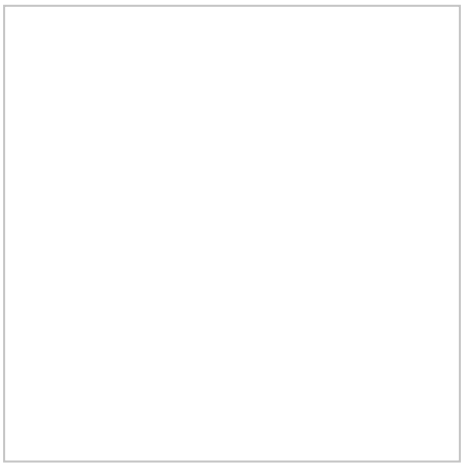
Cape jasmine



Gardenia jasminoides, the gardenia or cape jasmine, is an evergreen flowering plant of the coffee family Rubiaceae. It originated in Asia and is most commonly found growing wild in Vietnam, Southern China, Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Myanmar, India and Bangladesh. With its shiny green leaves and heavily fragrant white summer flowers, it is widely used in gardens in warm temperate and subtropical climates, and as a houseplant in temperate regions. It has been in cultivation in China for at least a thousand years, and was introduced to English gardens in the mid-18th century. Many varieties have been bred for horticulture, with low-growing, and large, and long-flowering forms.

*G. jasminoides*ï is aï shrubï with greyish bark and dark green, shiny,ï evergreenï leaves with prominent veins. The white flowers have a matte texture, in contrast to the glossy leaves. They can be quite large, up to 10ï cm (3.9ï in) in diameter, loosely funnel-shaped, andï doubleï in form. Blooming in summer and autumn, they are among the most strongly fragrant of all flowers. They are followed by small, oval fruit.

It is widely used as a garden plant in warm, temperate and subtropical gardens. It can be used as a hedge. It requires good drainage and a sunny location, and prefers an acidic soil with a pH between 5.0 and 6.5.ï*G. jasminoides*ï is generally considered to be somewhat difficult to cultivate. As a subtropical plant, it thrives best in warm temperatures above 5ï ï C (41ï ï F)ï in humid environments. Getting those conditions is rather hard inï temperateï latitudes, the reason for which gardenias are usually cultivated asï houseplantsï or in greenhouses. In warm places, though, it can be grown outdoors. Either way, it prefers bright indirect sunlight or partial shade.

Apart from the difficulties in creating suitable conditions for the plant to live, gardenias need to be planted in an acidic soil (it is aï calcifuge). If the soil is not acid enough, many of its nutrients (especially iron compounds) will not be available for the plant, since they will not dilute in water, so will not be absorbed by the roots. If this happens, gardenias start to developï chlorosis, whose main symptom is a yellowing of the leaves.ï

For this reason, it is advisable not to water gardenias with very hard water. When having to water with hard water, it is possible to add some vinegar or lemon juice to it before doing so, this will lower the pH of the water, or use an effective pH modifier, like phosphoric or nitric acid.

Iron chelateï can be added to the soil to lower the pH, but care must be taken since an overdose can kill

the plant, as with any other inorganicï soil amendment.

Category: Flowering shrubs
Families: Rubiaceae
Genus: Gardenia
Species: jasminoides
Geographical Area of Origin: South-East Asia
Climatic Zones: Mediterranean: South and islands, hills. USDA 10 a
Habit: Shrub
Leaves: Evergreen
Colore Foglie: Verde
Flowering Period: Marzo / Aprile / Maggio / Giugno / Luglio / Agosto / Settembre
Flower: Simple/double flower
Colore Fiori: Giallo ï Bianco
Favorite soil: Sub-acid / medium acid / Middle-Dough / Medium soil
Water needs: Medium
Light Exposure: Medium shade / Half shade / Full light / Full sun
Form: Tree / Grown as shrub / bush
Colore Frutti: Marrone
Parfumed: yes