



THE WISCONSIN DAYLILY SOCIETY

Spring 1992

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Volume 3, Number 1

Tet Daylily Pioneer for WDS March Speaker

By: Paul Meske

The Wisconsin Daylily Society is pleased to have Dr. Robert Griesbach speaking at our March 4th, 7:30 p.m. meeting at the Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave, Madison. He holds a Ph.D. in Botany and specialized in plant physiology and genetics during the 34 years he was a member of the Department of Biological Sciences at DePaul University in Chicago.

To say that Dr. Griesbach is a knowledgeable speaker is like saying the Himalayan Mountains are large. In addition to his work with gladiolus (introduced 150 cultivars) for which he was awarded the Hybridizer's Gold Medal in 1970, and the Achievement Award in 1980, Dr. Griesbach received the American Hemerocallis Society's Bertrand Farr Silver Medal in 1970 for outstanding results in the field of daylily hybridizing.

Beginning in the middle to late 1950's, Dr. Griesbach worked with the late Orville Fay in the development of the Fay-Griesbach series of induced tetraploids, including "Crestwood Ann," the first so-called melon tetraploid. In 1962 he began his own tet hybridizing

program, developing 25-30 registered cultivars. He also provided scarce unregistered tet breeding material to most of the early breeders of tetraploids, including Munson, Marsh, Moldovan, Pride, and others. Since 1971 his new

Special Thanks

The Wisconsin Daylily Society is grateful to Annie Guis and Gary Gethen for their generous monetary gifts to our society in 1991.

daylilies have been turned over to Klehm's Nursery in Illinois for distribution. Many introductions carry bird names such as Screech Owl, Baltimore Oriole, and Scarlet Tanager.

Bringing almost 40 years of horticultural and hybridizing experience with him, we are very fortunate to now have Dr.

(Cont page 4)

There and Back Again

By: Hiram Percy,
President of WDS

While looking forward to an exciting 1992 daylily season, it is also pleasant to reflect on the activities of last year, how members became so involved in creating a very successful WISCONSIN DAYLILY SOCIETY garden tour, show and sale and how we devoured the essence of each monthly presentation.

Recognition

Public expressions of gratitude to the chairpersons and volunteers for the success of the year's activities are in order.

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1992 WDS Planned Events

The Wisconsin Daylily Society schedule of planned events is set. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

Feb 5 - Munson Daylilies - OBG

Mar 4 - Dr. Robert Griesbach, Hybridizer - OBG

April 2 - Guest Speaker, TBA - OBG

July 11 - Garden Tours

July 19 - Daylily Show - OBG

Aug 22-23 - Daylily Sale - OBG

Oct 25 - Annual business meeting - OBG

Location:

OBG = Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison

More Time Than Money

By: Paul Meske

OK, you've been bitten by the daylily bug and want to fill your yard with daylilies. However, when you look at the catalogs and see cultivars for \$20, \$50, \$100, and more your pocketbook whimpers and you get discouraged. Even buying enough \$5 cultivars would be too expensive. What we're looking for is an inexpensive way to get loads of nice daylilies for next to nothing.

Well there is. Grow them from seed! When you have more time than money, this is a way of expanding your collection with minimal expense. Seeds can be purchased from Park Seed, Thompson & Morgan, and other sources which specialize in selling daylily seeds from the most recent cultivars.

A cheaper source is to ask other Daylilians if they might have some seeds from a seed pod that they could spare. One of the reasons for forming the WDS was to get together people who were

interested in daylilies to share their knowledge and experiences. Make your wishes known at one of the meetings and someone will probably have seeds from a backyard hybridizing experiment. It seems inevitable that when you start hybridizing you produce many more seeds than you could possibly have space to grow them to blooming size.

One more way to get seeds is to produce your own. If you already own several cultivars all you have to do is put pollen from one plant onto the pistil of a blossom of the other plant. Let the seed pods ripen for about 45 days, or until they start to split open, and presto,...seeds!

