



Cultivating the Rainbow

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Bearded Iris Classifications

Miniature Dwarf Bearded: any iris under 8", *early spring*

Standard Dwarf Bearded: 8-16", *early-mid spring*

Intermediate Dwarf Bearded: 16-27.5", *mid-spring*

Miniature Tall Bearded: 16-27.5", *mid- to late spring*

Border Bearded: 16-27.5", *mid-to late spring*

Tall Bearded: 27.5" and above, *late spring*

When to Plant

The best time to plant bearded irises is late summer through early fall. We recommend planting from mid-July until mid-October depending on your location.

Where to Plant

For best performance, plant bearded irises where they'll receive six to eight hours of full sun during the growing season. Bearded iris species grow natively in steppes and saxatile environments throughout central and Eastern Europe and Asia. Both of these environments are relatively free of shade.

Where to Buy

Though bearded irises are often sold in a variety of venues, you'll obtain the best selection of plants by ordering from an iris nursery. Also, take note of AIS award winners, but recognize that the awards system isn't flawless. With so many plants coming onto the market each year, many often get overlooked in the awards process as well. You'll also have the easiest time establishing bearded irises purchased bare-root as opposed to container-grown plants.

How to Plant

Plant bearded irises shallowly with anchorage. Despite its bulb-like appearance, a bearded iris rhizome is in fact a modified stem that grows at or just below the soil surface and serves as the main stem of the plant while also storing nutrients. Rhizomes should be exposed or only slightly covered after planting.

Keepin' It Good

Bearded irises need division every three to five years to maintain their glam and charm. As a gardening mentor of mine used to say, if it's okay to remodel the house, it's okay to remodel the garden from time to time. I know many gardeners have a strong aversion to division—it disrupts the status quo after all. But honestly if you don't keep up with the pace of your bearded irises, they'll quickly bloom themselves into nothingness, which isn't exactly beautiful.



MDB

Miniature Dwarf Bearded

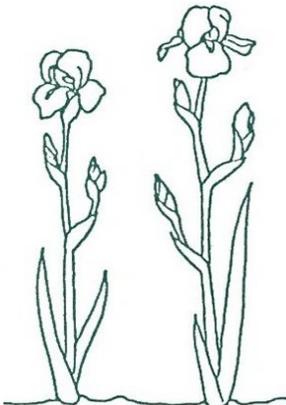
- 'Baby Venus'
- 'Bugsy'
- 'Fission Chips'
- 'Flashing Neon'
- 'Self Evident'



SDB

Standard Dwarf Bearded

- 'Abuzz with Charm' (2013 RIF intro)
- 'Cat's Eye'
- 'Death by Chocolate'
- 'Eye of Sauron'
- 'Eye of the Tiger'
- 'Giggles and Grins' (RIF exclusive)
- 'Vavoom'



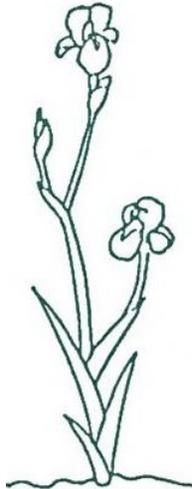
IB

BB

Intermediate/Border Bearded

- 'Put Upon' (RIF 2012 intro), BB
- 'Banded Gold', BB
- 'Dazzling', IB
- 'Eleanor Roosevelt', IB (and Sadie Jane)
- 'Fast Forward', IB
- 'Gene's Lora Lavelle' (RIF 2009 intro), IB
- 'Man's Best Friend', IB
- 'Zingerado', BB

Miniature Tall Bearded

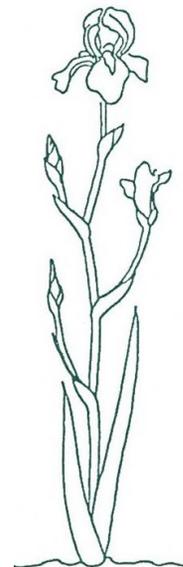


MTB

- 'Carla Beth' (RIF 2012 intro)
- 'Apricot Drops'
- 'Bumblebee Deelite'
- 'Dividing Line'
- 'Hot News'
- 'Rayos Adentro'

Tall Bearded

- 'Whipped Honey'
- 'W.R. Dykes'
- 'Ola Kala'
- 'Fascination'
- 'Georgia's Dream'
- 'Fashionably Late'
- 'Won't'
- 'Alan M. Turing'
- 'Tobacco Chew'
- 'Badlands'
- 'Starring'
- 'Kickapoo Kangaroo'
- 'Ten Carat Diamond' (2013 RIF intro)
- 'Wintry Sky'



TB