



I. 'Black Gamecock'



I. x pseudata 'Aichi no Kagayaki'



I. x pseudata 'Okagami'



I. brevicaulis



I. cristata

Iris for the Home Gardener *A Rainbow of Colors in Many Shapes and Sizes*

Bob Lyons

FEW PLANTS HAVE AS MUCH HISTORY and affection among gardeners than iris. In Greek mythology, *Iris* is the personification of the rainbow and messenger of the Gods, and indeed, *Iris* appear in many magical colors—a large and diverse genus. Some have large showy flowers, others more understated; some grow in clumps, others spread; some prefer it dry, others are more partial to moist, even wet conditions; and some grow from bulbs, while others return each year from rhizomes just beneath the soil surface. How does one tell them apart and make the right choice for a home garden? Fortunately, horticulturists and iris enthusiasts have developed a system of organization to make sense out of the vast world of irises. Three groups that account for more than 75% of the commercial iris market today are the Bearded Iris, Siberian Iris, and Japanese Iris. Each group recognizes the best of the best with prestigious national awards, noted in the descriptions that follow. The Dykes Medal is awarded to the finest iris of any class. More iris plants are described in the “Plant Descriptions: Perennial” section.

Latin Name	Common Name	Mature Size	Light	Soil	Pot Size	Price
<i>Iris</i> 'Black Gamecock'	Louisiana Iris	2–3	☉	☁	1 g	\$14
Late; stunning blue black, velvet-colored flowers; hummingbird haven; can grow in 4 inches of standing water; DeBailon Medal.						
<i>Iris</i> x <i>pseudata</i> 'Aichi no Kagayaki'	Iris Hybrid	2	☉	☁	1 g	\$14
Early; cultivar name means 'bright inspiration'; hummingbirds love; standards light yellow, fall darker yellow, dark yellow signal; sterile.						
<i>Iris</i> x <i>pseudata</i> 'Okagami'	Iris Hybrid	3.5	☉	☁	1 g	\$14
Mid season; 5-inch white standards with purple blush, white fall with wine splotch, cream yellow style arm; foliage bright chartreuse foliage; Honorable Mention, Award of Merit.						
<i>Iris brevicaulis</i> Zigzag Iris		1	☉	☁	1 g	\$18
Mid season; uncommon native; large, deep blue-lavender flowers with yellow crested falls; great choice for rain garden. N						
<i>Iris cristata</i> Dwarf Crested Iris		.5–.75	☉	☁	qt	\$7
Very early; pale blue with gold-crested falls; groundcover; south and eastern U.S. N						
<i>Iris ensata</i> 'Angelic Choir'	Japanese Iris	3.5	☉	☁	1 g	\$14
Mid season; multiple white styles and falls, lemon yellow signal; Award of Merit, Honorable Mention.						
<i>Iris ensata</i> 'Cascade Crest'	Japanese Iris	4	☉	☁	1 g	\$14
Mid season–late; double, sanded pastel blue falls with light blue band, white style arms edged dark blue; Payne medal.						
<i>Iris ensata</i> 'Japanese Plum'	Japanese Iris	3	☉	☁	1 g	\$14
Mid season–late; falls rich velvety plum red, signals bright golden yellow, style arms plum red.						
<i>Iris ensata</i> 'Little Bow Pink'	Japanese Iris	3.25	☉	☁	1 g	\$14
Early–mid season; pink falls with yellow signal, standards upright; Payne Award.						
<i>Iris ensata</i> 'Picotee Princess'	Japanese Iris	3–4	☉	☁	1 g	\$14
Mid season–late; ruffled white, sanded violet blue, darker edges, signal yellow; Payne Award.						
<i>Iris fulva</i> Copper Iris		1.5–2	☉	☁	qt	\$9
Early–late; 3–4 inch wide terracotta flowers; wide soil tolerance, does well in wet, clay soils.						
<i>Iris germanica</i> 'Conjunction'	Tall Bearded Iris	3	☉	☁	1 g	\$9
Mid season–late; milk-white standards edged pale violet, falls white with violet edge, white beard tipped tangerine; AIS Dykes Medal, Wister Medal.						



