



Emerald Goddess Gardens

emeraldgoddessgardens.com

- Botanical Name: Gardenia taitensis
- Common Name: Tahitian or Vietnamese Gardenia, Tiare Flower
- Plant Family: Rubiaceae
- Mature Size: 10 to 15 feet
- Growth Habit: Dense and Bushy
- Bloom Color: White
- Bloom Form: Single Pinwheel
- Bloom Time: Warm Season
- Fragrant: Yes
- Water Needs: Moderate
- Light Needs: Full Sun to Light Shade
- Recommended Zones: 9, 10, 11
- Key Features: Fast full bushy growth habit, repeat blooms, fragrant
- Suggested Uses: Specimen, Hedge, Boundary
- Growers Notes : Allow adequate space.



Tahitian Gardenia

The Tahitian Gardenia (*Gardenia taitensis*) is a large, quick-growing, dense, bushy tropical flowering shrub that is native to French Polynesia. It is widely cultivated in Tahiti, but was introduced in the 18th and 19th Centuries, and is not native to that area.

Flowers are large, intensely fragrant, five to eight petaled, pinwheel shaped, singles in creamy white. It is also commonly known as Tiare Flower and Vietnamese Gardenia, and is a popular and culturally significant flower used throughout the South Pacific region for crowns, leis and other decorations for ceremonies and celebrations.

It is a fast grower with an upright, dense, bushy, tree-like habit; and can reach heights of 10 to 20 feet, but can be maintained lower as a hedge or large specimen. Tahitian Gardenia establishes quickly, and generally blooms when young, but may take a little time to acclimate before producing the first flowers. Once established it flowers easily and readily throughout the warm season.

Gardenias generally are not well suited for growing indoors, and this one is no exception. Tahitian Gardenia can be brought indoors for brief periods to enjoy the fragrant flowers, but should be returned to an outdoor location within a short time. However, it can be grown in large outdoor garden pots indefinitely and wintered over indoors in a warm well light environment.

- Plant in well draining soil.
- Locate in full sun
- Provide supplemental irrigation until well established.
- Prune after flowering to shape and maintain within the desired growing area.
- Feed a good quality bloom boosting fertilizer with the initial planting and yearly thereafter.
- Protect from frost and freeze in all Zones for the longest life and earliest bloom

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

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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.