

## Gardenia jasminoides – Cape Jasmine

Gardenia jasminoides commonly known as Cape Jasmine is an evergreen shrub originating from China. It grows to a height of 1 – 2m with a spread of about the same with foliage of well-fed shrubs is glossy, dark green. The large white flowers are waxy, white and very fragrant.

Gardenias are ideal for pot culture and like light to moderate shade in acid, moist, well-drained soils with plenty of organic matter. They are frost tolerant to about -1°C.

Mulch plants well and water gardenias regularly. Drip-irrigating the shrubs will keep water off the foliage and blossoms and prevents leaf spots. Regular watering is necessary after blooming also to keep the plants in good condition and able to withstand Winter weather.

The Gardenia flowers are highly fragrant and are open over a long period of time and make great cut flowers.

### Propagation

Gardenia seed require no special pre-treatment apart from soaking overnight. Sow seed lightly on the surface of a peaty lime free propagation mix and cover very lightly, maintain the media in a moist but not damp condition.

Best temperature for germination is 20 to 25°C, with the preference for the warmer temperature. Germination in 40 to 70 days depending upon your conditions.

Prick out the seedlings as soon as they are large enough to handle into individual tubes and grow on as desired. Plant out in their permanent position once the danger of frost has passed.

Protect young seedlings from slugs and snails.