



West Tennessee Iris Society Growing Beardless Irises

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With the sole exception of Spuria irises, all beardless irises prefer normal to moist soil. Only a few species irises actually require boggy soil to thrive.

- **Siberian** ... Graceful, late April blooms. Leaves resemble grass and turn reddish in fall. Resent dividing, but only need it every 15 years or so.
- **Louisiana** hybrids ... Large, early May blooms. Created by crossing 6 native species. Easy garden plants that may go dormant in summer drought but will return with fall rains. Irrigation will keep them green all summer. They do not clump, but run.
- **Japanese** ... Very large, late May blooms. Plant 4 inches deep. When rhizome comes to surface, it's time to divide.
- **Species** ... Versicolor, Virginica, Pseudacorus, etc. ... These are the "swamp" irises and do best in consistently moist locations.

As such, these are very different from bearded irises.

- These prefer acid soil. Never apply lime.
- While sun is necessary for bloom, afternoon shade is a plus. Best under deciduous trees.
- Moisture is always a plus. Good for bottom of slope and/or irrigation.
- Always mulch. Ensure no sun hits rhizomes.

Beardless irises also require periodic division in September or October, but not nearly as frequently.

However, when dividing, it is essential to keep roots moist at all times. Never let them dry out. Re-plant ASAP.