



Gardenias are beloved for their fragrant, creamy-white flowers and glossy, dark green leaves. Here's a care and handling guide for Gardenia plants:

#### Gardenia Care and Handling Guide:

##### 1. Light:

Gardenias thrive in bright, indirect light. They prefer at least 4-6 hours of direct sunlight daily.

If grown indoors, place the plant near a south or west-facing window. Outdoors, provide partial shade to protect from intense afternoon sun.

##### 2. Watering:

Keep the soil consistently moist, especially during the growing season (spring and summer). Water when the top inch of the soil feels slightly dry.

Use well-draining soil and avoid waterlogged conditions, as Gardenias are sensitive to overwatering.

##### 3. Soil:

Plant Gardenias in acidic, well-draining soil. A mix of potting soil for acid-loving plants, peat moss, and perlite is suitable.

Maintain slightly acidic soil pH in the range of 5.0 to 6.0.

##### 4. Temperature and Humidity:

Gardenias prefer temperatures between 65°F to 70°F (18°C to 21°C). They can tolerate slightly cooler temperatures.

Maintain moderate to high humidity levels. Regular misting or placing a humidifier nearby can be beneficial, especially in drier indoor environments.

##### 5. Fertilization:

Feed Gardenias with a balanced liquid fertilizer every 4-6 weeks during the growing season (spring and summer).

Use a fertilizer formulated for acid-loving plants. Follow the recommended dosage on the fertilizer package.

##### 6. Pruning:

Prune Gardenias after flowering to shape the plant and remove dead or leggy growth. Pinching the tips can encourage bushier growth.

Remove faded flowers to promote additional blooms.

##### 7. Pests and Diseases:

Watch for pests such as aphids, whiteflies, and spider mites. Treat infestations promptly with insecticidal soap or neem oil.

Ensure good air circulation to prevent fungal issues. Avoid overhead watering to keep the foliage dry.

#### 8. Winter Care:

In cooler climates, protect Gardenias from frost. Consider bringing potted plants indoors or providing frost protection for outdoor plants.

Reduce watering and fertilization during the dormant season (fall and winter).

#### 9. Repotting:

Repot Gardenias when they outgrow their current container or when the soil becomes depleted. Repotting is typically necessary every 2-3 years.

#### 10. Fragrance and Enjoyment:

Gardenias are cherished for their sweet fragrance. Place them in locations where their delightful scent can be enjoyed, such as near windows or outdoor seating areas.

#### 11. Caution:

Gardenia plants are toxic if ingested. Keep them out of reach of pets and children.

By following these care guidelines, you can cultivate healthy and fragrant Gardenias, whether they adorn your garden or grace your indoor spaces. Their exquisite blooms and captivating scent make them a delightful addition to any plant collection.