Iris

Grade #1 Bare Root

Container:
Premium 1 Gallon Pot

Finish:
6-8

When To Plant:
Late summer to early fall

Growing Temperature:

45-55° F

EC Level:

1.0-1.5 pour through method

Pests and Diseases:

Crown and root rot (Sclerotium), leaf spot (Heterosporium,Didymellina), basil rot (Fusarium), rhizome rot (Rhizoctonia), rust (Puccinia), rhizome bacterial soft rot (Erwinia), foliar nematode (Aphelenchoides)

Moisture:

For potting soil use well-drained commercial planting media.

Avoid excessive moisture levels during the fall and winter.

Planting Level:

The top 25-50% of the rhizome should be above the soil line.

PGRs/Pinching:

If height control is necessary, drench applications of paclobutrazol (Bonzi, Paczol or Piccolo) at 6-10 ppm will provide satisfactory results.

Lighting:

Provide high light levels.

Soil pH:

6.0-7.0

Fertility:

Growers can apply water-soluble fertilizers using 100 ppm of nitrogen as needed or constant liquid fertilization at 50-75 ppm nitrogen with every irrigation. Controlled-release fertilizers can also be used to deliver nutrients by incorporating 0.75-1.0 pounds of elemental nitrogen per cubic yard of growing mix prior to potting.

Potting and Timing:

Root Trimming: Rhizomes are available bare root in late summer and in 3" plug form in spring. Generally, they do not need to be trimmed.

The top 25-50% of the rhizome needs to be exposed above the soil line. This is true for the home gardener as well as the grower. Rhizomes potted up in the fall have a better chance of blooming the next season than spring planted plugs.

For bare root rhizomes: Soak in a 10% bleach solution for 15-20 minutes upon arrival. Allow rhizomes to dry in a sunny area for two to three days before planting. Overwintering losses are often attributed to overwatering; water sparingly.

Grower Tips:

Keep plants at 40° F for as long as possible to keep them from flowering too early. Iris will flower in about 8 weeks when forced at 60-65° F. For best results grow in a well ventilated coldframe.

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