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Variegated Sweet Iris

Iris pallida 'Variegata'

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 14 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Sweet Flag

Variegated Sweet Iris flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Variegated Sweet Iris
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Variegated Sweet Iris has masses of beautiful lilac purple flag-like flowers with purple throats and a yellow beard at the ends of the stems in late spring, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive sword-like leaves remain grayish green in color with showy white variegation throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Variegated Sweet Iris is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects

Variegated Sweet Iris is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Variegated Sweet Iris will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 14 inches apart. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

Variegated Sweet Iris flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.