It's really very easy to make seeds. Bees with brains the size of a pin's head can do it and so can we. However, if all your plants are old cultivars, or if you lack a range of colors or patterns in your own collection, you will probably end up with plants similar to those you already have. The solution is



The Wisconsin Daylily Society Newsletter is published three times a year at irregular intervals. Please address any letters to the editor, or contributions for consideration for publication to the current editor:

Paul Meske
151 W. Goodland St.
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

to either buy a few new plants each year (WDS daylily sale August 22-23) to expand your selection of pollen, or, through your contacts in WDS, you can "borrow" pollen. It can even be sent through the mail folded into a piece of paper. The secret to producing good daylilies from seeds is to use the most recent cultivars available to you.

Now you have some seeds, what do you do with them? It seems that everyone grows out their seeds a little differently. Some plant the seeds outside in the late fall and some in the spring. Others start them under lights in seed flats in the house. My personal feeling is that if you can grow vegetables from seed you can grow daylilies from seed and you will develop a method that works for you.

A few warnings. Don't waste your time trying to use the old orange "ditch lily" (H. Fulva Cv. Europa). It is a triploid and does not typically set seed, nor is its pollen particularly good.

Don't put pollen from a diploid daylily onto a tetraploid and visa versa. This will not set seed.

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New Member Wins Daylily

Now it pays to be a member of WDS. Gene Sawyer, a brand new member won a free daylily at the February 5th meeting. A new feature of the WDS meetings is a door prize of a free, named daylily. Contributed by Rod Lysne, WDS board member and owner and operator of Northern Grown Perennials, some lucky WDS member will win a "growers choice" of a daylily, sent as the season permits. Rod purchases many new cultivars each year and his choice will be based upon what he has in stock. The 1992 price list for Northern Grown Perennials is available from: Northern Grown Perennials, Rt 1, Box 43, Ferryville, WI 54628.

To Mulch or Not to Mulch

by: **Leo Sharpe**, Hybridizer
and Commercial Grower,
Michigan City, IN

I may be a little presumptuous advising Wisconsin residents on mulching. Those daylily growers who live south of the Ohio River Valley most likely don't give mulching a second thought. Even in our area, in Northwest Indiana, mulching is not universally practiced. However, I can well imagine that you folks in Wisconsin don't question whether to mulch, but with what materials to mulch.

In the southern states, where pine straw is widely available, that material is very popular as a mulch. Its use prevents the emergence of a wide variety of noxious weeds and keeps the soil cooler in summer, as well. I have seen composted sawdust, as well as ground tree bark, used as daylily mulch. I've also seen straw, (watch out for the weed seeds) and leaves used. Incidentally, for those who might choose to use straw as a mulch, Nona Ford, a hybridizer in Southern Illinois, has the answer for the weed seeds that always come with the straw. Nona sprays her bales of straw down

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Join the American Hemerocallis Society

\$18 individual or \$22 family

Write to:

Elly Launius,
Executive Secretary
1454 Rebel Drive
Jackson, MS 39211

Where's My Newsletter?

If you enjoy receiving this newsletter and have not joined the Wisconsin Daylily Society for 1992, now is the time to do it. Only WDS members will receive the newsletter in the future. If your name does not appear on page six of this issue in the listing of 1992 WDS members, that means that we haven't received your 1992 membership application. Don't worry though. You will find a membership form on page seven. We try to make things as easy as possible for you. The modest dues of \$5 for an individual membership simply defrays the cost of the newsletter and other announcements. If you've been meaning to join or renew your WDS membership, now is a good time to do it.

There And Back Again

Cont. from page 1

Garden tour chairperson, Reynold Peterson, arranged to show the gardens of Robert Kowal and Hiram Percy and hosted his own garden in Mid-July.

Amy Shohet, show chairperson, with the able support of Sharon Linville, who had been show chair-person the previous year, put on a smashing show of beautiful late blooming Wisconsin grown daylilies. Volunteers showed up in droves. They included Tim Miller, Ted Voth, Jean Barreras.

Ruth Horrall, Hiram Percy, Reynold Peterson, Marianne Schumacher, Fred Liss, Catherine Farwell, Paul Meske, and Steve Lesch. Irene Straus and Shirley Cuccia judged.

