**Neomarica spp.**

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### Introduction

Neomarica is a clumping herbaceous perennial that reaches a height of 18 to 36 inches (Fig. 1). The Walking Iris is a fairly durable plant that bears attractive, light green leaves and small iris-like yellow flowers periodically during the spring, summer and fall seasons. The flowers are short lived, but provide enough color to be interesting.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Neomarica spp.*  
**Pronunciation:** nee-oh-MAR-rick-kuh species  
**Common name(s):** Walking Iris, Twelve Apostles  
**Family:** Iridaceae  
**Plant type:** herbaceous  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 10B through 11 (Fig. 2)  
**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round  
**Origin:** not native to North America  
**Uses:** border; edging; mass planting  
**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

### Description

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

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** most emerge from the soil, usually without a stem  
**Leaf type:** simple  
**Leaf margin:** entire  
**Leaf shape:** linear  
**Leaf venation:** parallel

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**Figure 1.** Walking Iris.
Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous  
**Leaf blade length:** 18 to 36 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** no fall color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** white; yellow  
**Flower characteristic:** summer flowering; spring flowering; fall 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:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems  
**Current year stem/twig color:** not applicable  

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** not applicable

**Culture**

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

**Other**

**Roots:** not applicable  
**Winter interest:** no special winter interest  
**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding  
**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive  
**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests
Use and Management

The Walking Iris is quite lovely when massed together in the shade. The upright foliage combines with the occasional flower to strike a bold pose in the landscape.

Place Walking Iris in an area of the landscape that receives partial to full shade. It is tolerant of a wide range of moist soils but will not endure drought conditions. It is best to err on the wet side. This perennial is frozen to the ground in the winter but will reappear in the spring.

Neomarica caerulea has blue flowers; Neomarica gracilis has white flowers with blue margins; Neomarica longifolia has yellow flowers with brown/mahogany splotches on the petals; Neomarica northiana has yellow flowers.

The Walking Iris may be grown from seed or divisions. They also propagate themselves through plantlets that form at the tips of the flower stalks; the flower stalks bend to the ground, and then take root.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.