

Amazing Iris Garden

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Growing Japanese (Ensata) Iris

Japanese Irises flower approximately a month after the Tall Bearded irises. Blooming for 2-3 weeks. Historic images show the Japanese Iris grown in water elevated in pots. This is so the flowers reflect in the water.

HABIT;

- * Japanese iris have stalks between 65cm to 80cm in height.
- * Fast growing, they are hardy and vigorous.
- * Blooming slightly after the bearded irises..
- * Liking a slightly acidic soil with a ph. level of 5.5 - 6.5 is best suited.
- * Japanese Irises are "Margin" plants. Liking the edge of a pond or a well watered garden.

GROWING:

- * Japanese require full sun of a minimum of 6 hours to achieve good blooming.
- * Lifting and replanting is required every 3-4 years.
- * They are a frost tolerant species.
- * They prefer to be in a location with good moisture levels, and prefer 'wet feet, but dry ankles'.
- * Mulching will benefit the plants to keep the moisture level up and suppress weeds.
- * Japanese Irises are dormant over winter, remove all dead foliage and trim back to ground Level.
- * Japanese do not like to dry out, so need to be kept constantly watered or grown in a location where their roots are near the water table.

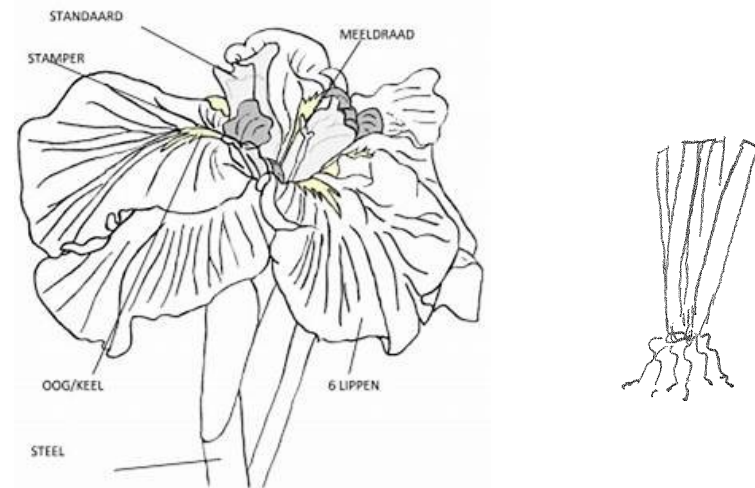
FERTILIZING;

- * A Rhododendron / camellia mix can be applied in spring before bloom. Or a mix of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium. 5-10-5
- * Japanese do not like lime or bone meal and may burn your plants.
- * Japanese Iris like acid soil.
- * Alkaline soils can be improved by addition of sulphur or adding organic matter.
- * Wet soil will need extra nitrogen applications.
- * Don't feed new plantings.

PLANTING:

Planting should be done after bloom time, late spring through to fall.

- * Cut back leaves to 3/4 length.
- * Divide into clumps of 2-4 fans, removing old rhizomes and roots.
- * Soak plants in water to ensure they are well watered..
- * Plant 5-7cms deep in prepared soil, and 15cms apart.
- * New roots form above the old roots forcing the crown above the soil. So ensure the plant is in the soil deep enough to allow for this growth.
- * Japanese irises have to be replanted/divided every 3-4 years.
- * Soil enriched with well aged manure and compost, will ensure good growth.
- * Japanese will flower best after 2-3 years of planting.



Bare-rooted Iris.

PESTS /DISEASES;

- * Root Knot Nematode. Barely seen by the naked eye. When roots are washed the swollen knots become visible, formed in late autumn, winter or spring. But appear when weather gets warmer. Shaving off all roots is only way to get rid of this issue after bloom time.
- * Scorch. Foliage will show browning on the tip and travel down entire leaf. Rhizome will show no signs but roots will be dead.
- * Yellow Leaves Nitrogen deficiency or insufficient utilization of iron.