



Dividing & Planting Tall Bearded Iris

Presented by:

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Nambe Iris

For Los Alamos Master Gardeners

October 6, 2016



GENERAL GARDEN HYGIENE & HEALTH

- Keep plants free of dead fans, other debris
- Keep beds free of weeds and grass
- Observe for signs of disease or rot
- Separate rhizomes when they become too crowded
- Cut bloom stalk close to ground when bloom is complete to avoid rot and cross pollination



WHEN TO DIVIDE IRIS

- Blooms are decreasing in number
- Blooms are small in size and number on the stalk
- Rhizomes are lifting out of the ground
- Iris fans are small and weak
- About every 3-5 years to maintain health and bloom of the plants



WHEN TO DIVIDE IRIS

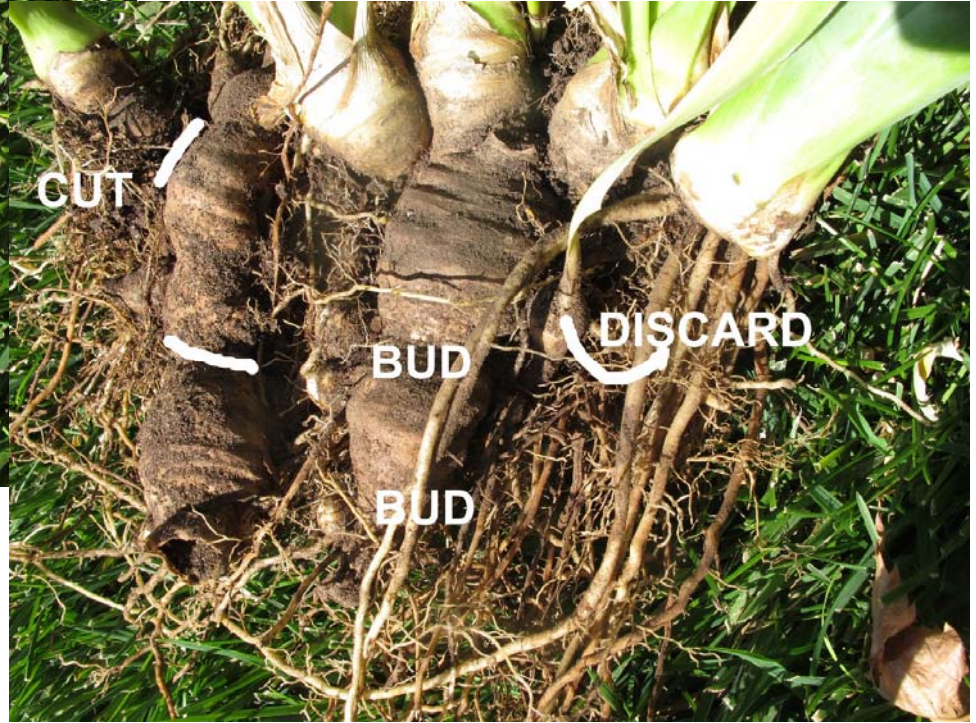


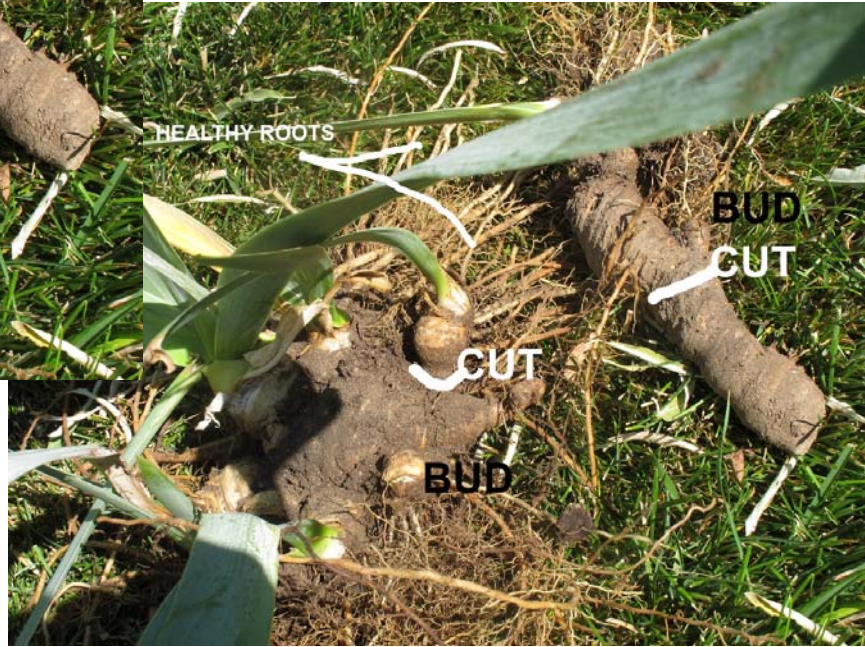
USE A
GARDEN
SHOVEL OR
FORK TO
GENTLY LIFT
THE RHIZOME
CLUMPS













TRIM ROOTS

Retain white, viable roots

Cut and discard brown,
dry, friable roots

Cut and shorten roots to 4-5 inches





TRIM FOLLIAGE

Cut drying or loose leaves on outside of fan

Outer leaves die and fall away.

New growth comes from the short, new leaves at the center of the fan.

Trimming the fans keeps the newly planted rhizome from being tipped over

CLEANING RHIZOMES

- Tap rhizome lightly to shake dirt off
- Water – Mix proportion of 10% bleach and water solution, soak 20 minutes



RINSE IN CLEAR WATER, DRY IN SHADE



PLANTING RHIZOMES SELECTION OF LOCATION

Prefer full to half day of sun

Need well drained soil,
avoid overwatering

Prefer neutral to slightly acid soil

Avoid crowded flower beds



PLANTING RHIZOMES

SOIL PREPARATION



Loosen soil to depth of about 10 inches

Check for and remove buds or old rhizomes from the soil

Add well decayed compost or manure

Add nutrients

Mix well



PLANTING RHIZOMES DEPTH



Dig a hole about 6 inches deep

Spread roots around hole

Rhizome sits high in soil

Cover rhizome with $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch soil

PLANTING RHIZOMES SPACING



Plant groups of same variety about 8 inches apart

Plant groups of different varieties at least 20 inches apart

Use divider if desired



WATERING IRIS



Do not overwater iris

Keep soil damp to depth of finger

Check soil year round – here in the high mountain dessert, we need to water in the winter as well

Iris can survive with little water but to

THRIVE

they need regular watering!

FERTILIZING IRIS



Spring – fertilize with Super Phosphate about 2 months before bloom season to stimulate bloom

Mid-Summer – use 0-10-10 or 4-10-10 general fertilizer after bloom is finished

Planting – use Yum Yum mix, Soil Sulfur if area prone to chlorosis, Super Phosphate (optional)

DO NOT USE High Nitrogen fertilizer such as Miracle Grow



Thank You!