Tim Miller, sale chairperson, and his cadre of daylily diggers went far afield to amass the hundreds of superb, choice cultivars that lay dormant in their special trays at the sale. Diggers

included Tim, Betsy Trowbridge, Reynold Peterson, Steve Lesch, Tom Wojtech and Hiram Percy. In addition to the above mentioned diggers and show volunteers, Shirle Burke, Julie Burke, Mary Brodzeller, Jane Percy, Bill Powell, Karen Hart, Lynn Fell and Andy Fell worked frantically to

help meet the 10:00 a.m.

deadline. Customers were waiting in line for the doors to open. Every plant donation contributed to the success of the sale.

Some plants were from members, some

were purchased and

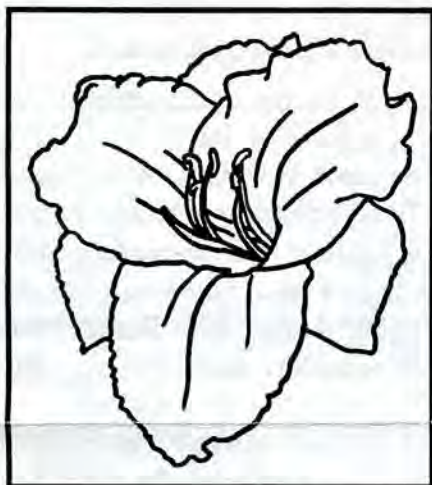
others were donated by non-members of WDS. Mrs. Olive Pauley, a long-time Indiana hybridizer, was very generous with her plant donation, which included some cultivars from her own breeding program. It would be with regret that any person's name be excluded from the above listings. It would be an unintentional oversight on my part.

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Tet Pioneer, Cont. from page 3

Griesbach and his wife MaryLou as members of the Wisconsin Daylily Society, as well as residents of Wisconsin. Don't miss the opportunity to hear one of the developers of tetraploid daylilies, March 4th, 7:30 P.M., at the Olbrich Botanical Gardens, in Madison.



Mulch Cont. from page 3

with water. This causes the seeds to sprout, and having no soil, they promptly die. She then proceeds to mulch with her sanitized straw.

In my own case, I utilize the oak leaves in the fall from 13 mature oak trees in our yard. We pick up our leaves here from mid October until a week after Thanksgiving. We keep them in a dry roofed area and proceed to grind them with a shredder. After they are shredded, we spread them around our 600 plus named cultivars and seedlings that are planted in the perimeter of our yard. We generally mulch to a depth of three or four inches and then sprinkle them with a garden hose to keep them from blowing away. By

spring the snow and rain will have reduced the depth to two inches.

If lucky we'll have a nice snow cover as an additional insulation. In the winter, the light color of the leaves tends to reflect the light from the daylily bed, keeping the soil colder underneath. This functions to retard the emergence of the daylilies considerably, so that they don't come up prematurely from a warm bed and get burned back by spring freezes. Normally, nature has a way of designing plants so that they penetrate a mulch relatively easily, although I have a problem restraining myself from uncovering them a little early to investigate their survival during the winter.

In the summertime, a mulch is greatly beneficial in my area as a weed control. It's not that some weeds, particularly the deep rooted varieties such as dock and dandelion, won't come through the mulch, but the smaller weeds and grasses are generally restrained, and even the weeds that are able to slip through the mulch are more easily pulled from the bed.

The most beneficial use of mulch for us as hybrid daylily growers is to protect the various sorts of evergreen and semi-evergreen daylilies we are growing. Most of the Spalding varieties will make it through our winters with adequate mulch. In some cases

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WDS Officers

President	V. President	Secretary	Treasurer
Hiram Percy	Stephen Lesch	Paul Meske	Tim Miller
608-845-9249	608-273-4027	608-837-756	608-255-3715

More Time Than Money Cont. from page 3

Don't expect to see flowers the first year. A few may blossom the second year, and most will blossom the third year. Patience is a necessary virtue.

Not every plant is worth keeping. If it is not good looking or doesn't produce enough blossoms (low bud count) after observing it bloom for several years, get rid of it. There are more where it came from.

