“Favorite Plants & Flowers of the Chesapeake Master Gardeners”

Tall Bearded Reblooming Iris by Kathy King

Latin name: *Iris germanica*
Cultivar: ‘Frances Iva’
Family: Iridaceae

Full sun Height 30 to 37" Zone 6-10

The iris pictured here is 'Francis Iva', it is the first to bloom in April and the last to rebloom in October. This year it surprised me again when it shot up a bloom stalk on June 9th. Isn't it gorgeous?

Anyone that knows me knows that I LOVE tall bearded iris...especially reblooming iris that bloom in April/May and again in September/October! We currently have over 28 varieties in our yard. Each fall I divide them and pot them for our annual Master Gardener Plant Sale (usually the last weekend in April).

Iris are easy to grow if you keep in mind a few things.
1 - They need full sun; the flowers will be spindly and not as colorful if they don't have enough sun.
2 - They do not like wet feet. The rhizomes should be planted with no more than half of it covered by soil. In our gardens I make a mound about 10" high and place the rhizome on it with the roots spread out around the side of the mound. Then I cover the roots with soil and apply mulch around the root area.
3 - Remove the flower stalk when all the blooms have died. If you don't the plant will try to make seeds, which takes a lot of the energy out of the rhizome. In the late fall I cut all the leaves down to about 8", then remove all the dead plant matter from the surrounding flowers.

Iris propagate by rhizomes. The rhizome that has a flower stalk this year will have several rhizomes budding off it by next year.

Photo by Kathy King
Reference: Missouribotanticalgardens.org August 2020