



# Siberian Iris

## Aspect

Full sun. Less sun will result in less flowering.

## Climate

Areas with cold winters and some hard regular frosts are best. If frosts are not a climatic feature, then flowering could be poor or the flower stems will be very short.

## Soil type

They should have rich soil with plenty of moisture and should not be allowed to dry out. They will grow in quite damp conditions, along creeks, besides ponds etc. but not in standing water.

## When to plant

Siberian Iris are totally dormant in winter, so they can be moved any time after they have matured in later summer through to August. They don't like moving much and may not flower well in the first year after planting.

## Replanting

Select a place where they will not have to be moved for 4 or more years. They form tight neat clumps and are not invasive. They generally have to be cut up with a knife or treated as a perennial, rather than as an Iris.

## Depth of planting

Cover just the crown with no more than an inch of soil.

## Distance apart

40cms to 60cms

## Fertilisers

They are heavy feeders and prefer organic fertilisers over chemical fertilisers. A light dressing of rose food in spring may improve the quality of bloom. They love compost or cow manure.

## Watering

Regular watering is important. Don't let them dry out like Spurias or Tall Bearded. Good soakings once a week, or more often if necessary, particularly if replanted in summer.

## Diseases

Virtually disease free.

## Pot culture

They flower in pots if they are 20cms or more in diameter. Use a good soil mix with plenty of organic matter. Don't let them dry out and ensure they get plenty of sun and winter frost.

## Cut flowers

They are in many people's eyes the most graceful of the Iris and are ideal for cutting and taking inside. Each clump flowers profusely once established, so there are usually plenty to cut and leave a display in the garden. They usually flower after the Tall Bearded are past their peak, so continuity of bloom with Siberians ensures a good supply of flowers to cut.