

Growing Siberian Irises (Sibirica) Zone 03

They are highly floriferous and their blossoming follows that of the bearded iris. Planted in flower beds, these irises provide a fantastic background filling. They can also be planted in groupings along with shrubs. Lastly, these irises are easy to cultivate and show little vulnerability to fungal diseases and damages caused by insects. They prove tolerant to the appetite of deer and small animals, and they do not require frequent splitting.

Their magnificent foliage remains green until late autumn. **THIS FOLIAGE CAN BE USED ALONG WITH THE FLOWERS IN BOUQUET ARRANGEMENTS.**

Upon receiving our irises, you will notice that the roots are wrapped so as to keep them damp. Remove the wrapping and soak the roots in a water container. Please make sure to let the newly received roots soak for at least a few hours (2 or 3 hours) before proceeding to plant them.

IMPORTANT: Be prepared to wait until the second year for the first flowering to happen.

Siberian irises prefer sunlit or partially shaded spots (minimum of 5 hours of sunshine) and a soil rich in organic matter.

In case of a sandy soil, the addition of organic matter (compost) will enhance water retention and provide nutrients. The soil must also be slightly acidic.

Plant 1 to 2 inches deep and allow for a distance of 23.5 inches (60 cm).

Fertilization is not required for the year of planting. From the second year on, the use of compost early in the spring and in autumn is appropriate. Once your roots have been planted, you should put a mulch 1.5 to 2 inches thick on the soil. The mulch (e.g. leaves) will help preserve the dampness of the soil and reduce the presence of weeds.

Putting a mulch the first year is greatly recommended, as a drought could compromise the roots' survival. Avoid using peat moss for the mulch, as it will create an impermeable surface preventing water from being seeped.

Once established, Siberian irises are able to withstand droughts with but a minimum supply of water. In late autumn, after it has yellowed, cut the foliage approximately 2 inches above the ground. Siberian irises may be split every 4 or 5 years.

Growing Japanese irises (Ensata) Zone 04

TO EMBELLISH YOUR WATER GARDENS AND YOUR FLOWERS BEDS, AND TO ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES.

The Japanese irises offer the most spectacular flowering of all irises. It occurs after that of the bearded iris and that of the Siberian iris – more specifically in July. They can be used in bouquet arrangements, as they can be wonderfully harmonized with the flowers of the oriental and Oriempet lilies.

Japanese irises prefer wet lands, which is the reason why they are commonly thought of as being planted directly in water ponds. However, they can also be successfully planted in our flower beds. We have been cultivating them in that fashion for more than 10 years. The belief that they can only survive by being immersed in water comes from Japan, where the plantings are flooded prior to the flowering, so as to allow for the beauty of these extraordinary flowers to be reflected in the waters – a dazzling sight indeed. The water is kept as such until the flowering is over, after which it is removed.

They can be cultivated in flowerpots so that they can be immersed in water ponds during summer. However, if you choose this method, you will have to remember to take them out of the water in the fall, as the roots have to be kept dry throughout winter. It is thus better to avoid planting them in a water pond permanently, and to plant them somewhere close to the water's edge instead, in a spot where there is no risk for the water to flood them entirely during winter.

In flower beds and depending on the qualities of the soil, it is necessary to water them once per week provided they haven't already been watered by the rain, and more than once per week in drought periods. Putting a mulch is also highly recommended.

Japanese Irises (zone 04) are rustic plants. They prefer sunlit or partially shaded spots (minimum of 6 hours of sunshine) and a soil rich in organic matter. The addition of compost will enhance water retention and provide nutrients. The soil must have an acidity level ranging from pH 5.0 to 6.5.

Our irises are sent with the roots wrapped up in order to keep them damp. Remove the wrapping and soak the roots in a water container as soon as possible. Please make sure to let the newly received roots soak for a great many hours (24 hours) before proceeding to plant them.

Plant 1 to 2 inches deep and allow for a distance of 23.5 inches (60 cm). Regarding fertilization, it is not required for the year of planting. From the second year on, the use of compost early in the spring and in autumn is appropriate. Japanese irises are voracious, so do not hesitate to provide them with generous amounts of organic matter.

Once the roots have been planted, it is important to put a mulch 1.5 to 2 inches thick on the soil. A mulch (e.g. leaves) helps in preserving the dampness of the soil and in keeping weeds at bay. Mulch helps improve their chance of survival. Remember that depending on the qualities of the soil, these irises require to be watered weekly. Avoid using peat moss for the mulch, as it will create an impermeable surface and prevent water from being seeped. Japanese irises may be split every 3 or 4 years. Regarding diseases and insect pests, Japanese irises are comparable to Siberian irises and are not considered to be vulnerable plants.

Growing Louisiana Irises: Same as Japanese Irises.

X ROBUSTA *GERALD DARBY* Irises: Same as Japanese Irises.

Growing Bearded Irises (Germanica) Zone 03

Bearded irises offer large, fragrant flowers in the month of June. These irises have been a part of our flower beds for a long time. Consequently, there exists a large number of lustrously coloured cultivars.

LOCATION:

Choose a spot that will allow for at least 6 hours of sunshine every day and where there is an adequate air flow in order to prevent fungal diseases.

PLANTING:

Prepare your planting spot with a mix of good soil and compost and plant the rhizome so that its upper part (the back) are the one facing the sun. **The rhizome must brush against the ground's surface.** Water and press the soil against the roots. Plant at a distance of at least 8 inches (20 cm). Split your irises every 3 or 4 years. Cut your rhizome so as to keep the healthiest parts and replant them in a location that has preferably not been used for iris cultivation for at least 1 year.

Ferme les Champs Fleuris