

## QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	4 to 9.
PLANT TYPE	Perennial.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 18 inches apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 12-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	<p><b>Geisha Girl:</b> 30 inches tall with a 24 to 30 inch spread.</p> <p><b>Gracieuse:</b> 32 to 36 inches tall with an 18 to 30 inch spread.</p> <p><b>Temple Bells:</b> 24 to 30 inches tall with an 18 to 30 inch spread.</p>
BLOOM TIME	Early to midsummer.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	12 to 24 months.
FACTS OF NOTE	<p>Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.</p> <p>Deer and rabbit resistant.</p> <p>Thrives in moist soil.</p>



*Thank you for your order.*

Your satisfaction is of primary concern to us. Please use the following resources for questions regarding your order:

- [www.CottageFarmsDirect.com](http://www.CottageFarmsDirect.com)
- [CottageFarmsDirect.com/Planting Guides](http://CottageFarmsDirect.com/Planting%20Guides)
- [CottageFarmsDirect.com/FAQ](http://CottageFarmsDirect.com/FAQ)
- [Help@CottageFarmsDirect.com](mailto:Help@CottageFarmsDirect.com)
- [facebook.com/CottageFarms](https://facebook.com/CottageFarms)
- [@CottageFarms](https://twitter.com/CottageFarms)
- [888-593-3644](tel:888-593-3644)
- 9960 Padgett Switch Rd.  
Irvington, Alabama 36544

### Cottage Farms' Guarantee

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. Cottage Farms warrants its perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, Cottage Farms will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will ship the following shipping season.

**Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of a plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.**

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effects. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

**In case of ingestion contact a poison control center immediately.**  
1-800-222-1222

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**Cottage Farms Direct**  
PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE

JAPANESE IRIS

\*Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.

## OUT OF THE BOX

### JAPANESE IRIS

Your plants have been shipped to you in bare root form. Please remove the plants from the packaging right away and plant them as soon as possible following the planting instructions below. If it is not possible to plant them right away, follow these important steps.

1. Place the plants in a cool, dark place such as a refrigerator, unheated garage or basement.
2. Keep the roots moist by using a spray bottle to mist them.

**Note:** Occasionally, bare root plants may arrive with a small amount of mold on them. This is caused by temperature changes encountered in shipping and does not harm the plant. As long as the bare root divisions are firm, simply wipe any mold off with a paper towel and plant them.



## SOIL PREPARATION

We recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office ([www.nifa.usda.gov/extension](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/extension) or by calling 1-800-333-4636). A soil test can determine if your soil needs any amendments to enhance the growth and performance of your plants.

Ideal garden soil is easy to dig in and drains well while still holding the nutrients and water vital to plant growth. To prepare a bed for in-ground planting, spade or till the soil to a depth of roughly 12-18 inches. Next, spread a 2-4 inch layer of organic matter such as compost, shredded leaves or peat moss over the soil and mix well.

## PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Dig a hole at least twice as deep and twice as wide as each bare root division. Place a mound of soil in the bottom of each hole and carefully spread the dormant bare roots over the mound. Cover completely with 1-2 inches of soil, firming the soil around the roots. Water thoroughly.

## CONTINUING CARE

Japanese irises grow best in moist soil and should be watered regularly. Adequate and consistent watering is essential during your plant's first year in the garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil are more effective than frequent, light applications of water.

Due to variable geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is difficult to define. However, as a rule of thumb, you should not allow the soil or the original root ball to completely dry out. During the first summer, you may need to water as often as every few days in periods of drought and extreme summer heat. To determine if your plant needs water, dig a few inches into the soil next to the plant. If the soil is dry 2-3 inches below the surface, it is time to water.

Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant has adequate drainage to move water away from the plant. If you choose to plant in a container, always select one with drainage holes to prevent your plant's roots from sitting in water.

Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic matter around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures and discourage weed growth. Replenish the mulch as needed.

Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Weeds compete with surrounding plants for food, water and light. Walk around the garden periodically and pull weeds, including the roots, as soon as you see them.

## CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

### FEEDING

Feed your plants once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water-soluble fertilizer. Discontinue feeding after September 1st so your plants can harden off for winter dormancy. Resume fertilizing when new growth appears in spring.

### PRUNING

Trim any dead or damaged growth to maintain an attractive appearance. Remove spent flowers when blooms have faded, leaving as much foliage as possible. After the foliage has died back in late fall, cut each plant down to ground level.

### DIVIDING

Dividing irises once every 3-4 years encourages them to grow and bloom more vigorously and prevents overcrowding. The best time to divide Japanese irises is early spring. Begin by digging up the clump and rinsing off any excess soil. Divide the rhizomes by gently breaking apart the root structure with a shovel or garden fork. Once the rhizomes have been divided, cut the foliage back to 8-10 inches and prune off any dead or damaged roots. Re-plant the divisions and water well.

### WINTERIZING

Watering thoroughly in late fall will greatly enhance your plant's cold tolerance once the ground has frozen.

Japanese irises are winter hardy, but will benefit from mulching in very cold areas. The time to winterize your plants is in late fall. When winterizing perennials, keep in mind that the root system is the most vulnerable to cold damage. Mulch heavily by mounding a 6-8 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic material over the crown of each plant.

In very cold areas, containerized plants can be brought into an unheated, protected area such as a garage or cellar before temperatures drop below freezing. Check soil moisture every 2-3 weeks and water as needed during winter.

In spring, remove mulch from in-ground plantings. Containerized plants should be moved back out into the garden sunlight where they will begin to repeat their yearly garden performance.