

# *Purple/White Walking Iris*

## (*Neomarica gracilis*)



Zones: 8-11

Part Shade / Full Shade / Filtered or morning sun

Smooth evergreen long foliage

Suitable for indoors in cooler climates

This is an easy to grow plant. It flowers spring to frost. Sends out shoots that lay down and root into baby plants (walking).

### **Propagation:**

- After each bloom, a small plant will grow. You may set the new plant in a 4-inch pot of soil still attached to the mother. Keep moist and wait until the plant is pot bound before moving it up to the next pot size. Of course, you can allow nature to take it's course –and allow the babies to naturally lay down on the ground and root giving you an ever larger display of these lovely plants!
- Division is another common method of propagation.

### **Planting & Care:**

Walking iris are very versatile plants. They can be used in borders, beds, or container plantings --- or even as a houseplant.

- Plant in well draining, sandy soil so that the roots and about 2" of the stalk/stems are well covered with soil. Firm soil around the roots/stalks well. Don't plant too deep. Plant about 18" away from other plants to allow room for babies to bend down and reach the ground without getting caught on another plant.
- Walking Iris does best in shady locations and is quite frost tender. Partial shade is ok, especially if the area gets only morning sun. I wouldn't plant in an area that gets mid-day sun.
- Properly drained soil is best - although the plant can tolerate a moist situation.
- Your walking iris may have 2 or more plants/fans connected/growing together. I suggest that you allow your plants to recover from the shipping and transplanting before attempting to separate them. Of course, you don't HAVE to separate them at all, they can be planted together and left as they are.
- Some plants shipped in the summer may have babies attached. Make sure the babies can reach the soil to root. You may cover the stem they are on lightly with soil to help them root.
- I fertilize lightly with a general 10-10-10 or water soluble fertilizer about once a month during the spring and summer months. (don't use 10-10-10 on container plants – it will burn them, use a houseplant fertilizer)
- In colder zones, this plant needs to come inside for the winter. In warmer zones of 9 and higher they can be planted in the ground, or if lucky with a beneficial microclimate the plant may survive in zone 8.
- Protect the foliage from hard frost to ensure good blooming for the upcoming year. This is done by mulching, covering or moving indoors for the winter.
- Plantlets and flowers are borne on the leaves, as each flower fades a baby forms, as they grow the leaves bend to the ground for the plantlet to root into the soil.
- Generally, the bloom will appear when the plant is pot bound or two years in age. Often in a fast growing situation or a warmer zone, this will happen in one year.