

***Iris Fulva* 'Louisiana Hybrids' Louisiana Iris¹**

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Introduction

Louisiana iris hybrids (also *Iris breuicaulis*, *Iris giganteaerulea*) have dark green, sword-like leaves and rhizomatous roots (Fig. 1). They grow 2 to 4 feet tall and bear 3- to 4-inch-long flowers of white, cream, yellow, bronze, pink, red, blue, purple, or near black. These spring flowers are often cut for flower arrangements. Louisiana iris hybrids are clumping, spreading or upright perennials that can be used as background or specimen plants. They are also useful in a mass planting.

General Information

Scientific name: *Iris fulva* Louisiana hybrids

Pronunciation: EYE-riss FULL-vuh

Common name(s): Louisiana iris

Family: *Iridaceae*

Plant type: herbaceous; ground cover

USDA hardiness zones: 6 through 10 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: year round

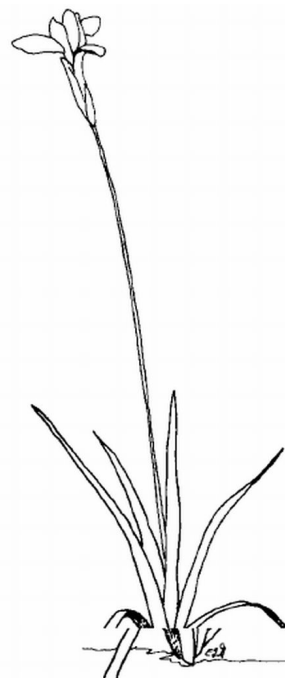


Figure 1. Louisiana iris

Planting month for zone 8: year round

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10: year round

1. This document is FPS-286, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original publication date October 1, 1999; reviewed May, 2007. Visit the EDIS Web Site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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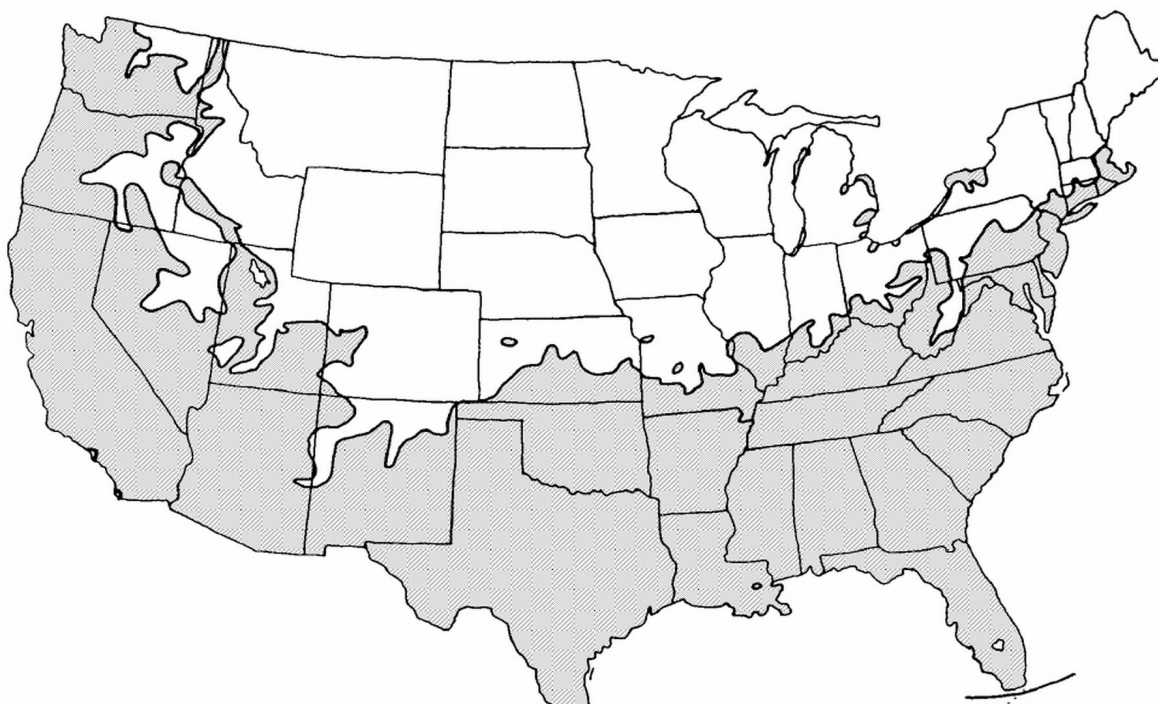


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Origin: native to Florida

Uses: border; mass planting; ground cover; edging

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

Leaf shape: linear

Leaf venation: parallel

Leaf type and persistence: semi-evergreen; evergreen

Description

Height: 2 to 3 feet

Spread: 2 to 3 feet

Plant habit: upright

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: coarse

Leaf blade length: 12 to 18 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: white; red; yellow; pink; purple; cream; bronze; blue; near black

Flower characteristic: spring flowering

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: most emerge from the soil, usually without a stem

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Fruit

Fruit shape: unknown

Fruit length: unknown

Fruit cover: unknown

Fruit color: unknown

Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable

Current year stem/twig color: not applicable

Current year stem/twig thickness: not applicable

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun

Soil tolerances: acidic; sand; loam; clay

Drought tolerance: high

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Louisiana iris hybrids grow best in a full sun to partially shaded location in the landscape. They require an acid soil in the range of 5.5 to 6.5 and prefer moist soils with high organic matter content. They will grow in a sandy soil that receives some irrigation in prolonged dry spells. These hybrids are tolerant to drought but will also endure wet soils. These plants are frozen to the ground in freezing temperatures but will regenerate from the roots with the onset of warm weather.

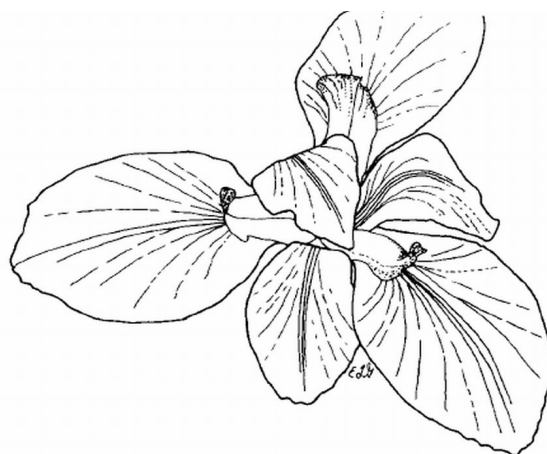


Figure 3. Flower of Louisiana iris

Propagate these hybrids by division or from seed.

Pests and Diseases

Louisiana iris hybrids are pest tolerant.