

Plant Profile

Iris × *pseudata* 'Himebotaru'

By Kelly Billing

Plant Name: *Iris* × *pseudata* 'Himebotaru'

Common Name: Pseudata Iris

Height: 4 feet, up to 5 feet in a southern/warm locale (some cultivars)

Spread: clump habited, sterile

Flowers: in spring

Sun: Full sun to light shade

Zones: 5 to 9

Type of Plant: Water iris

Parentage: *Iris pseudacorus* × *Iris ensata*

Growing Conditions: It has been my experience that not all of these relatively new crosses fare well as true aquatic Irises, especially over winter in a cold climate. I have grown about a dozen different varieties, or cultivars and a few did not tolerate shallow water at all. I tried slowly acclimating them in the beginning, but they were having none of that. The ones that have adapted to the water are flourishing.

Short Description: This particular *pseudata* has a flower shape that closely resembles *Iris pseudacorus*. The petals are white and have particularly flashy purple eyelashes! In maturity, it is a very large and mature plant that is a show stopper when it is in bloom. The large size and abundant flowering make them an important addition to a large pond, as they can be seen from great distances.

About the Author

Kelly Billing owns Water Becomes a Garden. She is a grower and consultant with a focus on creative, site appropriate use of aquatic plants for effective display. She is also on the Editorial Board of the *Water Garden Journal*.



NOTE: These profiled plants exhibit favorable traits; however, plant growth is also dictated by climate, nutrients available and growing conditions. Care should always be taken to choose plants appropriate to the location. Know the law and never release plants into natural waterbodies unless they are indigenous.