



# Evansias

## Japanese Iris

### Winter Iris

#### EVANSIAS

##### Culture

Evergreen Iris that are suitable for semi-shade or morning sun only. Ideal for light woodland landscaping. Protect from heavy frost of more than  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . They don't like lime and are heavy feeders. Use organic material and use it as a mulch. Keep the plants well drained but don't let them dry out. They don't have to be replanted very often (except for *Iris Tectorum*) and they can become invasive, but are easy to remove as they are just in the top couple of inches of soil.

##### *Iris Tectorum*

It seems to do best if replanted each year. It is excellent in a pot, but again repot each season.

##### *Iris Cristanta*

Another Evansia. This is also best if replanted each season. Also it is totally dormant in winter and as it is such a tiny Iris, it needs to be carefully marked in the garden for winter as it could easily be lost in winter gardening, having such small rhizomes.

#### JAPANESE IRIS

##### Culture

These lovely Iris can be treated in the same way culturally as Siberian Iris with a couple of extra notes.

##### Soil Type

They will not tolerate lime. It will kill them. So make sure the pH is below 6.

##### Suitability for water

Many publications recommend these Iris for ponds. They are good in water but precautions have to be taken to ensure they don't rot in winter. So it is best to remove the pots after the leaves start to brown off in autumn and let the pots be treated as normal pot plants during winter. Repot them at this time and put the pots back into the pond when the leaves start to shoot in September. For quality flowers in pots repot every year.

##### Replanting

Japanese Iris are very heavy feeders and we have found that it is best to replant every year or every second year in normal garden beds to keep up the flower quality and quantity.

#### WINTER IRIS - IRIS UNGUICULARIS (IRIS STYLOSA)

##### Culture

Very tough group of Iris that can be planted at most times of the year. Avoid very hot dry weather. They need little or no attention and can be left in the one place for many years. They enjoy dappled light under trees and grow well in large shadehouses. They must have good drainage. Otherwise, please yourself how they are treated. Pots, borders, features for colour in winter, when there is nothing much flowering.

##### Foliage

They have shiny dark green narrow leaves, and as the flowers have no stem the flower display may be enhanced by cutting back the foliage by about a third in April/May.