



# Garden Talk

## How to Plant Iris

“Where People who Love Iris, Love to Shop!”™

### Plant Timing

Bearded Iris normally bloom anywhere from April through June, depending on weather and variety. Iris growers dig a few weeks after bloom as the weather warms up and most water is withheld to help harden them off.

The garden center receives the very best Iris shipments from August - September. Plant as soon as they become available in late summer. The roots need as much time in the ground to become established before winter. Iris continue to grow through winter, but very slowly.

### Pick the very Best

Choose Iris with the largest possible root or rhizome. This means it was well fed and the blossom will be larger next spring. Some Iris are naturally smaller, but the rule of thumb applies "bigger-is-better" (at least in this case).



Rhizomes, like bulbs, corms and tubers are simply storage places for food. The more food stored in the rhizome, the bigger the bloom next spring.

If an Iris rhizome were to be sliced

open you would see a tiny, pale, flower stalk folded accordion style waiting for next spring.

**Make a difference** - with Mulch, Soil Activator and Watters All Natural Plant Food. Prepare the bed by spreading a 2-3 inch layer of Watters "Mulch" then add "Soil Activator" and Watters "All Purpose Plant Food". Blend these amendments into the soil one shovels depth and then rake smooth.



The mulch keeps the soil loose so roots spread quickly into the surrounding soil. Soil

Activator stimulates new Iris to form deeper roots, and Watters All Purpose Plant Food feeds the plant for maximum flower size in vivid colors.

Trim dried roots from the main rhizome. Iris like to be just under the surface of the soil. Only 2-4 inches of soil should cover each root. Plant them too deep and flowers will be small or gone all together.

**Water** thoroughly using Watters "Root Stimulator".

This liquid root stimulator encourages new root hairs to form and starts the process of next springs plant. Use every 2 weeks for the first 3 months to maximize roots.

- WATTERS MULCH
- PLANT FOOD
- SOIL ACTIVATOR
- ROOT STIMULATOR

### CHECK LIST:



**wattersonline.com**

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