

IRIS BEARDED-WHITE WITH PURPLE EDGES

Iris germanica



Characteristics

- Perennial
- Zone: 3 to 10
- Height: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
- Spread: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
- Bloom Time: May
- Bloom Description: White with purple edges
- Sun: Full sun
- Water: Medium
- Maintenance: Medium
- Flower: Showy, Fragrant
- Tolerate: Deer, Drought

Culture

Best grown in humusy, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. Best flowering and disease resistance occur in full sun. Plants will tolerate light shade. Good soil drainage is essential to combat potential soft rot problems. Avoid use of mulch for the same reason. Plant rhizomes shallowly (cover with 1/2" soil) and 12-24" apart in mid to late summer (July to early September). Fertilize lightly in early spring. Avoid overhead watering. Deadhead individual spent flowers and remove flowering stems to the ground after bloom. Divide plants immediately after flowering when overcrowding occurs (every 3-4 years).

Noteworthy Characteristics

Iris germanica, commonly called common flag or German iris, is the presumed father of most modern bearded iris cultivars. This iris has become established over time throughout the world, with naturalization having occurred in many parts of Europe and the U.S. *Iris germanica* as a species is simply not sold in commerce today. In general terms, plants grow 2-3' tall with sword-shaped linear leaves and large usually fragrant blooms on stalks that branch below their mid points. Each flower has six perianth segments: three falls are purple with brown veins, white bases and yellow beards and three standards are lilac. Each stalk (to 3' tall) typically produces up to 6 flowers in spring. Sword shaped leaves are mostly basal, in two ranks, and about 2' long. It spreads by creeping rhizomes which form large clumps over time. Thousands of bearded iris cultivars in a rainbow of different colors have been introduced over the years, with cultivars now classified into several different types: miniature dwarf (8" or less), standard dwarf (8-15 inches), intermediate (16-27 inches), miniature tall (16-25 inches but with small flowers), border (16-27 inches) and tall (28-38 inches).

Problems

The major insect pest of German iris is iris borer. Major disease problems are bacterial soft rot, crown rot fungus, and fungal leaf spot.

Garden Uses

Sunny beds and borders. Will naturalize into large clumps.

Courtesy of Missouri Botanical Society Plant Finder