



Emerald Goddess Gardens

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Botanical Name	Tabernaemontana divaricata 'Flore Pleno'
Common Name	Florida Gardenia
Mature Size	4 to 5 ft
Bloom Color	Pure White
Bloom Period	Late spring to fall
Boom Form	Ruffled double
Water	Drought tolerant once established
Light	Best in Light Shade
USDA Zone	Zone 9 to 11
Fragrance	Yes
Uses	Accent, Hedge, Specimen
Special Features	EZ to Grow



Tabernaemontana divaricata is called by a number of common names including, **Florida Gardenia, Cape, Crape or Crepe Jasmine, Nero's Crown, Indian Carnation, Rosebay, Adam's Apple, The Coffee Rose**

This plant is actually neither a gardenia or a jasmine, but is, instead, a member of the coffee family. It is native to India. The misnaming comes from the similarity of the flowers to gardenia blossoms, and the strong pleasant fragrance, that is reminiscent of gardenias and jasmine, but lighter. In the summer, densely doubled pure white flowers cover a large 6' shrub that has attractive dense, large, glossy, deep green leaves. The petals are thinner and have a more delicate crepe like appearance than a gardenia.

It is an easy and rewarding tropical shrub to grow, and is an old variety that is frequently found growing nearly wild in old landscapes. Many of those came to be there, not by the plans of landscape architects, but by cuttings, both rooted and unrooted, being passed among friends and neighbors. Meaning, of course, that it absolutely has a place in our product line.

There are lots of these left in my small rural community that have survived all manner of insults and abuse such as hurricanes and sudden hard freezes. Although it is considered a tropical, it is a hardy one that will generally sprout back from a strong root system even if a sudden bout of freezing weather knocks it back severely. It is another of those old plants that has been recently rediscovered and is gaining popularity again since it has been featured in a few well known gardening publications and web sites in the past few seasons.

Plant in well drained soil in the full sun or in light shade. This plant will actually be denser and fuller in some light shade, and there is no noticeable reduction in the bloom. The bloom will also hold longer if it is protected from the afternoon sun. Planting in areas where it receives cool morning light and is then sheltered by the long shadow of building or other plantings in the afternoon is an ideal location. Be sure to situate it where the wonderful fragrance can be enjoyed, especially in the evening, when the wonderful smell is at it's peak.

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

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 Plant

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

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size plants or plugs directly into the landscape is not recommended, with a few exceptions. So, for the best results with your new 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.

Check the recommended USDA Zone Range for the plant. Many gardeners are able to successfully grow plants outside their recommended Zones, but this is dependent upon providing the type of environment and care the plant needs.

- Immediately repot the new plant into a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot (a 6 inch pot is the recommended size for starter plugs) 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. Do not use hot, all chemical fertilizers 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 few hours.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune or pinch lightly and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze, as even cold tolerant plants can be damaged by cold, and tropicals will perform better, flower earlier, and live longer within their Zone Range when protected from cold temperatures.

Many tropical and subtropical plants can be grown as potted plants indefinitely, and can be successfully wintered over indoors in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the 30°F's, are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40°F) with adequate, full spectrum light, consistent soil moisture is maintained, and any pest or disease issue are promptly and properly addressed.

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