



Bearded Iris Planting Guide

About Bearded Iris

Bearded Irises are easy to identify, hardy perennials that are available in a variety of sizes and colors. Easy to grow, and deer-resistant, irises are a classic addition to any garden.

When to Plant

The best time to plant bearded iris is in late summer through early fall in colder growing zones. Warmer growing zones may plant later.

Where to Plant

Plant bearded iris in a sunny spot where the soil is well-draining and has a pH level of a little less than 7. A soil test is recommended.

How to Plant

Allow for plenty of space between rhizomes so they don't get too crowded. Prepare garden bed by loosening soil to a depth of 12-15 inches. Mix in a 2-4 inch layer of compost. Dig a shallow hole that is large enough to accommodate the rhizome or clump of rhizomes. The hole should be about 10 inches in diameter and about 4 inches deep. Form a mound of soil in the center of the hole for the planting base. The rhizome should be placed on this mound- high enough so the top of the rhizome is slightly above soil level. Spread the roots down the sides of the mound. Fill the hole with soil, firm it gently and then water well. Each grouping of irises should be spaced about 2 feet apart.

Fertilization is important to obtain best results, but must be done in moderation. Nitrogen, potash, and phosphorus are essential, but excessive nitrogen promotes lush growth that is more susceptible to root-rot. At planting, use a low-nitrogen fertilizer such as 5-10-10.

Caring for Bearded Iris

Before flowering, water plants often enough to keep soil just moist. After flowers fade, cut stalks back to an inch or two above the rhizome. Mulching is not recommended during growing season. However, it is recommended that newly planted Irises are mulched during freezing weather to reduce heaving. Divide bearded iris every 3-5 years to avoid overcrowding.