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Iris Division

Fairly easy to care for. Well adapted to Kansas. Multiply quickly! All those traits make the bearded iris easily one of the most popular of our landscape plants. They don't thrive without a little care once in a while, however, and now is one of those times for a little TLC...

If you've ever noticed the centers of your iris clumps becoming less vigorous with flowering only on the outside, it might be time to consider dividing them. Doing so every three to five years will help rejuvenate them and increase flowering. The optimum window for iris division is late July through August.

Start by digging up the entire clump. Their root system consists of thick rhizomes and smaller feeder roots. Use a sharp knife to cut rhizomes apart so each division consists of a fan of leaves and a section of rhizome. The best divisions are made from a double fan of two small rhizomes attached to a larger one, forming a Y-shaped division. Double fans are preferred as they produce more flowers the year after planting. Single fans take a year to build up strength.

If rhizomes show signs of damage, it could be from iris borer or soft rot. Unless you want to physically remove the borers or try to treat mild cases of soft rot, it is typically best to discard those damaged rhizomes.

Before replanting, cut the leaves back by two-thirds, then prepare the soil by removing weeds and applying fertilizer. If you have a soil test – great! If not, apply a complete fertilizer, such as a 10-10-10, at the rate of one pound per 100 square feet (avoid fertilizer if the area has been heavily fertilized in the past). Mix into the soil to a six inch depth.

Iris division not only helps the plant, but also offers a great opportunity to evaluate the health of the clump. Beyond that, sharing your favorite colors with a friend is a great way to spruce up yet another landscape with this popular plant!

KSU Soybean Yield Calculator App

Soybean yield estimates prior to harvest are a great way to see how your crop has fared. The conventional approach has included determining the plant population, counting pods per plant and seeds per pod, and estimating a seed size. A few calculations later and you've got a yield estimate!

Smart phone users can also check out an Android application from K-State Research and Extension called KSUSoyYieldCalc. It helps with yield estimation of soybeans using plant population, pods per plant, seeds per pod, and seed size (if conditions until harvest will be favorable, the seed size component should be a lower number - e.g., 2,400 seeds/lb. If conditions are likely to be unfavorable, resulting in a short seed-fill period, this factor should be higher - e.g., 3,200 seeds/lb).

Downloads from Google Play for free: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ksu.tania90.soya1> or search for 'soybean yield' within the Google Play website and download the application.