



GARDENIA CARE

Gardenia jasminoides or Cape Jasmine is one of the most enticing, tropical houseplants with glossy, dark evergreen foliage, compact habit, and irresistibly fragrant, long blooming, gorgeous, waxy-white flowers. Gardenias can be enjoyed year-round, indoors during the winter months and outdoors typically mid-May to mid-October in Northern Ohio. They make excellent focal points in part-shade container gardens, as a shrub or topiary tree, that can be enjoyed anywhere including the porch, patio, deck, and garden border. Due to their high maintenance needs, Gardenias are known to be an advanced level tropical plant. Their care and growing success are dependent on a grower's attention to detail and accommodation of the following maintenance requirements:

Light

Gardenias flourish in part-shade with 4-6 hours of direct sunlight per day, morning sun (eastern exposure) being the best. They can be grown outdoors in part-shade after the last spring frost on porches, patios, in pots or in the landscape. Transition Gardenias outside slowly over 7-14 days starting under a tree in a shady, protected area, then gradually moving out into more direct sunlight. Return them indoors after they experienced 1-2 light fall frosts, and place in a bright room or eastern window.

Temperature

Gardenias are tropical plants but appreciate the shade and should not be grown in sites hotter than 80° F! They prefer 70° F during the day with 60° F at night. This nighttime dip in temperature is crucial, requiring at least a 10° F drop and no warmer than 62° F to set buds. Just one warm night can prevent buds from forming. Some growers decide to grow Gardenias indoors year-round because it is easier to monitor and regulate the temperature changes they require for better blooming.

Watering

High humidity supplied by daily morning misting or setting the plant on a drip tray filled with pebbles and an inch of water to evaporate around them is beneficial. In watering, the soil should be thoroughly moistened with tepid water, let it drain freely from the pot, then repeat. Water again when the soil feels slightly dry to the touch. Do not overwater and let sit in soggy conditions. Also avoid letting the root base dry out; the plant will typically not bounce back. Too much or too little water, dry air, cold or hot drafts, or too many dark winter days can cause bud drop.

Other Maintenance

Preferring acidic soil pH (5.0-6.0), fertilize with an acidic plant food like Hollytone® April to September following the package instructions. Repot Gardenias in spring, only when roots have filled their pot and are starting to emerge due to being rootbound, using an all-purpose potting mix. Prune Gardenias immediately after they finish flowering to avoid disturbing new buds that are developing. Remove dead, diseased, or damaged plant parts at any time. Control insects with insecticidal soap sprays or Neem Oil. With larger, scale insects and mealybugs, dabbing and removing them with a cotton swab dipped in rubbing alcohol is very effective. If pests are being persistent, apply a houseplant systemic insecticide before bringing them indoors for the winter.

***Jasmine** and **Ixora** will benefit from the same growing conditions listed above.



Avon | Bainbridge | Bath Twp. | Boardman | Brunswick | Canton/Jackson Twp.
Mentor | Oakwood Village | Strongsville | Tallmadge | petittigardencenter.com

*location
information*

