If you are new to growing arilbred irises…

Please be aware that some are just as easy to grow as Tall Bearded irises while others can be a lot more challenging. Please shop responsibly - t**he full complement aril irises are recommended for experienced growers only** as they require special environments to grow successfully in most parts of the country. Start with the "-" designator arilbred varieties, then move up to the halfbred arilbreds and finally to the "+" designator varieties. We recommend that someone be able to grow the "+" designated arilbreds successfully before attempting the pure arils.

Aril Classifications – **recommended for experienced growers only**

O – Oncocyclus – aril species – generally from desert environments
R – Regelia – aril species – generally from dry mountainous environments
OH– Onco Hybrid – cross involving only oncocyclus irises
RH– Regelia Hybrid– cross involving only regelia irises
RC – Regeliocyclus – cross involving only regelia and oncocycus iris with a Regalia phenotype
OG– Oncoregelia – cross involving only oncocyclus and regalia iris with an oncocyclus phenotype

Arilbred classifications - irises with both aril and non-aril bearded (eupogon) iris heritage
OB – Oncobred - a hybrid containing only oncocyclus and eupogon irises (no Regelia 'blood')
RB – Regeliabred - a hybrid containing only Regelia and eupogon irises (no Oncocyclus 'blood')
OGB – Oncogeliabred - a hybrid containing a combination of oncocyclus, Regelia and eupogon irises

All arilbred classifications contain the letter 'B', so they are easy to differentiate from aril classifications.

OGBs are the most commonly grown arilbred iris.

How much ARIL is in an arilbred will generally indicate how easy they are to grow. There is a designator in the description that tells this:

Less than ½ Aril - indicated by a minus sign OGB-, OB- or RB-
½ Aril - indicated by no sign OGB, OB or RB
Over ½ Aril - indicated by a plus sign OGB+,OB+ or RB+

How to begin growing arilbred iris

The less the aril content the easier to grow.
This is NOT a hard or fast rule, but a good rule of thumb.
In general, the more Regelia content the easier to grow,
the less Oncocyclus content the easier to grow.
This is also NOT a hard and fast rule.

In general, OGB- arilbreds will grow in the same beds with your tall bearded iris; the closer you get to challenging, the more their environment needs to approach that of full blooded arils.
Check with local growers as arilbreds can perform differently in different locales. There are some +'s that are easier to grow than some –'s.

Theoretically, this is the difficulty chart, from easiest to challenging – there are exceptions:.

	EASIEST →		More Challenging
EASIEST ↓	OGB-	OGB	OGB+
	RB-	RB	RB+
More Challenging	OB-	OB	OB+

When you get your rhizomes, please be aware that aril and arilbred rhizomes are generally significantly smaller than those of Tall Bearded irises. Some are smaller than Standard Dwarf rhizomes, while a few are almost TB size, but in general they are more Intermediate bearded in size. Many of the arilbred rhizomes are also rounder than non aril bearded rhizomes due to their Oncocyclus content.

Arilbreds tend to increase similarly to rebloomers. They can bloom heavily, but put out a large quantity of new growth during the fall/winter. They can also go summer dormant, so do not declare them dead until no growth is visible in the spring, then check the rhizome for white roots; if there are any, it is alive.

This catalog has also included the following informational designators to easily assist you in choosing plants by height.

ABD—arilbred dwarf—any arilbred with a registered height less than 33 cm (13 inches).

ABM—arilbred median— any arilbred of one-half aril complement or less, with a registered height between 33 and 56 cm (13 and 22 inches), inclusive.

All other ABs are either "+"s, which tend to be shorter, or are more than 56 cm (22 inches) tall.

WARNING: Arilbred irises are highly addictive once you get the hang of them.

Happy Shopping