

# Bearded Iris

*Iris germanica*

## QUICK FACTS

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USDA ZONES

**3–9**

SUNLIGHT

**Full Sun**

BLOOM

**Spring**

HEIGHT

**2–3 ft**

DEER

**Resistant**

POLLINATORS

**Yes**

## AT A GLANCE

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Two things account for most bearded iris failures. First, planting the rhizome too deep -- it must sit at or slightly above soil level with the top visible, because the rhizome needs sun to mature. Second, iris borer -- the most damaging pest in eastern North American iris gardens. Knowing the borer's life cycle and taking action in spring (before larvae burrow into the rhizome) is the difference between a healthy iris bed and a collection of rotted stumps.

## PLANTING CHECKLIST

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- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1–2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

## FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/plants/iris-care/>