

Iris (Blue flag) - 4 Bulbs - buy 1 get 1 free



Irises are among the easiest perennials to start and grow, so start planting today for long-lasting blooms.

Rating: Not Rated Yet

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Description The hardy flowers are not difficult to grow and do well in a wide range of climates, being relatively drought-tolerant and low maintenance. When it blooms, the Iris s flowers are gorgeous, ranging in hue from the common purple shade to patterned white and yellow.

Common name: Iris Germanica

Color: Pink, Orange, Yellow, Blue, Purple, White, Multicolor

Bloom time: Summer

Height: 16" to 27.5" in height

Difficulty level: Easy

Planting & Care

For best results, plant iris rhizomes in July, August or September. This is also the best time (plants are normally dormant during the heat of July and August) to divide and replant iris that have become overcrowded, usually after three to five years. It is important that the roots of newly planted irises be well established before the end of the growing season. Plant your iris at least four to six weeks before your first hard freeze or killing frost.

Sunlight: Full Sun, Part Sun

Soil: Any, Sandy, Loamy

Water: Water thoroughly.

Fertilizer: Apply any organic fertilizer.

Care:

- Irises need at least half a day of sun and well-drained soil.
- Without enough sun, they won't bloom.
- They prefer fertile, neutral to slightly acidic soil.
- If your soil is very acidic, sweeten it with a bit of lime, and forbear summer watering, which can lead to rot.
- Bearded irises must not be shaded by other plants; many do best in a special bed on their own.
- Soil drainage is very important.
- Loosen the soil with a tiller or garden fork to a depth of 12 to 15 inches, then mix in a 2- to 4-inch layer of compost.

- Plant iris in mid- to late summer.
- Bearded irises have rhizomes (fleshy roots) that should be partially exposed, or thinly covered with soil in hot climates.
- Plant rhizomes singly or in groups of three with the fans outermost, 1 to 2 feet apart, depending on the size.
- Dig a shallow hole 10 inches in diameter and 4 inches deep.
- Make a ridge of soil down the middle and place the rhizome on the ridge, spreading roots down both sides.
- Fill the hole with soil and firm it gently.
- Water thoroughly.
- When planting, top-dress with a low-nitrogen fertilizer, and again in early spring.

Harvesting: When irises become crowded, usually every three to four years, bloom will decline. At this time, old clumps may be thinned by removing several divisions and leaving a portion of the clump in the ground. A better practice is to remove the entire clump, replenish the soil and replant a few large rhizomes.

Care:

- Avoid applying high-nitrogen fertilizers to the surface or carelessly mulching with organic matter, which may encourage rhizome rot.
- Keep rhizomes exposed.
- Unlike bulbs, which thrive deep underground, iris rhizomes need a bit of sun and air to dry them out.
- If they re covered with soil or crowded by other plants, they ll rot.
- Irises may benefit from shallow mulching in the spring.
- Don t trim iris leaves.
- Leaves carry on photosynthesis for next year s growth.
- Cut off brown tips—and cut the flowering stalk down to the rhizome to discourage rot.
- If iris foliage is hit with heavy frost, remove and destroy it to eliminate borer eggs.
- After 2 to 5 years, when clumps become congested or lose vitality, divide and replant sound rhizomes in fresh soil.
- The best time to replant irises is soon after bloom.
- Transplant them to places where they will have wet feet but dry knees.

Special Feature:

Dutch iris are popular with florists and home gardeners because they are dependably pretty and easy to use.

Use

Ornamental use:

- The plant is used for ornamental purpose.

Reference:

<http://www.almanac.com/plant/irises>