



## Emerald Goddess Gardens

[emeraldgoddessgardens.com](http://emeraldgoddessgardens.com)

Botanical Name	Iris hybrid
Common Name	Louisiana Iris Jeri <b>Bellevues Mike x Full Eclipse</b>
Mature Size	3 to 3.5 feet
Bloom Color	Lemon Yellow to White Burgundy Veins
Bloom Period	Early Summer
Boom Form	Classic Non Bearded Iris
Water	Uniformly Moist
Light	Full sun to very light shade
USDA Zone	6B, 7, 8, 9, 10
Fragrance	Light
Uses	Borders, Mass Plant, Naturalize, Potted, Marginal Aquatic
Special Features	Exotic Look, Easy Care



The **Louisiana Iris** is a part of the very large *Iris* or *Iridacea* Plant Family. The **Louisiana Iris** are a group of five species native to Louisiana *Iris fulva*, *Iris brevicaulis*, *Iris hexagona*, *Iris giganticaerulea*, and *Iris nelsonii*. Some of these species are also native to other Southern and Southeastern states, but Louisiana is the only area where all five can be found in their native habitats. These species will cross pollinate and interbreed with readily within the pool of the five, but not with other species. There are thousands of hybrids in an endless array of color combinations, some naturally occurring and others by the design of dedicated hobbyists and horticulturists who just love the plants. And there is plenty about them to love.

They are easy to grow, span a wide range of climates, and while they prefer moist, boggy soils, and so make wonderful additions to ponds and aquatic designs, they can also be successfully grown on higher ground, or as potted plants. They are reasonably pest free. In warmer climates, they are primarily evergreen, and begin to look their best in the Fall and Winter when other plants are generally not at their peak. Their dormant period is mid summer, when it's generally too hot in the tropics and sub-tropics to be outdoors anyway. A good offset to this is to give them other summer bloom plants as bedfellows.

For those of us in the tropics who have been forced to either admire those lovely Dutch, Japanese and Siberian Irises in pictures, or know and love them for a few fleeting months each year before they succumb to the sauna conditions of tropical summers, discovering the beautiful Louisiana Iris is a true gardening epiphany. They are as versatile as they are beautiful.

**Jeri** was hybridized from **Bellevues Mike x Full Eclipse** by N Bertinot and registered in the early 1980's. It produces large velvety grape to royal purple with a very small signal line of citron yellow. It is a prolific and reliable bloomer. The deep, strikingly dramatic flowers are simply stunning mass planted bed or border.

- Plant in fertile slightly acidic soil
- Locate in full sun to very light dappled shade
- Space about 1 to 2 feet apart
- Cover roots and shallow rhizomes with thick layer of mulch
- Supply supplemental irrigation to maintain consistent moisture
- Feed a good quality slow release fertilize with the initial planting.
- Inspect regularly for symptoms of pests or disease and treat promptly.

If you have any questions or want more info, please email me at [emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com](mailto:emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com) any tim. If you don't know your USDA Zone, check it on our website: <http://emeraldgoddessgardens.com>

## Care of Your New Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new plant:

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size plants or plugs directly into the landscape is not recommended, with a few exceptions. So, for the best results with your new plant we suggest that it be re-potted into a larger pot and allowed to grow larger until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out.

Check the recommended USDA Zone Range for the plant. Many gardeners are able to successfully grow plants outside their recommended Zones, but this is dependent upon providing the type of environment and care the plant needs.

- Immediately re-pot the new plant into a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot (a 6 inch pot is the recommended size for starter plugs) that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. Do not use hot, all chemical fertilizer like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate so that the plant can receive direct, full spectrum light for several hours daily, but is protected from hot, direct afternoon sun.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over water.
- Packing crystals may be reused to conserve water, but do so with caution as they hold 6000 times their weight in water.
- If reusing the crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the potting media.
- Be sure the pot can drain and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water for more than a few hours.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune or pinch lightly and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze, as even cold tolerant plants can be damaged by cold, and tropicals will perform better, flower earlier, and live longer within their Zone Range when protected from cold temperatures.

Many tropical and subtropical plants can be grown as potted plants indefinitely, and can be successfully wintered over indoors in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the 30°F's, are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40°F) with adequate, full spectrum light, consistent soil moisture is maintained, and any pest or disease issue are promptly and properly addressed.

For quick answers to any growing or planting questions, just email us at [emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com](mailto:emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com).

You can check you USDA Zone by visiting our website at [emeraldgoddessgardens.com](http://emeraldgoddessgardens.com)