

Iris: Kinds and Care

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Kinds of Iris: Bearded

- ◉ Miniature Dwarf Bearded – 6”/April
- ◉ Standard Dwarf Bearded -12”/April
- ◉ Miniature Tall Bearded -18”/May
- ◉ Aril & Arilbred – 18”/May
- ◉ Border Bearded – 22”/May
- ◉ Intermediate Bearded – 24”/May
- ◉ Tall Bearded – 24+”/May

Kinds of Iris: Beardless

- ◉ Siberian – 24''/May
- ◉ Spuria – 36''/June
- ◉ Louisiana – 27''/June
- ◉ Japanese – 24''/June-July
- ◉ Bulbous – Various/April
- ◉ Pseudata – 24''/June
- ◉ Species and Species Cross – 36''/June
- ◉ Pardancanda – 36''/July-August
- ◉ Exotics (Pacific Coast, African, etc.)

Bearded Iris



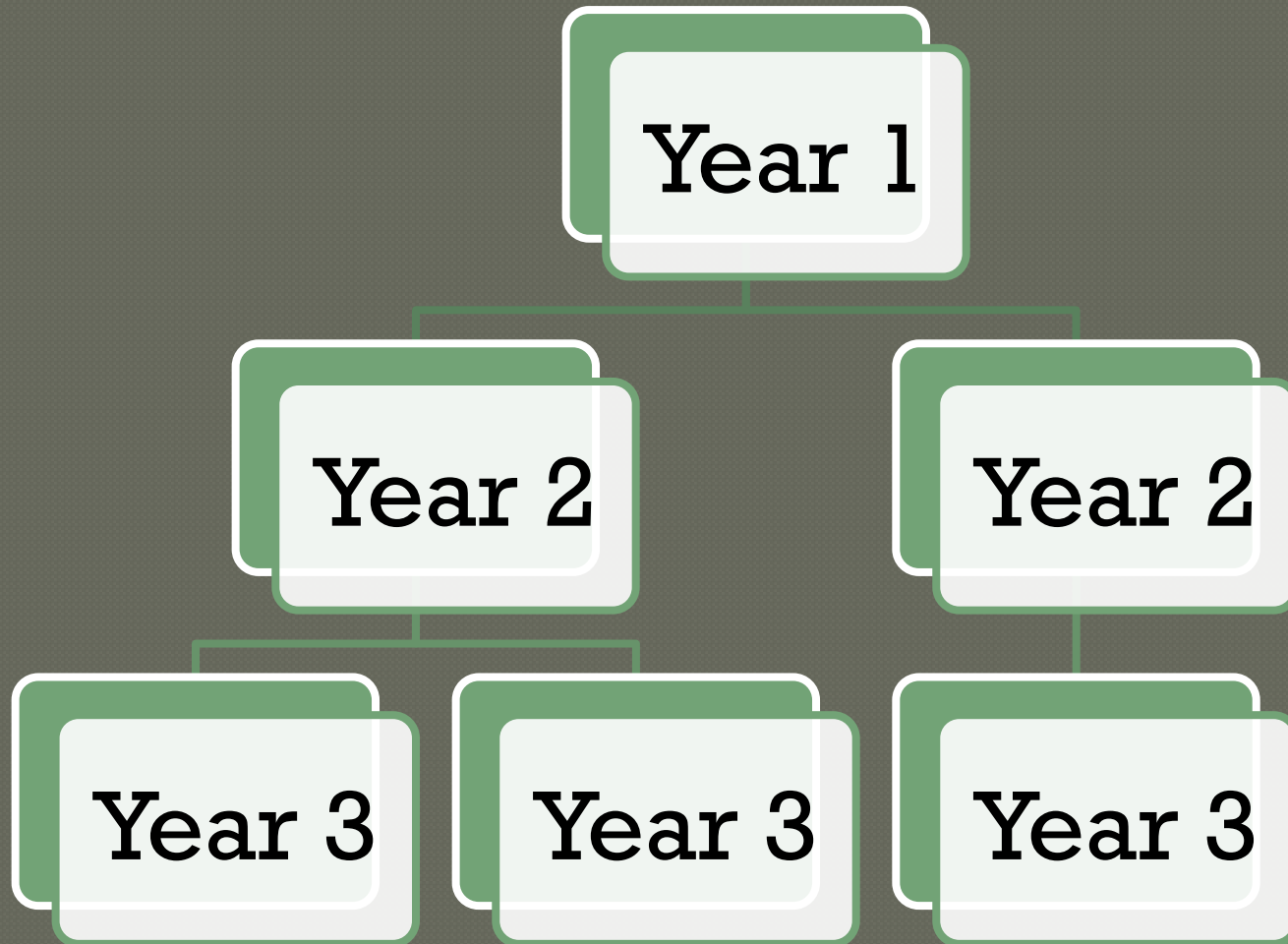
Caring for Bearded Iris

- Soil – add humus, mound if you can.
- PH – shoot for 6.5
- Fertilizer – 4-12-12 (ish); three times a season
- Pesticides – do something about borers; use Merit or Monterey Garden Insect Spray
- Moles and Voles
- Fungicides – do something about brown spot
- Dividing – In fall; see next slide
- Frost heave can be a problem. Solutions?

Dividing Bearded Iris

- Once every 5-7 years or when bloom decreases
- Understanding how iris grow and bloom
- Save only new divisions
- Dig the whole thing up, divide, soak what you keep in 1/9 bleach solution, dry and replant
- What you don't replant will last until frost (it won't look good, but...), but try to get in the ground 6 weeks before first frost

How to Divide Made Simple



A Note on Arilbreds

- ◉ Culture like Bearded, but need better drainage!
- ◉ Exotic colors
- ◉ True Arils should be avoided here



Siberian Iris



Caring for Siberian Iris

- Soil – add humus and lots of peat moss.
- PH – shoot for acidic soil
- Fertilizer – 12-12-12 (ish); three times a season (I use orchid stakes)
- Pesticides – do something about borers; use Merit or Monterey Garden Insect Spray
- Moles and Voles (less susceptible)
- Water! Water! Water! (did I mention water?)
- Love mulch, but not on crown!
- Dividing – dig up; cut up with pruning saw or an old chain saw!); keep wet. March or September (ish)

Spuria Iris



Caring for Spuria Iris

- ◉ Soil – add lots of humus.
- ◉ PH – shoot for alkaline
