

All Night Long

Generic Iris Germanica 'All Night Long' Bearded Iris Planting and Care Manual

Model: All Night Long

INTRODUCTION

The Iris Germanica 'All Night Long' is a striking bearded iris variety known for its deep, rich black blooms. This perennial plant is easy to grow and care for, providing beautiful color to any garden. It typically grows to a height of 12-36 inches and thrives in well-drained soil with full sun exposure. Its elegant flowers can also be used in floral arrangements.



Image: A single, dark-petaled Iris Germanica 'All Night Long' flower.

SETUP: PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choosing a Location

Select a site that receives **full sun** (at least 6 hours of direct sunlight daily). While Iris Germanica can tolerate partial sun, full sun promotes the best blooming. Ensure the soil is **well-drained**. Irises do not thrive in soggy conditions, which can lead to rhizome rot.

2. Soil Preparation

Prepare the soil by loosening it to a depth of 12-15 inches. Amend heavy clay soils with organic matter like compost or peat moss to improve drainage. For sandy soils, organic matter will help retain moisture and nutrients. The ideal soil pH for irises is slightly acidic to neutral (6.0 to 7.0).

3. Planting the Rhizome

The best time for planting is in the **spring**. Dig a shallow hole, creating a small mound of soil in the center. Place the iris rhizome on top of the mound, spreading the roots down into the soil. The top of the rhizome should be **partially exposed** or just barely covered with soil. If planting multiple irises, space them 12-24 inches apart to allow for air circulation and growth.

- Unpack your potted iris carefully.
- Remove the plant from its pot, gently loosening any circling roots.
- Place the plant in the prepared hole, ensuring the top of the rhizome is at or just below the soil surface.
- Backfill with soil, firming gently around the plant.

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Video: "Dracula's Kiss Potted Bearded Iris - Jet Black Flowers" by Stargazer Perennials. This video demonstrates the appearance of a potted bearded iris and its potential blooms.

OPERATING: CARE AND MAINTENANCE

1. Watering

Water thoroughly after planting. Once established, irises are relatively drought-tolerant. Water regularly during dry periods, especially during bloom time, but avoid overwatering. Allow the soil to dry out between waterings.

2. Fertilizing

Apply a low-nitrogen fertilizer (e.g., 5-10-10 or 6-10-10) in early spring and again after blooming. Avoid high-nitrogen fertilizers, which can promote lush foliage at the expense of flowers and may encourage rhizome rot.

3. Deadheading and Pruning

Remove spent flower stalks by cutting them back to the base after blooming to prevent seed formation and encourage the plant to put energy into rhizome growth. Keep foliage intact until it yellows naturally in the fall, as it helps nourish the rhizome for the next season's blooms. In late fall, cut back yellowed or diseased foliage to about 6 inches to reduce overwintering pests and diseases.

4. Pest and Disease Management

Monitor for common iris pests like iris borers and diseases such as bacterial soft rot. Good air circulation, proper drainage, and sanitation (removing dead foliage) are key preventative measures. Treat specific issues with appropriate organic or chemical controls if necessary.

5. Division

Irises benefit from division every 3-5 years, typically in late summer to early fall, after blooming. This helps maintain vigor and flowering. Dig up the rhizomes, discard old or diseased sections, and replant healthy, younger rhizomes.

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Video: "Tips for Growing Iris in the Garden - Stargazer Perennials". This video provides general guidance on cultivating irises, including planting and care tips.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No Blooms	Too much shade, overcrowding, too much nitrogen fertilizer, newly planted rhizomes.	Ensure full sun exposure. Divide overcrowded clumps. Use low-nitrogen fertilizer. New plants may take a season to establish.
Yellowing Leaves	Overwatering, poor drainage, nutrient deficiency, natural aging.	Reduce watering, improve soil drainage. Check soil nutrients. Remove naturally yellowing leaves in fall.
Soft, Mushy Rhizomes	Bacterial soft rot, overwatering, poor drainage.	Remove and destroy affected rhizomes. Improve drainage. Avoid overwatering.
Holes in Leaves/Stems	Iris borers.	Inspect plants for larvae. Remove and destroy affected parts. Apply appropriate insecticide if infestation is severe.

SPECIFICATIONS

Brand: Generic

Model: All Night Long

Color: Black

Expected Blooming Period: Spring to early Summer (named 'All Night Long' for its dark color)

Sunlight Exposure: Full Sun

Unit Count: 1.0 Count (per bulb/root/plant)

Expected Planting Period: Spring

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3

UPC: 636266069842

Manufacturer: Mybulbs

Height: 12-36 inches (30-91 cm)

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For specific warranty information or support regarding your Iris Germanica 'All Night Long' plant, please refer to the seller's documentation or contact the manufacturer, Mybulbs, directly. General gardening advice can be found through reputable horticultural resources.