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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Mature Size</th>
<th>Light</th>
<th>Soil</th>
<th>Pot Size</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iris 'Black Gamecock'</td>
<td>Louisiana Iris</td>
<td>2–3</td>
<td>☀️☀️</td>
<td>☍️</td>
<td>1 g</td>
<td>$14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris ×pseudata 'Aichi no Kagayaki'</td>
<td>Iris Hybrid</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>☀️☀️</td>
<td>☍️</td>
<td>1 g</td>
<td>$14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris ×pseudata 'Okagami'</td>
<td>Iris Hybrid</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>☀️☀️</td>
<td>☍️</td>
<td>1 g</td>
<td>$14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris brevicaulis</td>
<td>Zigzag Iris</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>☀️☀️</td>
<td>☍️</td>
<td>1 g</td>
<td>$18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris cristata</td>
<td>Dwarf Crested Iris</td>
<td>5–7.5</td>
<td>☀️☀️</td>
<td>☍️</td>
<td>qt</td>
<td>$7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris ensata</td>
<td>'Angelic Choir'</td>
<td>Japanese Iris</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>☀️☀️</td>
<td>1 g</td>
<td>$14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iris ensata</td>
<td>'Cascade Crest'</td>
<td>Japanese Iris</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>☀️☀️</td>
<td>1 g</td>
<td>$14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris ensata</td>
<td>'Japanese Plum'</td>
<td>Japanese Iris</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>☀️☀️</td>
<td>1 g</td>
<td>$14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iris ensata</td>
<td>'Little Bow Pink'</td>
<td>Japanese Iris</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>☀️☀️</td>
<td>1 g</td>
<td>$14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris ensata</td>
<td>'Picotee Princess'</td>
<td>Japanese Iris</td>
<td>3–4</td>
<td>☀️☀️</td>
<td>1 g</td>
<td>$14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iris fulva</td>
<td>Copper Iris</td>
<td>1.5–2</td>
<td>☀️☀️</td>
<td>☍️</td>
<td>qt</td>
<td>$9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris germanica</td>
<td>'Conjunction'</td>
<td>Tall Bearded Iris</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>☀️☀️</td>
<td>1 g</td>
<td>$9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**I. germanica**

### 'Static Electricity'
- **Mature Size**: 3
- **Light**: 3
- **Soil**: 6
- **Pot Size**: d1 g
- **Price**: $9

- Tall Bearded Iris
- Early–late; slightly ruffled; ecru standards, fall tan with red violet, yellow starburst; slight spicy fragrance.

### 'Thornbird'
- **Mature Size**: 3.5
- **Light**: 3
- **Soil**: 6
- **Pot Size**: d1 g
- **Price**: $9

- Mid season; lightly ruffled; tan falls highlighted by violet lines, violet beard tipped yellow; slight sweet fragrance; AIS Dykes Medal, Wister Medal.

### 'Victoria Falls'
- **Mature Size**: 3.5
- **Light**: 3
- **Soil**: 6
- **Pot Size**: d1 g
- **Price**: $9

- Early–late; ruffled sea blue standards and falls with white center spot, white beard; vigorous; AIS Dykes Medal.

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**I. sibirica**

### 'Banish Misfortune'
- **Mature Size**: 4.25
- **Light**: 3
- **Soil**: 6
- **Pot Size**: d2 g
- **Price**: $14

- Siberian Iris
- Early–late; bluebird blue standards veined dark, style arms light, falls lobelia blue, gold signal; slight fragrance; Morgan-Wood Award.

### 'Butter and Sugar'
- **Mature Size**: 2.25
- **Light**: 3
- **Soil**: 6
- **Pot Size**: d2 g
- **Price**: $18

- Mid season; standards white, falls butter yellow with veins; showy; Morgan-Wood Award.

### 'Caesar’s Brother'
- **Mature Size**: 3.5
- **Light**: 3
- **Soil**: 6
- **Pot Size**: d1 g
- **Price**: $14

- Mid season; deep velvet purple standard and falls; tough plant; Morgan-Wood Award.

### 'Kiss the Girl'
- **Mature Size**: 2.5
- **Light**: 3
- **Soil**: 6
- **Pot Size**: d1 g
- **Price**: $14

- Mid season; standards light yellow; style arms pale yellow with dark tips; falls bright yellow; slight sweet fragrance.

### 'Wolong'
- **Mature Size**: 1.5
- **Light**: 3
- **Soil**: 6
- **Pot Size**: d1 g
- **Price**: $14

- Early; fans of narrow, lance-shaped leaves; rich lavender flowers, dark purple specks.

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**I. tectorum**

### 'Ikeda Sunbeam'
- **Mature Size**: 1.5
- **Light**: 3
- **Soil**: 6
- **Pot Size**: g1 g
- **Price**: $14

- Japanese Roof Iris
- Mid season; 1.5 inch light lavender flowers; 10-inch long, heavily striped white and green leaves; plantsman Barry Yinger introduction.

### 'Wolong'
- **Mature Size**: 1.5
- **Light**: 3
- **Soil**: 6
- **Pot Size**: g1 g
- **Price**: $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.

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**I. unguicularis**

### Algerian Winter Iris
- **Mature Size**: 1.5
- **Light**: 3
- **Soil**: 6
- **Pot Size**: g1 g
- **Price**: $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.

### Northern Blue Flag
- **Mature Size**: .75–2.75
- **Light**: 3
- **Soil**: 6
- **Pot Size**: g2 g
- **Price**: $18

- Early–mid season; violet blue flowers with bold purple veining, falls with yellow blotch; marginal aquatic; eastern U.S. native.