

Stephanotis floribunda – Madagascar Jasmine

Stephanotis Floribunda also known as Madagascar Jasmine, Bridal Veil or the Hawaiian Marriage Flower is an evergreen climber from Madagascar that can grow to a height of 6m and to an almost limitless length if you so desire and can provide something for it to climb upon. It has succulent, evergreen leaves which are naturally glossy and deep green in colour. It produces pure white starry flowers in clusters from spring to autumn with a wonderful perfume that is one of the most intoxicating of scents.

Stephanotis likes a warm tropical condition and thrives in bright but indirect lighting positions and will grow well throughout much of Australia. In the south or cooler locations give it a protected position so it gets as much winter warmth as possible or grow them indoors or on a verandah or balcony in a pot. Stephanotis is an easily maintained and very rewarding vine that puts on a stunning and aromatic display.

Propagation

Propagation is by seed or cuttings in summer. Best in soil that has rich compost, good drainage and some moisture.

Soak seed overnight in initially warm water.

Sow in a good quality potting mix. Surface sow the seed and press it lightly medium. Cover the medium with a small amount of vermiculite to anchor the seeds in place and to maintain moisture. Keep moist but not damp - try to maintain the moisture level at all times until germination so that the medium if squeezed in the hand will yield a few drops of moisture. Placing the growing container in a sealed plastic bag can assist to retain moisture and maintain some humidity. Place in a warm spot out of direct sunlight. Optimum germination temperature is between 20 and 23°C. Germination can take from three to 8 weeks depending on temperature.

Prick seedlings out into a 75mm pot at the second leaf stage. Grow on in a shade house or a protected position and plant out in bright but indirect lighting positions when the seedlings are at least 25cm in height and after the danger of frost has passed.

Watering

Even watering throughout the growth season, March – September - March -, especially if your plant is in bud or bloom. Keep somewhat on the dry side during the rest period.

Feeding

Feed with a fertiliser suitable for tropical plants during growing season. The 18-5-23 HVH Special Blend Hibiscus Fertiliser is excellent.

Winter rest

Please note that if you want lots of flowers you need to give your Stephanotis a rest period

during the winter months, October -February. Some of the longer, tender shoots might wither down during this time which is normal.

Pruning

Prune back soft wood in spring to encourage flowering. Also remove all dead or damaged wood. While doing this you may carefully straighten up the tangle of branches this plant often creates. Fasten branches to the support and help to plant twine the right way.

