Restoration Opportunities For The Louisiana Iris
The five Louisiana iris species

I. nelsonii

I. giganticaerulea

I. brevicaulis

I. hexagona

I. fulva
The hybrid cultivars
The Greater New Orleans Iris Society

www.louisianairisgnois.com
Everyday gardeners interested in learning about and preserving the Louisiana iris
Cultivars
Preservation of various forms of species irises
Restoration of species irises
Native irises of the Barataria Basin

I. giganticaerulea

I. fulva
IRIS DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
Adapted from Viosca, 1935
Reasons the Louisiana irises in the wild have been in decline:

Development
Herbicides
Salt water intrusion
Herbicides
Salt water intrusion
January 12, 2020
Lake Pontchartrain Basin
Foundation’s salinity map
Cypress trees and irises belong together, so we’re giving a helping hand.
Iris restoration project at the Big Branch refuge marsh that was brackish water and is now fresh water.
Our plan to protect and restore Louisiana's coast.

- **Conveyance Channel**: New or realigned channel to divert river water and sediment to wetlands.
- **Levee Improvements**: Includes 500-year improvements for New Orleans area, new 100-year levees in Slidell, LaPlace, Lafitte.
- **Shoreline Protection**: Breakwaters to reduce wave energy on shorelines in bays, lakes, sounds, bayous and navigation channels.
- **Marsh Creation**: Building wetlands by open water bays, sediment dredging and placement. Most projects involve moving sediment to new locations.
- **Sediment Diverstion**: Use of channels or structures to divert river water and sediment to build and nourish wetlands.
- **Diversion Influence Areas**: Outline of areas where new wetlands are likely to grow or be nourished by diversions.
- **Ridge Restoration**: Re-establishment of historic ridges with sediment, vegetation and wildlife.
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There is also marsh restoration done for wetlands permit mitigation.
“Louisiana irises are not on the list of plants I can choose from.”
What we want to believe.
“Somebody, somewhere, everyday is studying Louisiana irises or watching out for them.”
The reality
What can we do?

1. Increase awareness of species Louisiana irises with the public and managers and owners of marshlands and swamps.
Increase awareness of species *Louisiana irises*

A. Use public boardwalks for people to safely see species *Louisiana irises* in their natural habitat.

B. Enhance the number of species *irises* at the boardwalks.

C. Market the boardwalks during the bloom to increase attendance.
Use public boardwalks for people to safely see species Louisiana irises in their natural habitat.

Bayou Sauvage Wildlife Refuge

Town of Jean Lafitte Boardwalk
Public boardwalks

The Black Swamp

Joyce Wildlife Management Area

Northlake Nature Center

Big Branch Wildlife Refuge
Market the boardwalks to increase attendance
2. Have Louisiana species irises available in significant numbers as an approved plant for future public and for private marsh restoration projects.
Increase the number of Louisiana irises available for marsh restoration projects.

Donation of irises

Iris rescue

Iris propagation
Donations of irises

Private gardens
or private lands
Iris rescue
We discovered everybody wants to help save the Louisiana iris!!
“Parking” irises

St. Joseph Abbey

St. Tammany
Children’s Museum
“Parking” irises

Chef John Folse

USDA Research Center

Grow Dat Youth Farm
Louisiana Iris Conservation Initiative
We would like to find groups to partner with in the Barataria Basin.
Locations to have irises growing to increase the public’s awareness of this native plant.
Funding to support Nicholls State’s efforts on propagation of irises, preserve rare forms of irises and do studies to increase the efficiencies for propagating irises.
Groups to partner with for volunteers.
Locations to Park irises.