

Growing Bearded Irises

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A Happy Home for Bearded Irises

- ✓ Full Sun
- ✓ Good drainage
- ✓ Soil that is a little tighter than compost
- ✓ Ph 6.8 is ideal
- ✓ Fertilize with well composted manure or something like a 6-10-10 fertilizer
 - NO HIGH NITROGEN such as Miracle Grow
 - Fertilize TBs when the tulips start to bloom and again about a month after bloom
- ✓ Water established plants every week or two
- ✓ Beware of double and triple bud sockets when grooming

Planting

- ❖ August thru September
- ❖ In soil amended with nutrients
- ❖ With top of the rhizome no more than an inch under the soil
- ❖ Be sure the roots at the back end of the rhizome are covered with dirt
- ❖ Put several of one variety in a star pattern
- ❖ Water immediately after planting and then once a week until the autumn rains begin

First Aid for Irises

- Control leaf spot with a fungicide starting on Valentine's Day. Spray both the plant and the soil
- Control bacterial rhizome rot with removal or Comet cleanser
- Bait for snails and slugs
- Go after infestations of aphids, thrips, and whiteflies with an insecticide

Dividing Irises

- Use a garden fork
- Each fan only blooms once, so old rhizomes get tossed
- Some varieties require more frequent dividing than others

Companion Plants for Bloom Time

- Peonies
- Aquiliga
- Thalictrum
- Lupine

Companions for the rest of the year include drought-tolerant perennials that have similar water needs to bearded irises: Echinacea, Lavender, Sedum, Gaillardia, Rudbeckia, and Phlox

For more information, go to

<https://www.schreinersgardens.com/how-to-grow-care-for-bearded-iris>

Great Mother's Day Outings

Schreiners 3625 Quinaby Road NE, Salem OR 97303 503-393-3232

Mid-America Garden: 7185 Lakeside Drive NE, Salem, OR 97305 503-390-6072

Join the American Iris Society \$15 a year for an electronic membership