

GARDENIAS

And they said we couldn't grow gardenias here

Gardenias thrive in a sunny spot with some protection from intense afternoon sun, preferring a site with morning sun and afternoon shade, especially in hot climates. In cooler regions, they can tolerate full sun, but in warmer areas, too much direct sun can scorch their leaves and cause buds to drop. Aim for four to six hours of sunlight daily, ensuring the roots are mulched and protected.

Different cultivars have different blooming habits, with some blooming once in the spring and others reblooming throughout the season.

Light: Gardenias thrive in full sun to partial shade, with shelter from intense afternoon sun.

Soil: Plant in well-draining, acidic soil with a pH between 5.0 and 6.5.

Water: Keep soil consistently moist but not soggy. Water deeply and regularly during the growing season.

Temperature: Ideal temperature range is 65-70°F (18-21°C) during the day and 60-65°F (15-18°C) at night.

Humidity: Gardenias prefer high humidity levels, around 60%. Use a humidifier or pebble tray for indoor plants.

Fertilizer: Feed every 3-4 weeks during the growing season with an acidic, slow-release fertilizer or organic options.

Pruning: Remove faded or dying flowers and prune to shape the plant or remove straggly branches. Avoid pruning in winter when buds are forming.

Pests and Diseases: Watch for common issues like whiteflies, aphids, root rot, and powdery mildew. Address promptly with appropriate treatments.

Potting and Repotting: Use a slightly larger container with drainage holes and a well-draining, acidic potting mix. Repot every 2-3 years.

Hardiness: Most gardenias are hardy in USDA zones 8-11, but some



varieties like Kleim's Hardy and Frostproof are hardy down to zone 7. When we are sitting outside the smell is wonderful. We are hoping these beautiful fragrant flowers will continue to grow and delight us with their wonderful aroma.