



## How to Grow Gardenia

**Position** – Full sun or part shade

**Soil** – Moist, well-drained

**Flowering Period** – May to October

**Hardiness** – Hardy

### About Gardenia

Gardenia are bushy evergreen shrubs or trees that originate from China and Japan where they enjoy a mild and humid environment. Large waxy and glossy leaves sit beneath attractive bowl or funnel-shaped flowers throughout summer and autumn. They are best suited to flower beds, borders and containers in a cottage or informal garden setting. You should expect to see Gardenia grow to an approximate height of 60cm (24") and a spread of 1m (40").

### How to plant Gardenia

Gardenia are best planted in moist, well-drained soil of loam, clay or sand within an acidic or neutral PH balance. Amend the planting area with a generous amount of organic matter as this will improve drainage and growing conditions. Dig a hole that is a deep and twice as wide as your plant, spreading the roots out before placing into the ground. Back fill with native soil and water thoroughly to settle in place. Gardenia are best positioned in a sheltered location of full sun or part shade.

### Caring for your Gardenia

You may wish to mulch Gardenia should you wish to retain sufficient moisture levels. This can be a combination of pine needles and bark which you should apply to the base of your plant without contacting the trunk. Water gardenia thoroughly during active growth at regular intervals and feed your plants every three weeks with an acid based fertiliser. Prune Gardenia whilst they are dormant as this will encourage healthy growth for the following season.

### Propagating Gardenia

It is possible to propagate Gardenia by seed, greenwood or semi-hardwood cuttings.