big clumps or where it must combat shade, tree roots or weeds. Don't forget to water when we experience drought. Add a little slow release fertilizer and in late fall, give it some protection from the wind and temps.”

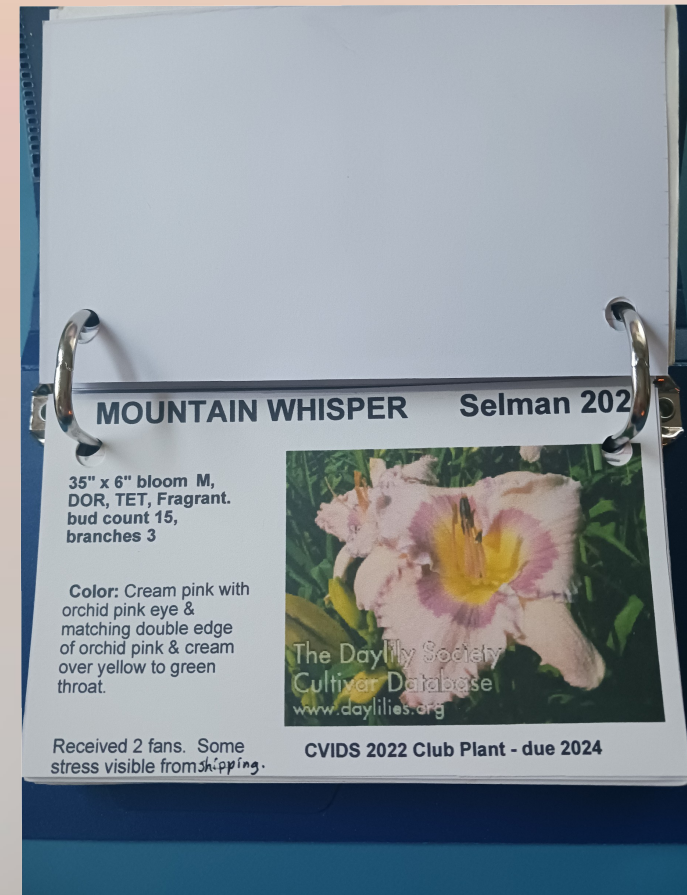
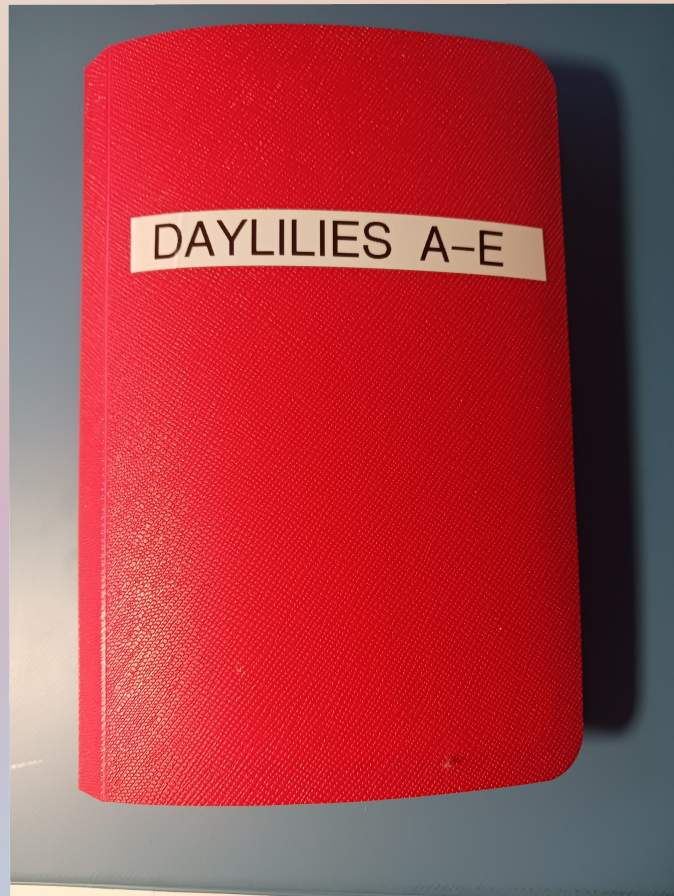
Gerald encouraged members to take good care of their club plants and spoke several times on that subject.

