



FYN Garden Q & A Series

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Yards & Neighborhoods



FYN Topic: Louisiana Iris

Question: I have anxiously been waiting for my Louisiana irises to bloom. Last year they started blooming in March and bloomed for 6 weeks. It is the middle of April and still no sign of blossoms. What could be the problem?

—H. Halde from Bonita Springs

Answer: (Provided by Louisiana Grower and Lee County Master Gardener, Linda Sheridan) You have chosen a beautiful and hardy Florida native for your yard! I'm inclined to blame the delayed blooming on the weather especially over the last several months (very dry and warm last fall & winter). You have lots of company. None of the Louisiana Iris (*Iris hexagona*), I've seen have started to bloom yet this spring. This includes both public and some private gardens I've visited including the Lakes Park Fragrance Garden, Naples Botanical Gardens and others. Compare your growing conditions to these known LA iris preferences: keep the rhizome covered; they like wet feet- 1-2 inches of irrigation weekly if planted in the ground or in a pot or they can be kept in standing water; planted where no less than 6-8 hours of full sun each day and are growing in acid soil conditions with a pH range of 4.5-6.5. Use pine needle mulch as your preferred cover. If you choose to fertilize your irises this year, select a fertilizer stating on the label "for acid-loving plants." Apply it next November and January. Thank you for your question and happy gardening!



Useful Links

<http://www.floridayards.org>
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>
<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>
<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>

Louisiana Iris Varieties

Thomas Becker is an extension agent for the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program at the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the Horticulture Help Desk at 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by emailing Extgardener@leegov.com. Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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