

The second-zone sprinklers are in and operational! Two down and six to go! And *oh*, what a disruption to the plants!! I have tried to save and label much of what has had to be dug and moved, but it has been a very arduous job which will continue unabated for many more weeks. There is not only the physical effort involved, but this has caused much anxiety resulting in some loss of sleep. I believe that it is somewhat like necessary surgery which is traumatic and painful to undergo, yet ending in a betterment of the patient's condition. I hope it is not like the cliché: "The operation was a success, but the patient died!"

There are lots of iris rhizomes on the picnic table in the oval for you to take home. Please come and take as many as you wish. Some are labeled, but many are not. All are good growers and bloomers. Now is the time to get them in the ground so that they get a good start this fall resulting in spring bloom. There are also some *Spuria* Iris rhizomes set out for the taking. They are mostly yellow or white with yellow bloomers, grow very tall to 3 or 4 feet, like fairly dry conditions, and make good background color for any flower bed.

There are also *Scilla* bulbs (blue bells) and *Amaryllis Belladonna* bulbs (naked ladies) for the taking. The former make great border plantings for spring color, are about a foot high, multiply very quickly and can be left in the ground for years if necessary. The latter are great for that area in your garden that gets very little water. The rains of winter allow them to grow strappy leaves and store plenty of energy for the blossoming in August. When the foliage browns and dries, it can be removed to leave a fairly neat looking area.

The bulbs should be planted so that about one third of the bulb is above ground level. These also multiply fairly readily and need very little attention once established. Sound like a winner? Come get some... same place as the iris rhizomes.

Help is always needed -- especially now with what is going on -- so, if you have time and/or energy to contribute, do come. I'm in the P. G. most AMs (8-11:30) and also some PMs.

*Arlen*