

Tips for Success

Where should I plant my Dutch Irises: Dutch Irises are great in perennial gardens because they will bring color and life to your perennial garden or border before the summer flowering plants have had a chance to return. Growing about 1.5-2' tall, they are perfect in the middle of the border. Try just in front of your daylilies or larger shrubs. They are also phenomenal in containers on their own or mixed with other spring bloomers like muscari, daffodils and tulips.

Should I cluster My Bulbs: Like most spring flowering bulbs, Dutch Iris look best when planted in large groups. If you want to impress, cluster 10-12 bulbs per square foot, or space bulbs 2-3" apart for a less dense display.

When to Divide My Irises: There is no need to divide your Dutch Irises.

Can I Cut These Flowers for My Vases: Definitely! Dutch Iris are prized for their long life as cut flowers. Each of our premium bulbs will produce a few flowers and then they'll multiple exponentially for additional flowers in subsequent seasons.

What Do We Love About Dutch Irises: Dutch Iris are a welcome addition to every spring flowering garden because they produce some of the showiest, exotic orchid-like flowers with exquisite satiny petals in mid spring each season. They are incredible companions to your daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, and muscari with their large 4-inch-wide flowers and slender reed-like foliage. They start to bloom before other Irises you may have in your garden.



Roberta's Gardens PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



Dutch Iris Collection
Iris hollandica

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. If you have any questions regarding your order please call us at **1-765-525-4065** during the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm EST.

You can email questions to us at: customerservice@robertasinc.com.

If your bulbs, cuttings, etc. do not sprout, or your plant dies within one year from the date of shipment, we will send you a replacement free of charge. We cannot accept responsibility for losses due to extreme weather or neglect. Simply call us at the above toll free number or fill out the plant replacement form on our website at RobertaUniqueGardens.com.

Roberta's will replace it with a similar or comparable plant at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will ship the following year.



Roberta's Unique Gardens

P.O. Box 368, Waldron, IN 46182

Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:30PM EST

RobertaUniqueGardens.com

 @robertasgardens  Roberta's Unique Gardens

Perennials

Quick Reference

 **Plant Type:** Perennial

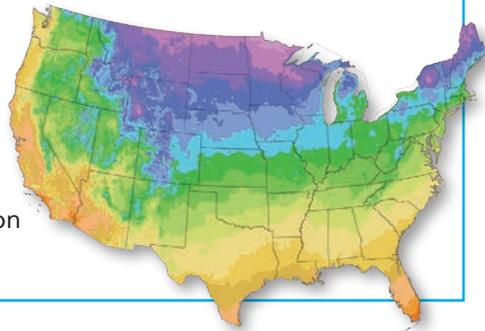
 **Light/Sun:** Full to Partial Sun

 **Mature Height:** 18-24"

 **Mature Spread:** 4-6"

 **Bloom Time:** Late Spring to Early Summer, by second season

 **USDA Hardiness Zones:** 5 to 9



Plant Caretaking

Upon Arrival: Please take plants out of the box immediately and remove any shipping materials from around the plants.

Planting Depth & Spacing: Plant bulbs about 3-4 inches deep and about 2-3 inches apart from one another. Alternatively, you may dig wider holes and plant 10-12 bulbs per square foot. Plant bulbs with the pointy side facing upwards so that their foliage is growing in that direction. They only grow outward, so if you find they're growing the wrong direction, dig up and replant.

Potted Plants: Iris are perennials that will grow and expand over time. For potted plants, choose a container that is at least 10-12" across. You may plant 5-6 bulbs per 10-12" container, or choose a larger container and plant multiple together, spacing the bulbs out accordingly.

Soil Preparation: Iris need very well draining soil. If soil is heavy and slow draining, amend with potting mix, compost, or peat moss.

Watering: Water in iris after planting and then only water very lightly until you see foliage appear. Once foliage starts to grow you may water once or twice a week. In the ground they become quite drought tolerant once established.

Where to Plant: Iris love full sun to partial shade. If you live where summers are incredibly hot, a place with afternoon shade is good.

Fertilizer: Use Roberta's Bounty in the early spring once you see new growth occur and then again after the flowers have finished in the spring.

Pruning & Deadheading: Irises need to be cleaned in order to continue to shoot up new flowers within the growing season. When flowers have faded, cut back their stems as close to the ground as possible. This will encourage new growth. Iris foliage will often get browned tips. Simply cut those tips off at an angle. Iris foliage grows from the bottom up, so the foliage will continue to grow and look just fine.

Dormancy: After the flowers have bloomed you may cut the flower head off but do not cut the foliage. The bulbs use the leaves to gather energy for next year's flowers. Once the leaves have turned yellow or brown you can cut them to the ground level.

Planting Steps

Step 1 Remove the bulbs from the plastic bag and discard any loose remnants that might have come loose. If you're unable to plant them right away, you can keep them inside the plastic bag and store them in a cool, protected area and plant as soon as possible. For extended storage time, place in refrigerator for up to 3 weeks. Choose a spot in the garden that will receive full to partial sun as well as a location with soil that drains well. If the soil does not drain well, amend it with potting mix or compost to achieve the right consistency.

Step 2 Plant in the garden when evening temperatures average between 40-50F degrees. You may cluster the bulbs, and plant 10-12 bulbs per square foot. Rather than in the garden, you may plant 5-6 bulbs in an 10-12 inch container or several bulbs in one larger container. A general rule of thumb on the hole size, is to dig a hole for the bulb that is twice the depth of the height of the bulb. For example, dig a hole deep enough that would allow you to easily stack two bulbs on top of each other, but only put one bulb in that hole, and cover with dirt. Make sure the pointy side is facing up because iris only grow in one direction rather than in a mound all the way around. You can always dig it up later and reposition it.

Step 3 Fill in the hole with soil or potting mix so that all the roots are completely covered. It will seem like a very shallow planting compared to other bulbs, this is normal. Water well after planting.

Step 4 Water your iris in well. Allow soil to dry completely between watering, they require average watering needs until they start to create foliage. Then you can begin to water a bit more frequently and fertilize your irises about

Step 5 Make sure your new plants do not dry out for prolonged periods of time. Young plants need their roots to stay moist but not soggy while getting established. This may mean watering your plants every few days, and even more often for plants in containers or during periods of drought. You may add a 1-2" inch layer of mulch or compost on top to help keep moisture in.

