



# Emerald Goddess Gardens

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Botanical Name	Allamanda blanchetti or violacea
Common Name	Sunset
Plant Family	Apocynaceae
Plant Type	Flowering Tropical
Mature Size	8'x8'
Bloom Color	Peach, Bronze, Pink
Bloom Period	Late Spring to Fall
Boom Form	Bell Shaped
Water	Moderate until established
Light	Best In Full Sun
USDA Zone	9B & South
Fragrance	None
Uses	Fences, Trellis, Supports
Special Features	Showy Bloomer
Cautions	All parts are considered toxic



*Unusual, exotic, eye catching*, are good adjectives to describe *Allamandas*, as are *confounding* and *confusing*, at least when it comes to keeping the names straight, as there are many different common names for the same colors, many colors that are unstable and changeable which frequently trick a grower into thinking there's something new, only to be disappointed when the next flower is a bit different again, or the same as it started, and many other plants are commonly called *Allamandas* that are actually of different species.

There is no better example of the confusion that rules than the plant we call *Sunset Allamanda*. It is an odd and more rare flower color in namesake sunset shades of muted yellow, cream, coral, apricot and pink. It will, at times, be darker, lighter, throw some stripes, or show some unusual edging, so it is infinitely interesting, fun and rewarding to grow and observe. But it does tend to defy and rebel against all efforts to pin it down with a singular name. You will sometimes find it sold as *Indonesian Sunset*, *Jamaican Sunset*, *Tropical Sunset*, *Cream*, *Chocolate Cream*, *Peach Cobbler*, and also sometimes misnamed as *Chocolate* or *Chocolate Swirl* (which are names that generally belong to a more muted brown toned pink flower).

The plant is an outstanding tropical vine-like shrub that requires little care and thrives in hot humid climates. In the tropics, *Allamandas* bloom through out the year, although *Sunset* takes some time to mature and does not flower as abundantly as some others.

The plant's growth habit is loose and vine like, with long streaming canes. It can be trained on to a trellis for magnificent displays. Unchecked this plant can reach sizes over 6 feet, but are easily pruned to manageable size.

The trumpet shaped flowers are born on the terminal end and will remain open for several days. The blooms quickly replace each other and provide a profusion of color.

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at [service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com](mailto:service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com). If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at [emeraldgoddessgardens.com](http://emeraldgoddessgardens.com).

*Toxicity information generally known in the horticultural trade and gardening circles, if known, is provided for reference purposes only. Medical and/or Horticulture experts in the field of Plant Toxicology should be consulted for specific and reliable information.*

*This plant is intended for ornamental, decorative use only. Emerald Goddess Gardens tm does not recommend, endorse, or offer the product for any other intended use.*

## 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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