JAPANESE & PSEUDATA IRIS CARE

LIGHT

Japanese iris and pseudata hybrids flower best in sun, with light shade tolerated. Choose a location with ample moisture during active growth. Allow space for the cultivar's mature height and clump width; flower stalks often rise well above the foliage.

WATER

Supply abundant moisture in spring and through flowering. Do not allow newly planted clumps to dry out. Water deeply during dry spells. Japanese iris needs winter drainage and should not remain in standing winter water. Pseudata tolerances vary; follow the cultivar label.

SOIL & PLANTING

Japanese iris prefers rich, acidic soil; avoid adding lime without a soil test. Plant rhizomes about 1 to 2 inches below the surface. Pseudata hybrids also suit moist garden beds. Use a site that stays moist in growth yet drains in winter for shared plantings.

FEEDING

Improve poor soil with compost and feed moderately in spring if needed. Follow product rates and keep fertilizer off the crown. A soil test can clarify pH or nutrient problems before adding amendments.

SEASONAL CARE

Remove spent stalks after bloom unless collecting seed. Keep healthy leaves until they die back. Divide crowded clumps after flowering when needed, usually every few years, and keep divisions watered. Remove dead foliage to reduce overwintering pests and disease.

HELPFUL TIPS

This guide covers Japanese iris (Iris ensata) and pseudata hybrids, not bearded iris. Do not use shallow, exposed-rhizome planting instructions. In ponds, use movable containers if needed to provide suitable winter conditions. Iris is not edible; keep children and pets from chewing it.