

Citrus, Gardenia, Hibiscus & Jasmine

GENERAL CARE

LIGHT | Position your plant near a west or south-facing window to allow for four or more hours of bright light each day, but protect it from direct sun in the summer months.

TEMPERATURE | See specific requirements, in the right hand column.

WATER | Keep compost evenly moist at all times, except as noted for citrus. Water the soil thoroughly and discard the drainage from the saucer. Reduce watering in winter.

FERTILIZATION | These plants benefit from acid and iron supplements so a constant diet of 30-10-10 mixed at half strength in winter but the recommended rate during the growing season will help keep them happy.

HUMIDITY | They all thrive in humid conditions so frequent misting is advised.

CAUSES OF COMMON PROBLEMS

- :: Low light levels impede blooming.
- :: Bud drop is often the result of dry compost, under feeding or abrupt temperature changes.
- :: Dry air can cause leaves to curl.
- :: Leaf loss is often caused by dry compost, over watering or cold temperatures.
- :: Citrus, Hibiscus and Gardenia are susceptible to spider mites and aphids. Wash with water and treat with Safers Insecticidal Soap.

SPECIFIC NEEDS

GARDENIA | A beautiful but demanding plant, the Gardenia requires dedication. Flower bud formation is sensitive to night temperatures of 9- 12°C but daytime temperatures should be 17°-20°C. Bud drop will result from dry compost.

HIBISCUS | This plant requires average room temperatures and loves direct sun except during the heat of summer. With proper care, it can produce flowers from spring right through to autumn.

JASMINUM | Jasmine require night temperatures of 17°- 19°C and daytime of 22°C. Keep this plant cool in winter and place it outdoors in summer. The compost should be moist at all times.

CITRUS (orange, lemon, lime) These shrubby specimens require as much sun as you can provide them. Water them moderately but consistently, year round. Summer is the normal flowering time for citrus plants but Calamondins can produce flowers and fruit all year long. They require good drainage and protection from cold draughts. Cooler winter temperatures are beneficial and spending the summer outdoors is also favourable. Pollinating flowers by hand will assist it in its fruit endeavours.

Note: if purchasing a citrus plant while it bears fruit, it's best not to eat the fruit until the next crop since you cannot be certain what the grower may have sprayed on it.

