Freckle Face Blackberry Lily

Iris domestica 'Freckle Face'

Freckle Face Blackberry Lily flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 12 inches

Flower Height: 18 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Belamcanda chinensis, Leopard Lily

Description:

Tall spikes topped with stunning orange-yellow flowers freckled with red spots; followed later by blackberry-like seed pods in summer; breathtaking in when planted in masses; sword-like foliage resembles that of an iris

Ornamental Features

Freckle Face Blackberry Lily features showy cymes of orange star-shaped flowers with yellow overtones and red spots at the ends of the stems from early to mid summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive sword-like leaves remain bluish-green in colour throughout the season. The fruits are showy black pods carried in abundance in late summer.

Landscape Attributes

Freckle Face Blackberry Lily is an open herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Freckle Face Blackberry Lily is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Freckle Face Blackberry Lily will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity extending to 18 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Freckle Face Blackberry Lily is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.