

Gardenia (Jasmine, jasminoides)

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Specific Bonsai care guidelines for the Gardenia

Position: The Gardenia likes a warm, airy place and much light but no strong direct sunlight. Ideal temperatures for this species are between 16° C and 23° C / 60° F and 75° F and not below 15° C / 59° F in winter. If the windows are opened for ventilation in winter, take care that the Gardenia tree is not exposed to cold draught.

Watering: The Gardenia is an acid-loving plant like the Azalea. It should be preferably watered with rain water. Keep the soil slightly moist, but don't over-water the Gardenia. It likes high humidity and benefits from regular spraying with lime-free water if it is kept indoors.^[1]_[SEP]

Feeding: Use liquid fertilizer for acid-loving plants every two weeks from spring to autumn and once a month in winter, regarding the dosing instruction. The Gardenia is prone to chlorosis, so consider to use an additional product to prevent this.^[1]_[SEP]

Pruning and wiring: Prune the Gardenia after flowering. Remove the withered flowers if no fruits are developing. The best time for wiring the branches and twigs is in May and June when the plant is more flexible than in other months.

Repotting: Repot every two or three years in spring with gentle root-pruning. Use a soil that is suitable for acid-loving plants like Azaleas, Kanuma for example.

Propagation: The Gardenia can easily be propagated from cuttings which even root in a glass of water.

Pests and diseases: Aphids, scale and mealy bugs like to attack the Gardenia's leaves and even their roots, and sooty mold thrives on the honey dew those insects produce. Use specific insecticides in case of an infestation.