

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

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

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

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked

Trunk Esthetic Values: Not Showy

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

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic

Water Requirements: Moderate

Light Requirements: Full, Part

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