# Evaluation Process - Keeping Records

Now that you have your new daylily planted, it's time to record it's progress. First decide how you're going to keep this record. It can be as simple or detailed as you want. Take pictures on your phone, noting the number of fans and the date planted. Or keep a card file, notebook, computer list, whatever.

You'll want to carefully observe the four characteristics which need to be reported when your 2 year growing period is up.

**PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE**  
to make your observations. Making notes over two years gives  
you a much better idea of the plants growth and flowering.





You've been growing your club plant for two years now  
& observing the four characteristics which you'll be  
asked to rate on a scale of 1 to 5.

(1 poor, 2 fair, 3 average, 4 good & 5 excellent)

Here's an example of the evaluation form emailed to each  
grower in July, one month before our return of the plants.



Club member \_\_\_\_\_ John Doe \_\_\_\_\_

Cultivar name \_\_\_\_\_ Stardust \_\_\_\_\_

Number of double fans returning 2

(If none, explain – no increase will holdover or plant died)

Please return sets of double fans (2 fans).

(If only a single fan increase, holdover for next year.)

Rate the following: 1 poor; 2 fair; 3 average; 4 good; and 5 excellent.

- HARDINESS \_\_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_\_
- SCAPE/BRANCHING \_\_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_\_
- FLOWER \_\_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_\_
- DISTINCTION \_\_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_\_

•Optional brief comments\_\_\_\_your opinion\_\_\_\_

Just a quick note about evaluating – wonderful reference material is available on the AHS website, [daylilies.org](http://daylilies.org)

If you're a member of the national organization, you can go to the portal store for online pubs and download lots of books and articles for free.

If you look at the Garden Judges handbook, there's lots of info on evaluating daylilies. It was very helpful to me when I prepared this basic evaluation form which we're now using. I know many of you have taken this garden judging course which is of great value.

## CHARACTERISTICS

**HARDINESS** - Does your plant establish itself well and grow stronger each year? Is it vigorous and have stamina even under less than favorable conditions such as drought or heat? Does the foliage have an attractive appearance?

Not only can you rate these but also making a comment is nice, too. I will always try to insert any comments you make into the final spread sheet of silent auction plants.



# SCAPE/BRANCHING

Is the scape strong enough to support the flowers? Is it well branched allowing buds to develop normally without hampering the opening flower? Is there a good arrangement of flowers on the stem?

