

Gardenia Care Sheet



Exposure

Gardenias do best where there is warmth!! They will take shade or semi-shade. They will need bright filtered light in hotter areas or morning sun and afternoon shade.

Soil

Gardenias need to be planted in soil that drains fast, but does retain moisture. Use plenty of peat moss. An ideal product to use is Bush's Best planter mix. If your existing soil is heavy clay, you will need to remove about 1/2 to 3/4 and replace with peat moss mixture.

Planting

Plant on the high side and avoid crowding with other plants where they will be competing for root space. Mulch plants rather than cultivating around the base.

Watering

Keep soil moist, but where existing plants are growing in a heavy clay soil, infrequent deep soaking is much better than frequent shallow watering. In fact it is always a good practice to water plants deeply and less often! Leach salts out of the soil by using a slow drip overnight with a hose once a month.

Feeding

Gardenias will respond very well to regular fertilizing. Feed every 4 weeks year round with an acid-loving plant food such as "Mir-Acid". If your plant begins to get yellow or very pale green leaves, it will need to be treated for chlorosis (iron deficiency). Use an iron sulfate or iron chelate product.

Varieties

"Mystery" can reach 6 to 8 feet and may get rangy without pruning and shaping. This variety blooms May to July, but in warmer climates may bloom on into or even through the Fall.

"Veitchii" is a compact grower that gets 3 to 4 1/2 feet high. It blooms from May to November and at times when we have unseasonable warm weather.

"Veitchii Improved" is taller than "Veitchii" and can reach 5 feet. It produces larger and more blooms over all.

Pruning

On leggy older plants, cut back 1/3 of foliage just before their spring growth spurt - around March 1st. Prune anytime lightly for shape but remember to prune after a flush of blooms so you won't miss out on any of those fragrant flowers.