Horticultural Gardens

Department of Horticultural Sciences
College Station, Texas

Water Garden:

This area features several aquatic plants that help create a constructed wetland. The goldfish and Coi also play a role in the sustainable environment. The collection of Louisiana Iris provide a spectacular display of color in mid-spring. Wetland gardens offer a unique approach to landscape water conservation.

Featured Plant...
Louisiana Iris
Iris sp.

Earth Kind is the current educational theme at the TAMU Horticultural Gardens. Earth Kind uses research-proven techniques to provide maximum gardening and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting our environment.

Mulch:
You will notice the extensive use of bark mulch throughout the Water Garden area. Mulch is a protective ground cover that reduces water loss, prevents erosion, controls weeds, and in the case of organic mulches, enriches the soil.

Last but not least, mulch has aesthetic value. There are a range of colors and textures of both organic and inorganic mulches for use in the landscape. This Earth Kind practice can play an important role in reducing landscape irrigation.

Louisiana Iris are excellent herbaceous perennials for use in a variety of landscape situations. These plants do well in standing water or can survive upland conditions. Blooms come in a wide range of colors and bi-colors ranging from white to red and all colors in between (yellows too).

Louisiana Iris have few pests and do well under most Texas growing conditions. They prefer acid soils but will grow in almost any substrate. They grow best in full sun to partial shade but will tolerate deep shade. Since the plants spread by rhizomes they can get very large. Iris must be cut back after the seasons foliage has dried.

Plant Habit or Use: medium herbaceous perennial
Exposure: sun - partial shade
Flower Color: Lavender, violet, white, yellow, bi
Blooming Period: spring
Fruit Characteristics: large pods
Height: 3' - 5'
Width: indefinite, spreading by rhizomes
Plant Character: evergreen
Heat Tolerance: good
Water Requirements: low - water or bog
Soil Requirements: adaptable

Texas Cooperative EXTENSION
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For more information on other great plants for the Brazos Valley see our web site...

hortgardens.tamu.edu