

IRIS MADONNA

during the months  
she's not in bloom  
her dark green leaves  
make a nice  
ground cover

WISTERIA MADONNA

is languid,  
quite blue

she reminds  
you of old

places some  
one's left

for ghosts  
to fill

CANOPY PLANT MADONNA

has no roots  
lives on what  
comes from  
the clouds

AFRICAN VIOLET MADONNA

needs the  
right window,  
if she's a  
little weak  
put her in  
ultraviolet  
light. If

you're good to  
her she'll  
bloom three  
times a year

and if you're  
really good  
four maybe

HYBRID IRIS MADONNA

is hardy,  
colorful

requires  
extensive

planning  
experimentation

and expert work  
to get going

— Lyn Lifshin

Vienna VA

LIKE

being allergic to bee-sting  
& tattooing your arms  
with petunias

SARCASM

just a bit stronger  
than rat poison

THE CANNIBAL

a vegetable  
eating vegetables