

Walking Iris

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. However, not all species of *Neomarica* walk. Some species stems don't bend as readily as others and the plantlet is held airborne. Whatever you call this plant, it makes a curious addition to any shade garden.

Characteristics

This exotic-looking plant with its graceful sword-like foliage has white, yellow or blue flowers that resemble a cross between those of an orchid and an iris. Although they are short lived, lasting only a day, numerous blooms continue to follow over an extended period of time throughout spring, summer and fall. Growing walking iris plants is a great way to enjoy these interesting flowers.

Walking iris is not native to Florida, but it is considered a Florida-Friendly plant. It is commonly found in USDA Hardiness Zones 8B–11.