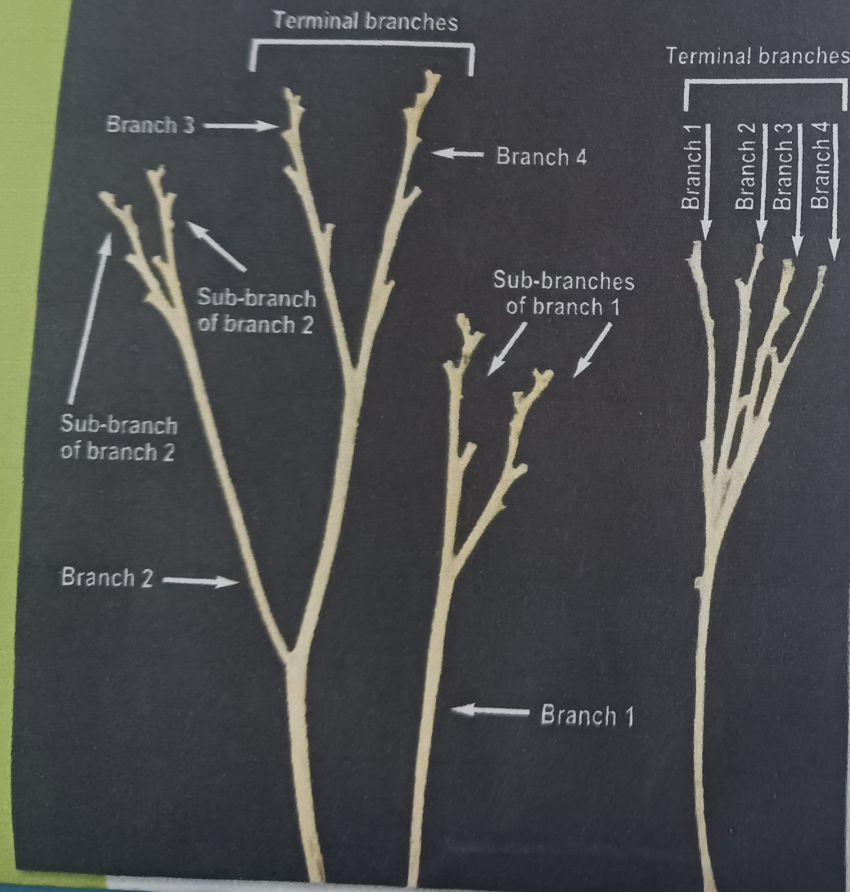




# Definition of branching

The official definition of branching  
as determined by the AHS Scientific Studies Committee in 2013

## Two scapes with four branches comparison



By Scott Elliott, Ph.D.  
Region 5, Georgia

1. A branch is a stem that originates from the primary scape and bears two or more buds.

2. A terminal branch occurs at the top of a scape and may be arranged to form a "V" (two branches), a "W" (three branches) or even four or more branches. A terminal branch which does not divide at its terminus is counted as a single branch. ALL terminal branches are counted which meet the required standard of two or more buds per branch.

3. Lateral branches originate from the original scape, occurring where there are bracts. Proliferations and stems with a single bud are NOT considered branches.

4. Sub-branches of lateral branches are NOT included in the count of branches. Note in the figure, "Two Scapes with four branches comparison" (left) that, despite the fact that at least two lateral branches split into segments (sub-branches) along their length with each segment possessing several buds, ONLY stems which originate at the junction of the original scape are counted as branches.

Using the AHS definition of branching, the scapes shown in "Two Scapes with four branches comparison" both exhibit four-way branching. ■

# FLOWER

Is the color clear, bright & of a good hue and tone? Do the flowers have good substance and hold their crispness reasonably well throughout the entire day?

It's also good to check the hybridizer's description.

This way you can see if your daylily conforms to what is published.





Beside rating them on the scale, commenting on their form such as if they are round, ruffled, flat, doubles, unusual form, spider or sculptured would be appreciated.



# DISTINCTION

Has the daylily a quality that makes it special? Is the form and texture unique or the color, pattern or blending of colors different?

Is there a quality that sets it apart from other similar types?

Does it have good proportion and balance in comparing the foliage to the scapes?



## OPTIONAL COMMENTS

This is your last chance to express your opinion of the plant, whether you want to keep it forever or maybe not. I've received some interesting comments and I think it really helps those bidders make a decision on whether or not they should try for it.

Here are a variety of comments from last year which show the thinking that went into the evaluations:

- Stands tall, easy grower. Name fits well, a late season opener
- Beautiful flower, love the colors. Good bud count, scape a bit top branched
  - Just a terrific plant. Highly recommended especially for hybridizers
  - Overall a nice plant, just not a wowzer
- Grew to 30” with sturdy scapes. Color nice but not as vibrant as website picture.

Speaking of the website, this last comment is referring to the AHS or [daylilies.org](http://daylilies.org) where you can find descriptions of all the registered cultivars along with a picture. Also, if you're a AHS member, all types of reference materials are available to you.

FINALLY – A month before the August event to return your club plant, what happens?

The silent auction chair emails the evaluation form to you which asks for the number of double fans you're returning or whether you'll be holding it over until next year. Fill out the form with your ratings and comments and promptly return. The completed bid form of all the returning club plants is then compiled and distributed to the entire membership.

Members have about a week to submit their bids with the highest bidder being notified asap.

Those with winning bids must pick up and pay for their plants at the silent auction tables in the Expo Center at the Jones County Fairgrounds. If unable to do so personally, they should arrange for a proxy to collect and pay for the plants, letting the chair know of this arrangement. In case of ties, the earliest phone call or email wins.

Those members who are bringing back their club plants for the auction are responsible for getting them to Monticello that morning. The returning bare root daylilies should be individually and clearly labeled with the roots clean and the foliage clipped to about 8 inches.



**LIVE AUCTION** – Extra daylilies not receiving bids go to the Live Auction. There is also an Iris auction of several varieties of cultivars.



# Questions or Comments?



THE END

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Derganz 3/9/2024