



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

BLUE FLAG IRIS CARE

LIGHT

Blue flag iris includes northern blue flag and Virginia iris selections. Grow in full sun to partial shade. These moisture-loving irises suit rain gardens, pond edges and damp naturalistic beds. Check the label for mature height and allow room for clumps to spread.

WATER

Keep soil consistently moist, particularly after planting. These irises tolerate wet ground and shallow-water margins better than bearded iris. Avoid placing them in a dry, sharply drained border. During drought, water deeply enough to moisten the entire root area.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use a rich, moist to wet soil, generally acidic to neutral. Plant at the depth grown in the nursery pot, covering roots without burying the crown excessively. For aquatic plantings, follow the species or cultivar instructions for water depth rather than submerging foliage deeply.

FEEDING

Add compost if the garden soil is poor. Extra fertilizer is often unnecessary in fertile soil. If feeding is needed, use a light application at the labeled rate. Avoid fertilizer runoff into ponds and streams.

SEASONAL CARE

Remove faded flower stalks to limit seed if desired, or leave seed pods for a naturalistic planting. Keep green leaves through summer. Remove dead foliage after dormancy. Divide established, crowded clumps as needed and prevent divisions from drying during replanting.

HELPFUL TIPS

Rhizomes can gradually form colonies, so monitor edges near smaller plants. Blue flag care differs from Japanese iris winter drainage requirements and from dry-soil bearded iris care. All parts should be treated as poisonous if eaten; wear gloves when dividing and keep away from pets.