

Iris - Growing Guide

Growing Iris

We do not stock tall growing Bearded irises in our catalogue. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of named varieties grown by a relatively few highly specialised nurseries of which Kelways nursery at Langport in Somerset is perhaps the best known. They have exhibited bearded iris at Chelsea for 100 years.

Instead we stock other perennial rhizomatous species (but not bulbous ones) which can be categorised as 'Beardless irises'. These have rhizomes which are generally below ground level rather than being surface rhizomes as bearded irises are. Most of the varieties which are offered are suitable for the herbaceous border and one is more suited to growing beside water in boggy conditions. The different species flower at different times of the year and are perfectly hardy.

Irises like hot summers and do best in full sun. The rhizomes are best divided soon after flowering, or in late autumn, when numerous offsets can be separated out. Beardless irises benefit from a spring mulching which gives the rhizomes a good feed.

I. chrysographes is a species from China on which each flower stem produces a pair of fragrant dark violet flowers with gold streaks in early summer. It grows 15-20in in height.



Iris chrysographes



Iris chrysographes



Iris chrysographes



Iris ensata



Iris ensata



Iris ensata



Iris foetidissima



Iris foetidissima



I. japonica 'Variegata'



I. japonica 'Variegata'



I. japonica 'Variegata'



I. japonica 'Variegata'



Iris pallida 'Variegata'



Iris pallida 'Argentea
Variegata'



Iris pallida



Iris pallida 'Variegata'



Iris pallida 'Variegata'



Iris pallida 'Variegata'



Iris pallida 'Variegata'



Iris siberica 'Snow Queen'



Iris siberica 'Blue King'



Iris siberica 'Blue King'



Iris siberica 'Blue King'



Iris unguicularis



Iris unguicularis



Iris unguicularis



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