



Dwarf Bearded Iris

Aspect

Full sun is essential. Partial sun results in little or no flower.

Climate

Some frosty mornings in the winter are essential or there will be a profusion of foliage and no flowers.

Soil type

As long as it affords the plant a good loose root run it does not matter, otherwise it is much the same as for Tall Bearded Iris.

When to plant and replanting

Same as for Tall Bearded types, but in colder climates they may be left in borders for many years with no lessening in bloom. If bloom quantity does diminish, lift and replant after blooming.

Depths of planting

Just cover the rhizome. If too deep it will stop flowering.

Distance apart

25cms to 35cms

Fertilisers

More care should be taken than with Tall Bearded so as not to overproduce foliage with too much nitrogenous manure and too much artificial fertiliser can burn the plants. Fertilise as you would Azaleas. Feed in summer or on replanting and or a light side dressing in August of Azalea food.

Watering

They may require to be watered more often than the Tall Bearded Iris, particularly if planted in light sandy soil that can heat up in summer. Maybe every 4 or 5 days, more often in heat wave conditions. Once established, ease off to once a week.

Diseases

Leaf spot and rust are the main problems. Treat the same as Tall Bearded. Rhizome rot is rarely seen in Dwarf Bearded Iris.

Pot culture

Dwarf Bearded Iris are particularly well suited to pot culture. Select pots of a diameter of 20 cms or more. If 30cm pots are used, 3 rhizomes can be planted in each to give a massed display. Make sure the pots are in the sun all day and get plenty of winter cold, preferably frost. They may need to be watered more often than the Tall Bearded types, otherwise culture is the same.