



Emerald Goddess Gardens

emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Botanical Name	Gardenia jasminoides radicans
Common Name	Creeping Gardenia or Crape Gardenia
Mature Size	2 ft
Bloom Color	White
Bloom Period	Late spring to summer
Boom Form	Loose double
Water	Moderate
Light	Best in filtered light
USDA Zone	9, 10A
Fragrance	Intense
Uses	Potted, border, mass planting
Special Features	Highly fragrant, easy care, heat tolerant
Grower Notes	Yellowing and dropping of leaves is a temporary common response to any environmental stress



When it comes to the combination of beauty of fragrance, the *Gardenia* plant is usually at the top of most lists, and the Dwarf Gardenia or *Gardenia radicans* is one of the most popular and easiest to grow. It is a frequent choice for foundation plantings and mass plantings in light shade.

The growth habit is low (maturing at only 1 to 2 feet in height) and horizontal (spreading out about 2-3 ft) with small, densely growing, pointed, glossy green, leathery textured leaves.

Few plants are its equal for ease of care and rewarding beauty and fragrance. It is a profuse and reliable bloomer, producing an abundance of small 1-2 inch loosely doubled flowers from late Spring to early Summer, with scattered flowers throughout the year. *Radicans* is more tolerant of high summer heat than many others, but as a trade off is much less tolerant of cold.

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size plants is not generally recommended, so for the best results with your new *Gardenia* plant, repot and allow it to grow larger before setting out into the landscape. When the new pot has filled with roots and is ready to be planted, here are a few hints for successful growing outdoors within the recommended USDA Zone Range.

- Plant in fertile, well draining, slightly acidic soil. Amend the planting area with high quality compost as may be required.
- Locate in light shade, taking care to protect from direct hot afternoon sun
- Provide supplemental irrigation sufficient to maintain uniform moisture as over drying between waterings will cause yellowing and shed of the foliage, and bud drop.
- Feed a good quality, slow release plant food formulated for acid loving plants 2 to 3 times yearly.
- Prune for shape after bloom, avoid pruning in winter and early spring to avoid cutting away bud wood,.
- In Zone 8 and 9A, mulch heavily well ahead of first freeze.
- Growers note: Yellowing and dropping of leaves is a normal, self correcting, adaptive response to changes within the environment or simple aging of the leaves.

Please email us with any growing or planting questions

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Care of Your New Gardenia Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new Gardenia plant:

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size plants directly into the landscape is not recommended. So, for the best results with your new hibiscus plant we suggest that it be repotted into a larger pot and allowed to grow larger until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out.

- Immediately unpack, remove the wrappings and shipping gel and discard the gell.
- Re-pot the new plant into a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. A product formulated for acid loving plants is preferable. Do not use hot, all chemical fertilizes like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate so that the plant can receive direct, full spectrum light for several hours daily, but is protected from hot, direct afternoon sun.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over water.
- Packing crystals may be reused to conserve water, but do so with caution as they hold 6000 times their weight in water.
- If reusing the crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the potting media.
- Be sure the pot can drain and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water for more than a day.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food (such as Miracle Grow) every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune or pinch lightly and often after flowering between July and September, when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape. Note: Pruning in the Fall will decrease number of flowers in the Spring.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze until well established.

Despite their ability to grow and bloom in moderate shade, **Gardenias are not easily grown as house plants**, while they can be brought indoors when blooming, they should be returned to outdoor life soon after the bloom cycle ends.

Yellowing of lower leaves is a natural and normal response to aging of the leaf, change of the season, or any other sudden change in the environment.

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com

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This plant is intended for use as an ornamental, decorative item only. Emerald Goddess Gardens does not recommend, endorse nor offer the product for any other use.