For more information consult your friends in the WDS or read a good book on the subject. Daylilies: The Perfect Perennial by Lewis & Nancy Hill is my per-

sonal favorite. Hemerocallis, the Daylily by R.W. Munson is lavishly illustrated with stunning photographs. The American Hemerocallis Society sells a low cost but excellent booklet titled Daylilies: The Beginners Handbook for \$6.00.

If you want daylilies, but don't want to spend much money on them, then growing them from seed may be for you. It's not difficult, it doesn't cost much, it's fun to do, and you get to see a flower that no one since the beginning of time has ever seen until you grow it.

Mulch Cont. from page 3

they do not do very well the first year they bloom after transplanting, but once they are established, generally thrive and bloom normally. The Guidry varieties, however, are much more tender since they are generally from the old original MacMillan hybridizing stock, and some (not all, of course) will just not live under our tough winter conditions. I can point out, of course, certain Spalding and Guidry daylilies that are completely dormant. Also, please don't always expect certain southern daylilies to open perfectly in our cooler climate. They are accustomed to night time temperatures of 70 degrees in the South.

There is hardly any accounting for the various materials used in the art of mulching. Walter Jablonski once told me that he covered his evergreen daylilies with old carpets in the winter. Bryant Millikan is in favor of grass clippings as a mulch. When grass clippings are green, they create a lot of heat in the summer as they deteriorate. However they can be cured for a while before they are used. Bryant also favors placing a couple of bricks on either side of a newly planted daylily. This not only acts as a mulch, but prevents freezing and heaving of the soil in winter.

After all the above exercise and suggestions, I must admit that this winter I will take some two hundred plus pots of my own evergreens and send them into cold storage to be held at a temperature of 28 degrees Fahrenheit until next April, another way of defeating

the outrageous vagaries of winter! Whatever works, right? The advantage of cold storage, of course, is that these evergreen plants will suffer no cold damage whatsoever, and will bloom perfectly next summer. I display all of these interesting evergreens in my patio area, where they get full sun during the day and are watered as needed. It goes without saying, Dear Reader, that you are invited to see these and some six hundred other named cultivars and seedlings in bloom during the season this year.

Editor's Note: Leo Sharpe spoke to the Wisconsin Daylily Society at one of our spring meetings in 1991. He is the Past Vice-President for the American Hemerocallis Society, Region II.

His commercial business is called Brookwood Gardens. For a catalog send \$2.45 to Brookwood Gardens Inc., 600 East Ninth St., Michigan City, IN 46360.

Next WDS Meeting
Wed, March 4
7:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker
Dr. Robert Griesbach

Olbrich Botanical
Gardens
Open to the Public

Information:
Phone (608) 845-9249

There and Back Again cont. from page 3

Goings and Comings

Two of eight WDS directors left the board as their terms expired October, 1991. We extend our gratitude and praise to Reynold Peterson, one of the six persons who organized WDS in September of 1989, author of our by-laws and tour coordinator; and to Jean Barreras, who so willingly shared her great wisdom, advice and time.

Two newly-elected directors have each begun a two-year term which expires October, 1993. A member may be elected to serve only two consecutive terms. We welcome Rod Lysne, who will coordinate the Badger Robin, and Paul Meske who will edit the WDS newsletter. Paul has already published his first product.

Continuing as board members are Amy Shohet, Marianne Schumacher and Betsy Trowbridge.

Welcome to the board of directors. All aboard!

Opportunity

Joining this rather new society (this is our third year) will offer opportunity for a broad, new perspective of daylilies and the comradery of Wisconsin daylily enthusiasts, a mixture of admirers, inexperienced and experienced growers and high powered hybridizers.

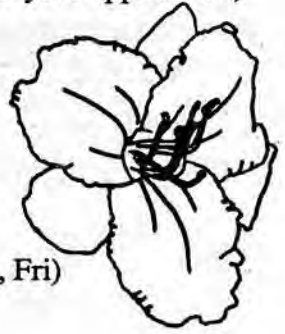
Dues simply defray the costs of printing and mailing notices of meetings and special events and three newsletters. I am sure that WDS is one of the fastest growing special interest groups in flowerdom.

