# His Royal Highness Bearded Iris

***Iris 'His Royal Highness'***



*His Royal Highness Bearded Iris flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Group/Class: Tall Bearded Iris

**Description:**

A stunning early summer bloomer that reappears in the early fall, perfect for garden beds, borders or used in mass planting; ruffled, medium purple blooms rise above mounds of green, sword-like foliage; drought tolerant once established; great cut flower

**Ornamental Features**

His Royal Highness Bearded Iris features bold purple flag-like flowers at the ends of the stems in late spring. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its large sword-like leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

**Landscape Attributes**

His Royal Highness Bearded Iris is an herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects

His Royal Highness Bearded Iris is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

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**Planting & Growing**

His Royal Highness Bearded Iris will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. The flower stalks can be weak and so it may require staking in exposed sites or excessively rich soils. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

His Royal Highness Bearded Iris is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.