

QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full to part sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	3 to 9.
PLANT TYPE	Perennial.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 12 inches apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 12-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	<p>Cherished: 32 inches tall with an 18 to 24 inch spread.</p> <p>Cimarron Strip: 38 inches tall with an 18 to 24 inch spread.</p> <p>Constant Wattez: 24 inches tall with a 15 to 18 inch spread.</p> <p>Robusto: 36 inches tall with an 18 to 24 inch spread.</p>
BLOOM TIME	Early summer.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	12 to 24 months.
FACTS OF NOTE	<p>Deer and rabbit resistant.</p> <p>Great for cut flowers.</p> <p>Attracts pollinators.</p>

SOIL PREPARATION

We recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office (www.nifa.usda.gov/extension or by calling 1-800-333-4636). A soil test can determine if your soil needs any amendments to enhance the growth and performance of your plants.

Ideal garden soil is easy to dig in and drains well while still holding the nutrients and water vital to plant growth. To prepare a bed for in-ground planting, spade or till the soil to a depth of roughly 12-18 inches. Next, spread a 2-4 inch layer of organic matter such as compost, shredded leaves or peat moss over the soil and mix well.



Thank you for your order.

Your satisfaction is of primary concern to us. Please use the following resources for questions regarding your order:

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9960 Padgett Switch Rd.
Irvington, Alabama 36544

Cottage Farms' Guarantee

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. Cottage Farms warrants its perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, Cottage Farms will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will ship the following shipping season.

Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of a plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effects. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

In case of ingestion contact a poison control center immediately.
1-800-222-1222

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*Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.

OUT OF THE BOX

GERMAN IRISES

Your plants have been shipped to you in pots. Please remove the plants from the packaging right away and plant them as soon as possible following the planting instructions below. If it is not possible to plant them right away, follow these important steps:

1. Roll the plastic down around each plant and place them in a sunny location.
2. Keep the plants well watered.

Note: Some leaves may appear wilted or yellow upon arrival. This is due to the stress of shipping and is nothing to worry about. Water the plant and let it recover in a shady location for a few days, then gently remove any foliage that does not recover to allow for new growth.



SHIPPED IN 4-INCH POTS.
PLANT SIZE MAY VARY BASED ON GROWING CONDITIONS.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Important: Thoroughly hydrate the plant by submersing the root zone in a container of water for 10 minutes while you prepare for planting.

1. Remove and discard the clear plastic bag from around the pot.
2. After watering, remove the pot by holding the plant upside down in one hand and squeezing the sides of the pot with the other.
3. Prepare the root ball for planting by gently disturbing the surface roots with your fingers, fork, or gardening tool and pruning any damaged roots. This will encourage the roots to begin growing outward into the new soil.
4. Dig a hole twice as deep and twice as wide as the plant's root ball. Partially backfill the hole with soil and place the plant into the hole. The top of the rhizome should be level with the ground surrounding the hole. Refill the hole with soil, firming the soil around the plant with your fingers. Check to be sure the plant is not planted too deeply. If it is, raise the plant carefully and re-firm the soil.
5. Water thoroughly.

CONTINUING CARE

WATERING

Adequate and consistent watering is essential during your plant's first year in the garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil are more effective than frequent, light applications of water.

Due to variable geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is difficult to define. However, as a rule of thumb, you should not allow the soil or the original root ball to completely dry out. During the first summer, you may need to water as often as every few days in periods of drought and extreme summer heat. To determine if your plant needs water, dig a few inches into the soil next to the plant. If the soil is dry 2-3 inches below the surface, it is time to water.

Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant has adequate drainage to move water away from the plant. If you choose to plant in a container, always select one with drainage holes to prevent your plant's roots from sitting in water.

WEEDING

Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Weeds compete with surrounding plants for food, water and light. Walk around the garden periodically and pull weeds, including the roots, as soon as you see them.

PRUNING

Remove spent flower stalks as blooms fade, and trim any dead or damaged growth as needed to maintain an attractive appearance. In late fall, remove any growth that has died back and prune the remaining leaves to a height of 3-5 inches.

FEEDING

Feed your plants once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water-soluble fertilizer such as **Cottage Farms'** Carefree Bud-N-Flower Booster (SKU #M7582). Discontinue feeding after September 1st so your plants can harden off for winter dormancy. Resume fertilizing when new growth appears in spring.

CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

MULCHING

Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic matter around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures and discourage weed growth. Replenish the mulch as needed.

Note: Do not mulch over iris rhizomes during the growing season.

DIVIDING

Dividing irises once every 3-4 years encourages them to grow and bloom more vigorously and helps prevent overcrowding. Divide irises in August by digging up an established clump and rinsing off any excess soil. Separate the rhizomes by hand with a gentle twisting motion, cut the foliage back to 8-10 inches, and prune off any dead or damaged roots. Re-plant the rhizomes in the garden and water well.

WINTERIZING

Watering thoroughly in late fall will greatly enhance your plant's cold tolerance once the ground has frozen.

German irises are incredibly hardy, but will benefit from mulching in very cold areas. The time to winterize them is in late fall. After cutting the foliage back, mound a few inches of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic material over the rhizome of each plant. Keep in mind that the root system is the most vulnerable to cold damage.

If alternating periods of freezing and thawing lift the rhizomes from the ground, simply cover any exposed roots with soil. Do not press the rhizomes back into the ground.

In very cold areas, containerized plants can be brought into an unheated, protected area such as a garage or cellar before temperatures drop below freezing. Check soil moisture every 2-3 weeks and water as needed during winter.

In spring, remove mulch from in-ground plantings. Containerized plants should be moved back out into the garden sunlight where they will begin to repeat their yearly garden performance.