



Iris

(Iris spp.)



Origins

Native to southern Europe and the Mediterranean region, irises are bulbous perennials. The popular blooms are members of the Iridaceae family and take their name from the Greek goddess who transported messages between mortals and the Mount Olympus deities.

Availability and Vase Life

Although traditionally considered a spring bloom, many iris cultivars are available year-round from growers. Irises are delicate, however, and have one of the shortest cut flower vase lives at just 3-6 days.

Care and Handling

Irises are thirsty flowers, so process them immediately upon receipt to guard against dehydration and water stress. Remove foliage that will fall below the water line and recut iris stems under water.

Keep irises in a cool location away from drafts and excessive heat to maximize their longevity.

Design Uses

Because of their distinctive shapes, irises are frequently used as form flowers in floral designs so their graceful silhouettes can be fully appreciated. Their height also makes them ideal for use as line flowers to help establish designs' shapes and sizes.



Information courtesy of Extra Touch Florist Association, www.etfassociation.org
Images courtesy of Colombia Flower Council, California Cut Flower Commission

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