

Growing Aril and Arilbred Iris

Aril Iris are divided into two groups or sections Oncocyclus and Regelia with several different species in each section. Aril Iris grow in desert climates and typically go dormant and lose their leaves late in summer. Moisture at this time may cause them to rot. As such some people lift them and store them until fall and replant. Very good drainage is important for their care. Rock, sand, pumice etc. May be added to the soil to improve drainage or the grower may wish to grow in a raised bed. Lime should be added to acid soils and gypsum may be added to break up clay soils and provide calcium.

Plant in full sun by early September in the north and wait a bit longer in the south. In the north you want to encourage root growth without leaf growth if possible. Water well after planting. In areas of extreme cold a winter mulch may be used but it should be a material that does not hold water and needs to be removed before spring rains start.

Arilbred Iris are Aril Iris crossed with Other Bearded Iris and are much easier to grow than pure arils. Arilbreds with half aril ancestry or less can be grown in the same manner as other bearded Iris. Arilbreds in general may be grown on high ground or in a dry section of the garden. We planted our first arils on the south of the house where they receive less rain due to protection from the house. Add lime to acid soils and gypsum to provide calcium. Fertilize lightly once a year with a low nitrogen fertilizer. N-P-K where N is below 6.

An option for those in the north willing to take some extra effort is to add a layer of pea gravel and sand above the soil to about 3 inches and plant the Arilbreds about an inch deep in that mixture the roots will still reach the soil.

Definitions AB =Arilbred with a minus- less than half Aril, Arilbred with a + = more than half aril Aril Bred = half aril

OGB Oncogelia hybrid, OB Oncocyclus Hybrid, RB Regelia Hybrid, Pluses or minuses are added to these to signify more or less than half aril. Less than half aril heritage is theoretically makes them easier to grow and may be grown as regular bearded Iris.

Please let us know how they grow for you plantshackllc@gmail.com

Additional info may be found at arilsociety.org online.

<https://plantshackllc.com>

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