

LOUISIANA IRIS

Iris Louisiana

AKA Water Iris; One of the best kept secrets of the garden world.

Description: A single plant that is thriving in its site can form a clump 3 feet wide by 3 feet tall in two years. These clumps of green foliage add great architectural interest to the garden and will persist year round where winters are mild. It's lavender to bluish flowers are flat compared to Bearded Iris'. Typically they bloom from late March to early May

Natural Habitat: in ditches, bogs, along pond edges

Size: 2 – 3 feet

Growth Rate: Moderate

Light: Sun or shade

Planting and Care: They like to be planted shallow, with the tops of its rhizomes just above the soil level. They do best with frequent light feedings of compost tea, fish emulsion, or water soluble fertilizer. Will grow in average garden soil but prefers moist soil, even standing water. If you grow them in full sun, in most climates, they appreciate more moisture. Clumps should be divided when they begin to produce fewer blooms. Dividing can be done in the summer, after blooming, or in early fall. Replant divided rhizomes with the top half above the soil line.

When planting in water, place the root ball no deeper than six inches below the water surface. Louisiana iris grows actively in the winter months until flowering, then goes into a state of dormancy in the summer as the heat arrives. It is normal during the summer dormant period for the leaves to yellow and wither.

Ornamental Value: Flowers and graceful green foliage

Landscape Usage: perfect for bog gardens and at the margins of lakes and ponds. Use in containers that can be submerged to add dramatic color to fish-ponds. Louisiana iris is easy to grow and is a showy addition to beds and borders.