

# Woottens Nursery

After the talk on Irises you will have the opportunity to ask questions and purchase plants from the Nursery.

*Extract from Woottens website.....*

The nursery was established in 1990 by the charismatic Michael Loftus. Situated in rural Suffolk nestled on the edge of the village of Wenhaston the nursery has one of the largest collections of herbaceous hardy perennials in East Anglia.

We also specialise in Bearded Iris, Hemerocallis, Auriculas, Pelargoniums, & Hardy Geraniums.



Our acres of Bearded Irises are open each spring from the **end of May until mid-June** for Iris enthusiasts to view and, if you wish, order plants to be lifted in the late summer for you. Each year there are over two acres of scent and colour to meander around at your leisure.

When possible we have staff attending the area to give advice and chat about our Irises. In 2015 an exclusive area of the fields was replanted in chronological order to display the differences in breeding between the 17th and 21st Centuries.

As the name denotes a Bulbous Iris has a **'bulb'** which is a set of modified leaves designed to be a storage organ for food. Whereas a Rhizomatous Iris has a **'rhizome'** which is a modified stem, again designed to store the plants food.



Bulbous Iris bulb



Rhizomatous Iris

The Iris flower has 3 upper petals are known as ‘standards’, 3 lower petals known as ‘falls’ and 3 inner petals known as ‘style arms’. Each fall has a marking at the top called a beard, or in ‘beardless Irises’ this is called a ‘signal’ - it is said to be an indicator to pollinating insects as to where to find the pollen.



Within different species the size of petals varies. For example, on a typical Bearded Iris the standards are tall, the falls long and the style arms short and tucked away on the inside of the standards. On a Japanese Iris - or Iris ensata the falls are wide, sometimes reaching 30cm in width and the standards are very short.

Iris flower