

War Chief Bearded Iris



Iris "War Chief"

- **Use:** Deep ruby-red petals and bright yellow beards make for a dramatic colour contrast! Plant several in your garden and watch their abundance of blooms— tall, strong stems that produce four branches with 11–13 buds—create a stunning sea of crimson. Ready to add spectacular bursts of colour to the garden that will stop visitors in their tracks? It's easy when you choose our bold beauties. These unforgettable irises illuminate the landscape with strong, vibrant hues. Relish their brilliance outdoors in borders or beds, then cut a few to enjoy indoors in bouquets. All parts of Iris are deer and rabbit resistant.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Will produce the most flowers if they receive a full day of sun, but will also perform reasonably well with a half day of sun. The most critical growing factor is the moisture level of the soil and drainage. They will absolutely not tolerate "wet feet" (too much water will cause the rhizomes to rot) and require very well-drained soil at all times of the year. They will grow in any good garden soil as long as this drainage is provided. Generally heavy feeders and should be fertilized 3 times per year: first in the spring when new growth appears, second right after blooming, and third in the fall. When planting them for the first time or when transplanting, use a no-nitrogen fertilizer such as 0-10-10 worked into the soil.
- **Growth:** Grows 34-40" tall. Division is recommended every 3-4 years to maintain healthy plants and achieve the maximum bloom. The best time of year to plant irises is in late summer after they are done blooming. Dig up the entire clump and use a sharp knife to cut apart the rhizomes. Keep only the newer ones around the outer edge of the clump and discard the old, woody center. Replant the new divisions 12-18 in. apart to allow ample room for new growth and good air circulation. Planting at the correct level is critical to the plant's health and flower production. Rhizomes should be planted so the soil barely covers the top of them, or 1-2 in. deep. Doing so will help to prevent soft rot.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 4-9; Perennial
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Green, sword-shaped leaves.
- **Flower:** Rich ruby color, and an incredible abundance of blooms. Tall strong stems produce four branches with 11-13 buds. War Chief has a non-fading red tone, with bright yellow beards that add extra sparkle. Spring bloom and then rebloom in late summer-fall. Breeder:Schreiner 1995

'War Chief' displays ruffled petals of deep velvety red are set off with fiery gold beards. These non-fading blooms appear in abundance on tall stems with 4 branches, which often produce up to 13 flowers. An American Iris Society Honorable Mention award winner.