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YARD 'N' GARDEN



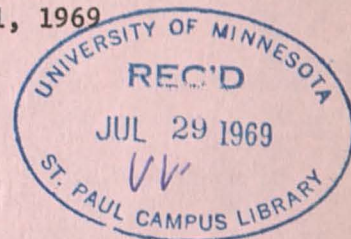
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PLANTING IRIS

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tural Extension Service.

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August is an ideal time for dividing and planting iris. Most clumps should be divided when they are three or four years old.

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Use a spading fork to lift the plants you're dividing, leaving the roots intact. Cut the rhizomes apart with a sharp knife, leaving one to three fans of leaves on each division. Each division should have a few inches of healthy rhizome with the roots attached. Discard diseased parts. Dust the cut surface with dusting sulfur or disinfect with a solution bichloride of mercury (one tablet per one pint of water, available from a drugstore).

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Cut the fan of foliage back to about six inches from the rhizome.

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Select a planting site that is well drained. The soil should be reasonably fertile and rich in organic matter. Iris will do best in full sunlight.

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To plant, open a hole big enough to receive the roots without crowding. After planting in heavy soils, the rhizome should be barely covered with soil. After a rain or watering the top of the rhizome should show. In light, sandy soils the top of the rhizome should be 2 inches below the surface. If the soil is dry, water thoroughly.

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Plant in groups of three to five with a spacing of 10 to 12 inches between plants. Point the fans of leaves away from other plants in the group.

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