

# GARDENIA CARE SHEET

The Gardenia, or Cape Jasmine, can be a delight as an indoor foliage plant, although it may be temperamental. In the spring the large, waxy white flowers fill the air with a delightful fragrance. Even without flowers, it is an attractive green plant.

**TEMPERATURE:** Average warmth. For flower buds to form a night temperature of 60-65 degrees F. is required and the day temperature should be 10 degrees higher.

**LIGHT:** Bright light is essential, but avoid direct hot summer sun.

**WATER:** Water plant when slightly dry. Water thoroughly and discard drainage. Use tepid water.

**HUMIDITY:** This plant requires humidity . . . use a humidifier or pebble tray whenever possible. Do not mist.

**FERTILIZER:** Use a 30-10-10 fertilizer, 3 to 4 times a year but do not use when the plant is in bud or in bloom.

**REPOTTING:** Repot when needed in the spring. Use only the next size up pot to plant into. A light potting mix is ideal. Propagate by cutting in the spring. Use a rooting powder to stimulate root production.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** Pinch out stem tips to improve the form of the plant, but do not destroy flower buds. The leaves of this plant will drop if the soil is too wet or too dry. Flower buds will drop if the plant is stressed and during its acclimation period.