Wisconsin Daylily Society - 1992 Membership List (February 18, 1992)

Byron Annis N2207 Pammel Pass W. LaCrosse, WI 54601 608-788-1812 AHS	Gary Gethen - Birch Hill Farm Route 2, Box 35A, Century Road Blue River, WI 53518 608-537-2961 AHS	Margaret & Fredrick Liss 6413 Jacobs Way Madison, WI 53711 608-2271-3266	*Thomas H. Reilly W 7080 Lee St. Lake Mills, WI 53551 414-648-3502
*Caroline & Jerry Benser 2407 Vine Street LaCrosse, WI 54601 608-782-4417 AHS	Jeffery & Gretchen Frank 981 Birchwood Drive West Bend, WI 53095 414-334-4063	*Barbara Livingston 5306 Tonyawatha Trail Monona, WI 53716-2921 608-221-8782	*Wanda & Eugene Sawyer 2991 Hwy Mn McFarland, WI 53558 608-838-3502
Mark Blank 129 S. Brittingham Place Madison, WI 53715 608-257-5573	Barbara Fraser 10 Maple Wood, #5 Madison, WI 53704 249-5976	Rod Lysne Route 1, Box 43 Ferryville, WI 54628 608-734-3178 AHS	*Victoria Szweczyk 6 West Newhaven Circle Madison, WI 53717 608-836-1957
Arthur G. Blodgett 1008 E. Broadway Waukesha, WI 53186 414-547-3744 AHS	Deanne & Jim Frautschy, family 224 Origen Street Burlington, WI 53105 414-763-6381 AHS	Tony & Libby Matkon 7425 Welton Drive Madison, WI 53719	Debbie Tainter Route 1, Box 15 Ontario, WI 54651 337-4488 AHS
Leo J. Bordeleau 472 Rose Hill Drive Oneida, WI 54155 414-869-2540 AHS	*Betty Giacomino 13743 Birchwood Ln Mequon, WI 53092 414-243-9292 AHS	Marilynn Maves & Rick Ivik 1837 Schlimgen Ave. Madison, WI 53704	Betsy Trowbridge 1209 Gilson Street Madison, WI 53715 608-251-4570
*Linda Brazill 1323 Spaight Dr. Madison, WI 53703 608-257-8658	*Greystone Bill & Linda Lehman 6450 Delp Rd. Muscodia, WI 53573 608-739-4055 AHS	Greg Meissner 4919 County T Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 414-743-1011 AHS	Margaret Van Alstyne 3423 Sunset Drive Madison, WI 53705 608-238-1562
*Julie Burke 4543 Schneider Dr. Oregon, WI 53575 608-835-7111	*MaryLou & Robert Griesbach N224 Delany Rd, Delavan, WI 53115 414-724-5607 AHS	Paula & Paul Meske 151 W. Goodland Street Sun Prairie, WI 53590 608-837-7568 AHS	James Van Deurzen 10250 Mathewson Rd. Mazomanie, WI 53560 608-795-2336
Shirle Burke W.12146 Hillcrest Drive Lodi, WI 53555 608-592-4714 AHS	Anne M. Guis 14420 W. Wisconsin Ave Elm Gove, WI 53122 414-782-8306	Timothy Miller 138 Rodney Court Madison, WI 53715 608-255-3715 AHS	*Judy & Jerry Vivian RR.3, Box 63 Dodgeville WI 53533
Joyce Ceelen 1615 Brooks Road Oshkosh, WI 54904	*Virginia L. Hagen 1104 Wimbleton Way Waunakee, WI 53597	*Paula Minkebig Rt. 1, Box 234 New London, WI 54961 414-982-7638 AHS	Ron Williams 2310 Elmwood Road Green Bay, WI 54313 414-434-2848 AHS
Julia A. Cook N. 9645 Cox Hill Road Holmen, WI 54636 608-857-3324 AHS	Eva Haroldson 841 Bark Lake Drive Hubertus, WI 530333 414-628-1759	Jane & Hiram Percy 407 Lincoln Street Verona, WI 53593 608-845-9249 AHS	Bonnie & David Wilson, family 7174 W. Mineral Point Road Verona, WI 53593 608-833-4441
*Jessy Crane 1615 Adams St. Madison, WI 53711 608-255-0865	Ruth Z. Horrall 2303 Chamberlain Ave. Madison, WI 53705 608-238-0502	Reynold Peterson 3120 Gregory Street Madison, WI 53711 608-231-1509 AHS	Dr. V.L.Winkler 670 Pine Street Deerfield, IL 60015 708-945-3353 AHS
Gene Dewey 2125 Fox Ave. Madison, WI 53711 608-255-0858	Evelyn & Royal Johnson 24533 Wind Lake Road Wind Lake, WI 53185 414-895-2461	*Waldon R. Porterfield 328 E MacArthur St. Sun Prairie, WI 53590 608-837-8123 AHS	Eugene E. Woehler 825 Cabot Lane Madison, WI 53711 608-238-8672 AHS
Catherine Farwell 3812 County Trunk AB Cottage Grove, WI 53527 222-8037 AHS	Stephen Lesch P.O. Box 4253 Madison, WI 53711-0253 608-272-4027	William Powell R.R. 2, Box 156-B Elkhorn, WI 53121 414-742-4234 AHS	Tom Wojtech 3908 N. 84th St. Milwaukee, WI 53222 414-527-0399
		Dorothey & Raymond Ramsden 2627 Westmoor Road Oshkosh, WI 54904 414-233-8034 AHS	* indicates new member

