

Spuria Iris Culture

Keep Moist Until Planted!

Once established spurias are very hardy and love to grow for years forming large clumps with lots of blooms up to five feet tall. They are known to grow in a variety of places from seasonally wet grasslands to alluvial plains to salt flats. They grow in a variety of countries from Algeria, to Mongolia, Sweden, Ukraine, France, Europe etc..

Once established they are drought hardy and can go dormant during dry periods. They also can do ok in light shade but the more sun typically the better.

It is best to plant them in August for the northern zones, September for middle zones and around October for the southern zones. Digging them out of these times may cause them to go dormant prematurely and sometimes they will not recover.

Dig a hole about six inches deep and mix in some organic matter to break up clay if possible. A bit of fertilizer in the bottom of the hole at planting time will help but do not let it touch the rhizome. Fill in the hole and plant the Rhizome about an inch below the soil. Water in thoroughly to remove air pockets around the plant. Mulch is beneficial in the first winter to prevent them breaking dormancy early. Remove mulch from around the top in early spring so as not to hold in moisture for too long.

Fertilizing with organic or chemical fertilizer once a year can be beneficial to their growth and blooming.

I have lost very few spuria but the ones I have lost seem to disappear completely. I believe they are carried off or eaten by rodents the first winter they are planted. After they put down roots I have not lost a single spuria.

Use some common sense and plant them how you feel is best for your area. Contact a local Iris Club or check out the Spuria Iris Society online for more info.

Let us know how they do for you! plantshackllc@gmail.com
Feel free to use this for educational purposes or for handouts at your local club sales.

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