

# Growing Iris Outdoors in America

By Panayoti Kelaidis  
Denver Botanic Gardens

An extraordinary assortment of iris species are currently in cultivation. However, many (if not most) will not grow under conventional "border" conditions. At Denver Botanic Gardens, we have created microclimates that accommodate a wide variety of iris species. Our goal is to have them grow and look as natural as possible—much as they would in the wild. Species within each section seem to have similar needs.

## IRIS, SUBGENUS LIMNIRIS

### Section Limniris

(a) series Chinenses

Iris minutaurea (Photo by Paul Martin)

(b) series Vernae

I. verna 'Alba'

(c) series Ruthenicae

I. ruthenica

I. uniflora

(d) series Tripetalae

I. setosa var. canadensis

I. s. 'Alba'

(e) series Sibericae

I. sibirica

I. clarkei (photo by Paul Martin)

I. delavayi (photo by Paul Martin)

I. typhifolia (photo by Paul Martin)

I. forrestii

I. chrysographes

(f) series Californicae

I. tenax

I. gormanii

I. chrysophylla

I. douglasiana

(g) series Longipetalae

I. missouriensis

(h) series Laevigatae

I. ensata var. spontanea

(Formerly known as I. kaempferi)

I. ensata Higo cultivars at D.B.G.

I. virginica

I. pseudoacorus

I. x 'Holden Clough'

(i) series Hexagonae

I. brevicaule

I. fulva

(j) series Prismaticae

I. prismatica and I. p. 'Alba'

(k) series Spuriae

I. orientalis

I. spuria v. halophila

I. xanthospuria

I. spuria

I. ventricosa (Photo by Paul Martin)

I. sintenisii

I. sintenisii v. urumovii

(l) series Foetidissimae

I. foetidissima

(m) series Ensatae

I. lactea (striated form)

commonest 'plicata' form

dark purple, dwarf form

Section Lophiris ("evansia" or crested iris)

I. lacustris  
I. gracilipes  
I. japonica  
I. tenuis

IRIS, SUBGENUS IRIS

Section Iris

I. albertii  
I. pallida 'Rhaetica'  
I. chamaeiris  
I. lutescens  
I. pumila  
I. reichenbachii  
I. subbiflora  
I. schachtii

Section Pseudoregelia

I. kamaonensis  
I. goniocarpa

Section Psammiris

I. humilis  
(=I. arenaria or I. flavissima)

Section Oncocyclus

I. iberica  
I. lortetii  
I. gatesii  
I. atropurpurea and I. mariae  
I. sari  
I. paradoxa and 'Parvar' hybrid  
I. kirkwoodii var. calcarea  
I. acutiloba

Regelia irises

I. hoogiana  
I. hoogiana 'Purpurea'  
I. korolkowii  
I. lineata

Various cultivars: 'Dushanbe', 'Bronze Beauty', 'Persian Pansy'

Regeliocyclus hybrids (Oncocyclus x Regelia)

I. 'Aphrodite'  
I. 'Andromache'

IRIS, SUBGENUS NEPALENSES

I. decora

IRIS, SUBGENUS XIPHIIUM

I. latifolia

IRIS, SUBGENUS SCORPIRIS

(the Juno irises)

I. nicolai  
I. aucheri  
I. graeberiana  
I. warleyensis  
I. bucharica  
I. pseudocaucasica  
I. cycloglossa  
I. magnifica  
I. vicaria  
I. wilmottiana

IRIS, SUBGENUS HERMODACTYLOIDES

I. danfordiae  
I. histrioides  
I. kopalkowsyana  
I. reticulata 'Joyce'