

Walking Iris

Neomarica northiana

Neomarica species get their most common name—walking iris—from their propagation habit. New plantlets form at the tops of flower stalks. As they grow, the stalks bend to the ground and the plantlet takes root. Eventually, the new plant will repeat the same process. In this way many walking iris plants "walk" through the landscape. Walking iris is evergreen in zones 10–11. In the northern parts of the state, it often freezes to the ground, but will return from the roots in the spring once the weather warms up. Makes an excellent houseplant.

Type: perennial herbaceous

USDA hardiness zones: 8b through 11

Uses: border; edging; mass planting

Origin: not native to North America

Height: 2 to 3 feet **Spread:** 2 to 3 feet

Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

Light requirement: full shade to part shade

Soil tolerances: occasionally wet; acidic; sand;
loam; clay

Drought tolerance: poor

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: No pests or diseases are of
major concern

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Photo: UF/IFAS