

Iris germanica Bearded Iris

Iris germanica (Bearded Iris), also called German Bearded Iris, is the 'father' of most modern bearded Iris cultivars. Named for the Greek goddess of the rainbow, thousands of cultivars in a wide array of colors are available. Much variety exists, but in general the plants grow 2-3' tall with sword-shaped linear leaves and large, usually fragrant blooms on stalks that branch below their mid points. Each stalk typically contains up to 6 flowers in May and June. Vertical, sword-shaped leaves are mostly basal. In late summer, plump seed pods form at the end of each flowering stalk that turn a rich brown and remain upright until heavy snows. Unlike most cultivars, Iris germanica has no bulb. It instead spreads by creeping rhizomes that lead to large clumps over time. Bearded Iris is more tolerant of dry conditions than Siberian Iris varieties. Attracts butterflies and is a common cut flower.

Botanical Name: Iris germanica

Common Name: Bearded Iris

Family: Iridaceae

Nativity: Not Native to US

USDA Zone: 3 to 10

Light Type: Full Sun

Soil Type: Loam

Soil Preferences: Rich moist soil

Soil Moisture: Moist

Typical height (ft): 2-3'

Typical width (ft): 1-2'

Foliage: Medium Green

Bloom Time: May to June

Bloom: Purple, Blue

Ecological features: Floral resources attract some bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds

Tolerance of: Deer, drought, salt

Additional notes: Sword-like foliage and robust, fragrant blooms; mostly found as a cultivated variety in nearly any color; spreads via rhizomes into large clumps; divide plants immediately after flowering when overcrowding occurs (every 3-4 years).

Companion plants: Allium, Lupine, Delphinium, Baptisia, Salvia, Shasta Daisies (*Leucanthemum × superbum*), Coneflower (*Echinacea* spp.), Lilies, and ornamental Grasses

For more information see:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=f471>

<https://www.gardenia.net/plant-variety/iris-germanica-bearded-iris>

<https://www.americanmeadows.com/perennials/iris/bearded-iris>

<https://www.americanmeadows.com/perennials/iris/bearded-iris/best-companion-plants-for-bearded-iris>

Images of Iris germanica



Iris germanica11.jpg

Flower



Clonal colony of *Iris germanica*.jpg
Foliage and clonal growth



*Iris germanica*12.jpg
Plant form



*Iris germanica*_1.jpg
Blooms with different colors



Iris germanica_2.jpg

Winter interest with seed heads

Image choices for narrative:

Iris germanica12.jpg - Plant form & flower

Clonal colony of Iris germanica.jpg - Foliage and clonal growth