

Bearded Iris Care

7-2-2021

When to Divide

- Divide in July and August, plant before end of Sept. OK to wait days or even weeks before planting, but sooner is better so roots establish before winter.
- Divide every 3 to 5 yrs. Overcrowded iris will stop blooming.

How to Divide

- Carefully dig up rhizomes with a small spade or pitchfork (being careful not to stab the rhizomes)
- Break the rhizomes apart and remove damaged or rotted pieces and the section of rhizome that bloomed in the past (a rhizome will not rebloom).

How to Plant Rhizomes

- Iris prefer fertile, neutral to slightly acidic soil, but they do well here in our alkaline soil
- Place some bone meal or triple super phosphate under the rhizome (helps roots establish)
- Plant rhizomes in a triangle (3) with the “toes” in and the “heels” (the end the leaves grow from) out, so that as they spread they will spread outward away from the toes.
- Place rhizomes 12 to 14 inches apart; roots can be trimmed first
- Plant about an inch below the top of the soil; if you plant deeper they will make their way to the surface of the soil if they don't rot first
- You can trim the leaves to about 6 inches (helps keep newly planted rhizomes from falling over)

Fertilizing

- Fertilize in February or March with a balanced fertilizer like 5-5-5, 5-10-10 or 10-10-10.