Questionnaire

The Wisconsin Daylily Society needs your help to grow. Please let us know how you might contribute by responding to the following: (Please check those which apply and include it with your application)



- ☐ Invite members to view your daylily garden
- ☐ Bring friends and daylily growers to meetings
- ☐ Share slides and pictures of your garden
- ☐ Write a short article for the newsletter
- ☐ Supply the newsletter editor with daylily wit, like cartoons and jokes
- ☐ Attend week-night meetings (Best night for you? Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri)
- ☐ Attend Sunday afternoon meetings
- ☐ Attend Saturday meetings
- ☐ Help in the daylily garden at Olbrich when established in the future
- ☐ Help with the WDS daylily show on July 19th
- ☐ Open your garden for public viewing during WDS garden tours in July
- ☐ Help with the WDS daylily sale. (August 22-23)
- ☐ Speak or demonstrate at a WDS meeting

☐ Explain above _____

☐ Other help _____

Please suggest topics that you would like to know more about, and methods of presentation that may interest you. _____

The Wisconsin Daylily Society 1992 Membership Application



Please enroll me as a member of the **The Wisconsin Daylily Society** for the year 1992 (January 1 to December 31).

Name (Please print or type) _____

Address _____ Phone(_____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Type of membership: (please check one)

☐ Individual \$5.00 ☐ Family \$7.50 ☐ Business \$15.00

I enclose \$ _____, payable to **The Wisconsin Daylily Society**.

Mail To: Paul Meske, Secretary
151 W. Goodland Street
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Are you a member of the
American Hemerocallis Society?
☐ yes ☐ No



The Wisconsin Daylily Society Newsletter

A not-for-profit organization promoting the enjoyment, awareness, and propagation of the genus *Hemerocallis*
Paul Meske, Editor
151 W. Goodland Street
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

AHS 1991 Popularity Poll

Each year the American Hemerocallis Society holds a regional daylily popularity poll. It is an opportunity for AHS members vote for the 15 daylily cultivars which they felt did the best in their region. Our own Hiram Percy, WDS President, was the Region II tabulator. Compare your best with the Popularity Poll.

Changes

If your mailing label address is incorrect please contact:

Paul Meske

151 W. Goodland St.

Sun Prairie, WI 53590

to correct the mistake or make other changes.

AHS Region 2 (Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio)

Rank	Votes
1. Brocaded Gown	41
Fairy Tale Pink	41
2. Stella De Oro	28
3. Barbara Mitchell	27
4. Golden Scroll	22
5. Condilla	21
Joan Senior	21
6. Betty Woods	18
Lullaby Baby	18
7. Becky Lynn	15
Matt	15
Rose Emily	15
8. Charles Johnston	14
Jolyene Nichole	14
Mary Todd	14