

# Gardenia thunbergia

## (Starry Gardenia)

Gardenia thunbergia is a beautiful flowering shrub or small tree, with showy, heavily perfumed flowers and decorative fruits. Very similar to G. jasminoides with much slower growth rate, with a rigid look and single star shape flowers. The plant starts blooming only in mature age not before 5-6 years and only in the really warm condition. Sensitive to soil conditions needs acidic soil with good organic matter. Other than the landscape uses this plant is used as rootstock for other gardenias for sandy soil condition where the G. floribunda and G. jasminoides are very sensitive for different soil nematodes.



Plant Image

### Landscape Information

**French Name:** Gardénia

**Pronunciation:** gar-DEEN-ee-uh thun-BER-jee-uh

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Origin:** South Africa

**Heat Zones:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Hardiness Zones:** 8, 9, 10, 11

**Uses:** Hedge, Specimen, Mass Planting, Pollution Tolerant / Urban

### Size/Shape

**Growth Rate:** Slow

**Tree Shape:** Round

**Canopy Symmetry:** Symmetrical

**Canopy Density:** Dense

**Canopy Texture:** Medium

**Height at Maturity:** 3 to 5 m

**Spread at Maturity:** 3 to 5 meters

**Time to Ultimate Height:** 5 to 10 Years

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Flower Image

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## Botanical Description

### Foliage

**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite

**Leaf Venation:** Brachidodrome

**Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Blade:** 10 - 20

**Leaf Shape:** Ovate

**Leaf Margins:** Entire

**Leaf Textures:** Waxy

**Leaf Scent:** No Fragrance

**Color(growing season):** Green

**Color(changing season):** Green

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### Flower

**Flower Showiness:** True

**Flower Size Range:** 3 - 7

**Flower Type:** Solitary

**Flower Sexuality:** Monoecious (Bisexual)

**Flower Scent:** Pleasant

**Flower Color:** Yellow

**Seasons:** Spring, Winter

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### Trunk

**Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage:** Generally resists breakage

**Number of Trunks:** Multi-Trunked

**Trunk Esthetic Values:** Not Showy

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### Fruit

**Fruit Type:** Capsule

**Fruit Showiness:** False

**Fruit Size Range:** 0 - 1.5, 1.5 - 3

**Fruit Colors:** Orange

**Seasons:** Spring

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Fruit Image

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### Horticulture Management

#### Tolerance

**Frost Tolerant:** No

**Heat Tolerant:** Yes

**Drought Tolerant:** Yes

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#### Requirements

**Soil Requirements:** Loam, Sand

**Soil Ph Requirements:** Acidic

**Water Requirements:** Moderate

**Light Requirements:** Full, Part

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#### Management

**Invasive Potential:** No

**Pruning Requirement:** Needed, to develop a strong structure

**Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter:** No

**Surface Rooting:** No

**Life Span:** 25-50 years

**Diseases:** Powdery Mildew

**Edible Parts:** None

**Pests:** Mites, Thrips, Scales, Aphids, Mealy-Bug

**Plant Propagations:** Cutting, Layering

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