



Garden Talk

How to Plant Iris

Better Plants & Better Advice

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.

Watters Garden Center receives their best Iris shipments from *August - September*. As soon as they are available they should be planted. The roots need as much time in the ground as possible to become established before the Winter weather of January. Roots will continue to grow throughout winter, but very slowly.



spectacular blooms. If an Iris rhizome were to be sliced open you would see a tiny, pale, flower stalk folded accordion style waiting for next spring. Plant foods high in phosphorus promote stronger, healthier flowers in spring.

3 Things Needed

Mulch, Gypsum Gardeners Special

Trim dried roots from the main rhizome. Prepare the bed by spreading a 2-3 inch layer of **Watters**

Mulch and add **Gypsum** (5 lbs. per 100 sq. ft.) and a good all-purpose fertilizer; we recommend **Ferti-lome Gardeners Special** (11-15-11) dig in then rake smooth.

Iris Rhizomes 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.

Picking the Right Ones

Purchase your Iris with the largest possible root or rhizome. This means it was well fed and the blossom will be larger. Some Iris rhizomes are naturally smaller,



but the rule of thumb is *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. Food is the key to

The Water

Water well using **Ferti-lome Root Stimulator** every 2 weeks until the onset of Winter to stimulate maximum root growth before cold weather.



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1815 Iron Springs Road, Prescott, AZ 86305

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