

# Gardenia

Gardenia jasminoides

## QUICK FACTS

---

USDA ZONES

**8–11**

SUNLIGHT

**Part Sun**

BLOOM

**Summer**

HEIGHT

**3–6 ft**

DEER

**Resistant**

POLLINATORS

**Yes**

## AT A GLANCE

---

Two things kill most gardenias in the mid-Atlantic and upper South: wrong soil pH and poor cold-hardiness cultivar selection. Gardenias require acidic soil (pH 5.0-6.0). In soils above pH 7.0, iron becomes unavailable to the plant regardless of what else you do. The zone 7a winter problem is solvable only with the right cultivar -- 'Kleim's Hardy', 'Chuck Hayes', or 'Frost Proof' are the benchmark choices for cold-marginal areas.

## PLANTING CHECKLIST

---

- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1–2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

## FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/plants/gardenia-care/>