

Louisiana Iris

PAGE 1

Aspect

Full sun or light shade. Dappled sunlight is fine, but too much shade can prevent good flowering in spring. Plant in partial shade in hot climates.

Climate

Louisiana Iris come from the southern states of America where it is hot and humid, so they do well in similar areas of Australia, particularly where Tall Bearded will not thrive. They are excellent in Coastal area of NSW and Queensland. They also give wonderful results in and around Perth. They do well in other areas of Australia but maybe not as well in really cold mountainous areas where severe frost is prevalent.

Soil type

They are very heavy feeders and prefer a good rich loam or soil that has had the addition of plenty of humus and compost. They will not tolerate alkaline or limey soil, so the pH level must be below 6.5. For this reason avoid putting too much fowl manure in the soil.

Suitability to water planting

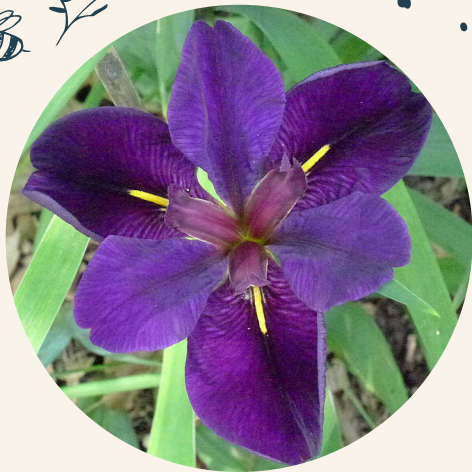
Possibly the best Iris for planting in water or boggy conditions as well as normal garden beds. If they are planted around dams, ensure that the soil is rich and not just subsoil left after the dam was excavated.

If they are to be planted in pots, it is best to establish the plants in the pots for a few months first or they may float out of the pot. Gravel on the surface of the pot may prevent this.

In selecting a potting mix, make it as rich as possible and be considerate of any fish in the pond as artificial fertiliser may not be suitable.

When to plant

The best time for planting is after flowering in December through summer and autumn, but as these Iris are basically evergreen, they can be planted at any time; but we suggest it is best to avoid planting just before bloom time which is in October and November.



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PAGE 2

Replanting

The same as for Tall Bearded Iris, 1 to 3 years, but because these Iris can be so vigorous, care has to be taken to see that they don't get mixed as they can easily grow into each other.

Depths of planting

Louisiana iris tend to send their roots to the surface, so it is best to cover the rhizomes with 2cms to 5cms of soil. Also they would benefit from a light mulch in particularly hot areas. This mulch can be bark, leaves or light compost. Avoid lawn clippings as they can get very hot.

Fertilisers

Use plenty of compost, cow manure, or any other suitable soil improver. Also the addition of a long term slow release fertiliser will improve flower quality. Apply on planting and again a side dressing in September of Azalea and Camellia food will give good results.

Watering

They can't be over-watered. Also once established they are remarkably drought resistant as long as the weeds are kept out of the clumps.

Diseases

Leaf spot and rust seem to be the main problems and the same conditions and preventative measures apply as do for Tall Bearded Iris. However if a plant variety seems to be a continual problem in a bed, plant it somewhere else, or discard it and grow another variety.

Pot culture

They may be grown in 25 cms pots for best results. Use the best soil available and treat as for Tall Bearded Iris.

Cut flowers

They are suitable as cut flowers.