



Yellow Walking Iris - Neomarica longifolia

Zones: 9-11 Cold hardy to 20° F 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; there will be several blooms/babies on each flowering stem. Either set the plant in a 4-inch pot of soil still attached to the mother plant or wait for it to grow to about 6" tall, then snip and pot. Both methods work fine. Even water rooting may work. 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 – as each stem of babies becomes heavier and heavier they will 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 stems/stalks are well covered with soil. Firm soil around the roots/stalks well. Don't plant too deep. Plant about 18" apart to allow room for babies to bend down and reach the ground without getting caught on another plant.
- 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.
- Walking Iris does best in shady locations and is quite frost tender. Partial shade is great, especially if the area gets morning sun.
- Properly drained soil is required - although the plant can tolerate a moist situation. Clay pots are best for potted plants.
- 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 on those).
- In colder zones, this plant needs to come inside for the winter. In warmer zones of nine 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 are borne on the flower stalks, as each flower fades a baby forms, as they grow the stalks bend to the ground in time 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.