

TIPS ON GROWING DUTCH IRIS FOR CUT FLOWERS:

1. WHEN TO PLANT

Plant your iris bulbs in autumn when the soil temperature is below 60° F. Generally speaking, they can be planted once the soil temperatures have cooled down. Here in Western Washington, mid-late October is the usual time for planting daffodils and Dutch iris. Do not try to plant if the soil is saturated with water. Try to plant prior to the chance of night frost.

2. STORAGE

Please open the box immediately upon arrival. Bulbs need to breathe air just like we do! If you are not going to plant them immediately, store them in a dry place with plenty of air circulation, with ideal temperatures of 40-65°F. An unheated garage is a good example. Make sure to plant the bulbs before the ground freezes.

3. HOW TO PLANT

Plant Iris 4-6" deep and 4-6" apart in well-drained soil in full sun. Add 3-4" of soil on top of the bulb and a little extra if you are planting in a location that is susceptible to frost.

Choose a spot that is mostly sunny or has only light shade. Also make sure that the location has fairly good drainage and does not tend to get waterlogged. If you have heavier soils, such as wet clay, planting the bulbs in raised beds or hills will help improve drainage.

4. AFTER-SEASON CARE

Dutch Iris, when used for cut flowers, is essentially a one-year crop. Bulbs that remain in the ground *might* flower the following year, but they will have a much greater chance at being diseased and the quality will be much worse than the freshly planted bulbs.