DO NOT EARTH
Shade Will Prevent Flowering

This has been a glorious garden season and we feel very fortunate when we hear of the parceled areas in other parts of the country.

The second seasonal plant which should be planted in the spring is the iris. Our iris this year are in bloom and we are able to enjoy their beauty throughout the season. We have many different varieties of this flower, including the popular blue flag iris and the more delicate white flag iris.

The United States Department of Agriculture has released a report on the planting and care of iris. They recommend planting the bulbs in the fall and covering them with mulch. This will help ensure a good bloom next spring.

One special note about iris is that they do not like to be planted too deep. The bulbs should be planted so that the top of the bulb is just below the soil surface. This will help prevent the iris from becoming too thick and overcrowded.

Some more tips for growing iris:

- Water regularly, especially during the growing season.
- Fertilize with a balanced fertilizer.
- Deadhead flowers to encourage more blooms.
- Divide the plants every few years to ensure healthy growth.

Remember, a little bit of effort now can result in a beautiful display of iris next spring. Happy gardening!