I. ensata 'Angelic Choir'



I. ensata 'Cascade Crest'



I. ensata 'Japanese Plum'



I. ensata 'Little Bow Pink'



I. ensata 'Picotee Princess'



I. fulva



I. sibirica 'Banish Misfortune'



I. sibirica 'Caesar's Brother'



I. tectorum 'Ikeda Sunbeam'



I. germanica 'Conjuration'



I. sibirica 'Butter and Sugar'



I. sibirica 'Kiss the Girl'



I. tectorum 'Wolong'



I. germanica 'Static Electricity'



I. germanica 'Thornbird'



I. germanica 'Victoria Falls'

Latin Name	Common Name	Mature Size	Light	Soil	Pot Size	Price
<i>Iris germanica</i> 'Static Electricity'	Tall Bearded Iris	3	☉ ☿ ☿		1 g	\$9
Early-late; slightly ruffled; ecru standards, fall tan with red violet, yellow starburst; slight spicy fragrance.						
<i>Iris germanica</i> 'Thornbird'	Tall Bearded Iris	3	☉ ☿ ☿		1 g	\$9
Mid season; lightly ruffled; tan falls highlighted by violet lines, violet beard tipped yellow; slight sweet fragrance; AIS Dykes Medal, Wister Medal.						
<i>Iris germanica</i> 'Victoria Falls'	Tall Bearded Iris	3.5	☉ ☿ ☿		1 g	\$9
Early-late; ruffled sea blue standards and falls with white center spot, white beard; vigorous; AIS Dykes Medal.						
<i>Iris henryi</i> Clone #1		1.5	☉ ☿ ☿		qt	\$18
Early-mid season; dense, evergreen grassy foliage; 1-inch pale lavender flowers with small yellow signal; clone introduced by Darrell Probst. <i>Limited quantity.</i>						
<i>Iris sibirica</i> 'Banish Misfortune'	Siberian Iris	4.25	☉ ☿ ☿ ☿		1 g	\$14
Early-late; bluebird blue standards veined dark, style arms light, falls lobelia blue, gold signal; slight fragrance; Morgan-Wood Award.						
<i>Iris sibirica</i> 'Butter and Sugar'	Siberian Iris	2.25	☉ ☿ ☿ ☿		2 g	\$18
Mid season; standards white, falls butter yellow with veins; showy; Morgan-Wood Award.						
<i>Iris sibirica</i> 'Caesar's Brother'	Siberian Iris	3.5	☉ ☿ ☿ ☿		1 g	\$14
Mid season; deep velvet purple standard and falls; tough plant; Morgan-Wood Award.						
<i>Iris sibirica</i> 'Kiss the Girl'	Siberian Iris	2.5	☉ ☿ ☿ ☿		1 g	\$14
Mid season; standards light yellow; style arms pale yellow with dark tips; falls bright yellow; slight sweet fragrance.						
<i>Iris tectorum</i> 'Ikeda Sunbeam'	Japanese Roof Iris	1.5	☉ ☿ ☿ ☿		1 g	\$14
Mid season; 1.5 inch light lavender flowers; 10-inch long, heavily striped white and green leaves; plantsman Barry Yinger introduction.						
<i>Iris tectorum</i> 'Wolong'	Japanese Roof Iris	1.5	☉ ☿ ☿ ☿		1 g	\$14
Early; fans of narrow, lance-shaped leaves; rich lavender flowers, dark purple specks.						
<i>Iris unguicularis</i> Algerian Winter Iris		1.5	☉ ☿ ☿ ☿		1 g	\$14
Late fall-early spring; fragrant, light lavender standards with white and deep yellow at base; needs good drainage; evergreen leaves; Zone 7, requires protection.						
<i>Iris versicolor</i> Northern Blue Flag		.75-2.75	☉ ☿ ☿ ☿		2 g	\$18
Early-mid season; violet blue flowers with bold purple veining, falls with yellow blotch; marginal aquatic; eastern U.S. native. N						



I. unguicularis



I. unguicularis fruit



I. versicolor