



# Iris

## Watering

Water in well on planting, then a good soaking once a week is enough. If they are established, once a week over hot dry periods is ample. Over-watering can also cause soft growth prone to disease.

## Pests and diseases

Fungal leaf spots can occur, especially if it is too wet. You can remove these leaves, ignore them, or spray with a fungicide. If the position is right they are usually fairly disease free.

Over-watering and over-feeding can make the problem worse so we suggest you do not use animal manure on the soil around the plants and water once a week in dry periods. Rhizome rot can sometimes occur, often in the summer when it is hot and humid. This is often due to over-watering when it is too hot. If the plant looks like it can be saved, cut away the infected part and expose to the sun to dry out. Dry tips can occur over summer due to dryness or salty water. Snails can sometimes attack the leaves.

## Pot culture

Some of the best Iris are grown in pots. Use pots of at least 10cm diameter, preferably larger. Use the best soil mix available and use the same fertilisers as for planting in garden beds. Put the pots where they get at least half day sun and winter cold. They will need to be watered more often.

Flowering time is usually the same as for Tall Bearded grown in the open garden, mid October through to late November.

## Cut flowers

Though they are fairly fragile, they can be used as commercial cut flowers if a little care is taken in picking them in bud 2 or 3 days before they would open and wrapping 2 or 3 stems together in tissue paper and either laying the flat for transport or storing them overnight in water in a cool place.

## MEDIAN BEARDED IRIS

These irises grow somewhere in between the Tall and dwarf varieties. Cultural directions are the same as for Tall Bearded Iris, but they do tolerate colder conditions. Median Bearded Iris flower from early October and flow through into the early Tall Bearded season. They are more tolerant of exposed sites due to their smaller size.