



Creating Beautiful Outdoor Environments
for You and Your Community



May 2014 • PLANT OF THE MONTH

Japanese Roof Iris Lends a Royal Air

Irises have a long history—over 500 years—of being enjoyed almost exclusively by those of royal heritage. The plants are available in several bloom colors, but are commonly seen in varying shades of royal purple.



The versatile Japanese Roof Iris perennial [*Iris tectorum*] grows well in both shady and sunny areas—the key is keeping their soil moist, but in an area with sufficient drainage. In Atlanta, the colorful flowers bloom in April and May and are lovely in cut arrangements. The attractive spiky evergreen foliage forms large clumps and adds interesting texture to the overall landscape.

Some esoterically believe that the energy of the iris offers protection and that the scent of the iris stimulates creativity and enhances intuition. A notable difference between Japanese irises and their bearded iris cousin is the flatter petals and simple, elegant line.

The Japanese Roof Iris featured in the photo on the left is happily thriving in Dixie's personal garden. Contact Meg if you are interested in adding Japanese Irises to the seasonal color of your landscape. meg@solterralandscape.com



Find more information on Japanese Roof iris <http://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/all/iris-tectorum/>

A tidbit for your next trivia contest: The famous *Fleur de Lys*—the symbol of French royalty for centuries—is a graphic representation of the iris bloom.