



# Gardenia Plant Care



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## ➤ Tips for Happy Gardenia

Gardenia jasminoides 'Veitchii' are extremely popular for their abundant and highly fragrant white rose-like blooms (they also make stunning cut flower arrangements). This easy care gardenia grows low, in a mounding habit, exhibiting leaves that stay evergreen for year-round interest.

- Exposure: Partial to full sun
- Soil: Slightly Acidic, Well-Drained
- Blooms: White fragrant bloom Spring through Summer
- Uses: Patio Plant, Doorways, Window Sills, Border, Container Plant, Garden, Hedge, Topiary.
- Watering Needs: Regular Watering
- Average Mature Size: 4 ft. H x 3 ft. W.
- USDA Hardiness Zone: 8-11

## ➤ Gardenia Care Instructions

**USDA GROW ZONES:** Gardenia grow outside in USDA plant hardiness zones 8 to 11. If you live in a zone below this, you can still enjoy their heady fragrance and beautiful appearance by keeping it as a houseplant and/or keeping it indoors during the winter.

**LIGHT:** Place your gardenia in a location where it gets lots of light, both warm and sunny, for at least half the day. If grown inside, select a brightly lit south or west facing window where the plant gets partial shade or full sunlight. During warmer weather, you can move your gardenia outside, in a somewhat shaded spot. Make sure to provide ample air circulation around your gardenia.

**TEMPERATURE:** Temperatures of 60 F – 85 F (15 C – 30 C), with a 70% humidity level, are ideal for growing gardenia plants. Avoid direct hot or cold drafts. Direct sunlight exposure during the afternoon in tropical areas may burn gardenia leaves.

**WATER:** Water as needed to keep the soil constantly moist, but not soggy. Although gardenias are considered drought tolerant, if it gets too dry it will react by losing its foliage and buds. Test the soil for moisture by inserting your finger about 1-inch into the soil. Avoid splashing the foliage as water droplets can lead to fungal growth on the leaves. Tap water can increase the pH around the gardenia's roots, whereas they prefer acidic soil, to keep the pH stable we suggest using distilled water or rainwater.

**SOIL:** Gardenia thrive in well-draining soil. When growing a potted gardenia, select a quality potting soil that provides well-draining rich organic matter and one that is formulated specifically for acid-loving plants. Gardenia prefer acidic soil with an ideal pH level around 4.8 – 6. If you plan to repot your gardenia, select a container only a few inches larger than the current container. Ensure you have a high-quality, well-draining pot with sufficient drain holes.

**FERTILIZER:** Gardenia prefer acidic fertilizers, often times an azalea fertilizer is a perfect match. Fertilize once a month, from March through August with a balanced fertilizer formulated for acid-loving plants except when blooming. Use an acid-based fertilizer at the recommended rate. Gardenia prefer water-soluble or slow-release fertilizers. Select an acidic fertilizer (15-5-10 or 15-5-15). Using Epsom salt, once monthly, can also improve your gardenia's growth.

**PRUNING & REPOTTING:** Repot your gardenia every 2-3 years late in the winter or early in the spring. When repotting, do not prune the roots, as they are delicate, and it may cause root damage. Repot and prune in the summer after flowering. Once the flowering period ends, prune, at a slight angle, your gardenia carefully to preserve its small stature. Remove all dead or damaged branches, leaves, and wilted flowers to promote new growth.