**Iris fulva ‘Louisiana Hybrids’**

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**Introduction**

Louisiana Iris hybrids (also *Iris breuicaulis, Iris giganticaerulea*) have dark green, sword-like leaves and rhizomatous roots (Fig. 1). They grow 2- to 4-feet tall and bear 3-to 4-inch-long flowers of white, cream, yellow, bronze, pink, red, blue, purple, or near black. These spring flowers are often cut for flower arrangements. Louisiana Iris hybrids are clumping, spreading or upright perennials which can be utilized as background or specimen plants. They are also useful in a mass planting.

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**General Information**

- **Scientific name:** *Iris fulva ‘Louisiana Hybrids’*
- **Pronunciation:** EYE-riss FULL-vuh
- **Common name(s):** Louisiana Iris
- **Family:** Iridaceae
- **Plant type:** herbaceous; ground cover
- **USDA hardiness zones:** 6 through 10 (Fig. 2)
- **Planting month for zone 7:** year round
- **Planting month for zone 8:** year round
- **Planting month for zone 9:** year round
- **Planting month for zone 10:** year round
- **Origin:** native to Florida
- **Uses:** border; mass planting; ground cover; edging
- **Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

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**Description**

- **Height:** 2 to 3 feet
- **Spread:** 2 to 3 feet
- **Plant habit:** upright
- **Plant density:** moderate
- **Growth rate:** moderate
- **Texture:** coarse

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Foliage**

- **Leaf arrangement:** most emerge from the soil, usually without a stem
- **Leaf type:** simple
- **Leaf margin:** entire
- **Leaf shape:** linear
- **Leaf venation:** parallel
- **Leaf type and persistence:** semi-evergreen; evergreen
- **Leaf blade length:** 12 to 18 inches
- **Leaf color:** green
- **Fall color:** no fall color change
- **Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

- **Flower color:** white; red; yellow; pink; purple; cream; bronze; blue; near black
- **Flower characteristic:** spring flowering

**Fruit**

- **Fruit shape:** unknown
- **Fruit length:** unknown
- **Fruit cover:** unknown

**Fruit color:** unknown
**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

**Trunk and Branches**

- **Trunk/bark/branches:** not applicable
- **Current year stem/twig color:** not applicable
- **Current year stem/twig thickness:** not applicable

**Culture**

- **Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun
- **Soil tolerances:** acidic; sand; loam; clay
- **Drought tolerance:** high
- **Soil salt tolerances:** unknown
- **Plant spacing:** 24 to 36 inches
Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Louisiana Iris hybrids grow best in a full sun to partial shade location in the landscape. They require an acid soil in the range of 5.5 to 6.5 and prefer moist soils with high organic matter content. They will grow in a sandy soil that receives some irrigation in prolonged dry spells. These hybrids are tolerant to drought but will also endure wet soils. These plants are frozen to the ground in freezing temperatures but will regenerate from the roots with the onset of warm weather.

Propagate these hybrids by division or from seed.

Pests and Diseases

Louisiana Iris hybrids are pest tolerant.