

Gardenia Care



937-426-0861

www.knollwoodgardens.com

What are the light requirements for gardenias?

Like many other tropical bloomers, gardenias need lots and lots of light. When growing indoors, gardenias almost have to have supplemental light, especially in the winter.

How much water do they need?

Gardenias need to stay evenly moist. Ideally, provide room temperature **distilled water**. Keep them a little drier when they aren't in bloom. Do not allow gardenias to sit with water in the saucer for more than an hour or two.

Do they have any special temperature and humidity requirements?

Gardenias bloom their best with warm days and cool nights. Other than avoiding temperatures below 50°, gardenias are fairly tolerant of a wide range of temperatures, especially if it is humid. **Gardenias require high humidity** to perform their best. Use a humidifier or a humidity tray indoors, especially in the winter.

How much fertilizer do they require?

Feed gardenias every two or three weeks with a water-soluble fertilizer. Several times a year, use an acid fertilizer. If you are not using distilled water, be sure to use the acid formula on a regular basis.

Why won't gardenias bloom?

If the plant appears healthy, the most common reason for a gardenia to fail to bloom is not enough humidity. They also cycle in and out of bloom with the seasons.

Why do the buds drop even when the plant looks ok?

This is usually from either too little humidity or water that is too alkaline. Distilled water is best. Even though wilting is usually associated with a plant being too dry, it can be a symptom of several different problems. Check to see if the plant is being kept too wet. Exposure to sudden cold temperatures will do it too.

When the leaves are yellow, but veins are green, what is the problem?

Gardenias are sensitive to water with too much lime, like much of the tap and well water in our area. Use distilled water and an acid fertilizer. The fertilizer should also contain iron.

What causes healthy looking leaves to fall off?

Loss of healthy leaves is usually caused by the soil being kept too dry. Drying can be caused by lack of moisture in the soil or the air. Keeping a gardenia where it receives a breeze (especially from heating or air conditioning) can also cause leaf drop.

What kind of insect problems should I watch for?

Gardenias can have problems with white flies, scale, mealybugs, spider mites and aphids. Monitor the plants closely (looking carefully under the leaves and at new growth) so you can stop an infestation before it does any damage. Pick off scale, wash off other pests with a mild soap solution and a small brush.

Gardenia Care



937-426-0861

www.knollwoodgardens.com

What are the light requirements for gardenias?

Like many other tropical bloomers, gardenias need lots and lots of light. When growing indoors, gardenias almost have to have supplemental light, especially in the winter.

How much water do they need?

Gardenias need to stay evenly moist. Ideally, provide room temperature **distilled water**. Keep them a little drier when they aren't in bloom. Do not allow gardenias to sit with water in the saucer for more than an hour or two.

Do they have any special temperature and humidity requirements?

Gardenias bloom their best with warm days and cool nights. Other than avoiding temperatures below 50°, gardenias are fairly tolerant of a wide range of temperatures, especially if it is humid. **Gardenias require high humidity** to perform their best. Use a humidifier or a humidity tray indoors, especially in the winter.

How much fertilizer do they require?

Feed gardenias every two or three weeks with a water-soluble fertilizer. Several times a year, use an acid fertilizer. If you are not using distilled water, be sure to use the acid formula on a regular basis.

Why won't gardenias bloom?

If the plant appears healthy, the most common reason for a gardenia to fail to bloom is not enough humidity. They also cycle in and out of bloom with the seasons.

Why do the buds drop even when the plant looks ok?

This is usually from either too little humidity or water that is too alkaline. Distilled water is best. Even though wilting is usually associated with a plant being too dry, it can be a symptom of several different problems. Check to see if the plant is being kept too wet. Exposure to sudden cold temperatures will do it too.

When the leaves are yellow, but veins are green, what is the problem?

Gardenias are sensitive to water with too much lime, like much of the tap and well water in our area. Use distilled water and an acid fertilizer. The fertilizer should also contain iron.

What causes healthy looking leaves to fall off?

Loss of healthy leaves is usually caused by the soil being kept too dry. Drying can be caused by lack of moisture in the soil or the air. Keeping a gardenia where it receives a breeze (especially from heating or air conditioning) can also cause leaf drop.

What kind of insect problems should I watch for?

Gardenias can have problems with white flies, scale, mealybugs, spider mites and aphids. Monitor the plants closely (looking carefully under the leaves and at new growth) so you can stop an infestation before it does any damage. Pick off scale, wash off other pests with a mild soap solution and a small brush.