- ◉ Fertilizer – 4-12-12 (ish); 3-5 times a season
- ◉ Pesticides – do something about borers; use Merit or Monterey Garden Insect Spray
- ◉ Moles and Voles (more susceptible)
- ◉ Like it dry after bloom
- ◉ Bury deep at planting
- ◉ Dividing – just don't do it. If you must, dig in fall and keep them wet!

Louisiana Iris



Caring for Louisianans

- Soil – add lots of humus and peat moss.
- PH – shoot for acidic
- Fertilizer – drench more or less continuously with Miracid ® until bloom and then twice more in a season. Dump your extra coffee here!
- Pesticides – do something about borers; use Merit or Monterey Garden Insect Spray
- Voles think this is the tastiest thing on the planet!
- Like it wet, so water and mulch
- Bury deep at planting
- Dividing – fall; must be kept wet during replanting

Japanese Iris



Caring for Japanese Iris

- Soil – plant in clay pots in african violet soil
- PH – shoot for acidic
- Fertilizer – drench more or less continuously with Miracid ®. Dump your extra coffee here!
- Pesticides – do something about borers; use Merit or Monterey Garden Insect Spray
- Like it wet, so water and mulch
- Wintering – put in hole, pot and all and cover
- Annual care – repot every year
- Dividing – I kill these things, so don't ask...

Species and Species Cross



Species and Species Cross Care

- Soil – they don't care, but humus is always good
- PH – they don't care
- Fertilizer – it's nice, but not necessary
- Pesticides – do something about borers; use Merit or Monterey Garden Insect Spray; borers love these things!
- Like it wet, so water and mulch
- Dividing – whenever, but you must keep wet when dividing and after

Blackberry Lily, Iris Dichotoma, & Pardancanda



Blackberry Lily, Iris Dichotoma, & Pardancanda

- ◉ Soil: Well drained soils with sand and humus.
- ◉ PH – they don't care
- ◉ Fertilizer – yes, please!
- ◉ Pesticide – unknown
- ◉ Like it medium, but are drought tolerant after first year
- ◉ Dividing – spring

Lots of other kinds of Iris out there!

- ◉ Pseudatas
- ◉ Bulbous Iris
- ◉ Pacific Coast Iris
- ◉ Japanese Roof Iris
- ◉ African Iris
- ◉ Etc.
- ◉ Have fun!



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◉ Thanks!

◉ Questions?