

Purple Flame Flag Iris



The native range for blueflag runs from Newfoundland to Manitoba, south to Florida and Arkansas and it can be found in marshes, swamps, wet meadows, shorelines, and in for-

ested wetlands. *I. versicolor* prefers rich soils in full sun to part shade and tolerates moderately brackish water and permanent inundation up to 6 inches deep.

Iris versicolor 'Purple Flame;'

- **Use:** Blue Flag Iris blooms in late spring, putting out dark blue flowers over unusual foliage which starts the season with vivid purple coloration. The blade-like leaves transition to green as the weather warms up, but the combination of purple foliage and dark blue flowers in spring is really unique.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Plant in full sun to partial shade, in fertile well drained soil. Plant along the water's edge, where roots receive consistent moisture to achieve best early season color before foliage slowly transition to green. Tolerates up to 4" of water.
- **Growth:** Grows 30" tall. Divide every 3-4 years. Space new container grown plants 18" - 36" apart.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 2-7; Perennial May perform better in North GA. May be too hot in our zone 8 area for this iris, but with a cool spot in the summer may work.
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. The sword-shaped leaves of this early spring phenomenon emerge dark plum-purple and catch the eye of early season plant hunters. Gradually the leaves change to green and are followed by a good show of blue flowers in late spring. Plant along pond or stream edges or in consistently moist garden sites for best leaf color.
- **Flower:** Plainly stated, it's a show stopper. Beyond other Iris selections on the market, 'Purple Flame' has a richer, more intense cast to stems and flowers, yes. However, the true beauty lies in the irresistible foliage. Emerging in March, the purple flame-like foliage provides an unparalleled performance of vivid and intense egg-plant purple foliage followed by an encore of rich and abundant flowers.