

Botanical Name: Gardenia augusta 'Mystery' (G. jasminoides)

Common Name: Mystery gardenia

Type of Plant: dicot; shrub Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape the largest cultivar of Gardenia in So. Calif.; grows erect with spreading stems forming a loose, open, rounded canopy unless pruned; foliage and flowers are also larger than other varieties

Height 3' - 6' (8') Spread equal Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors thrives in full sun locations - needs summer heat for best growth; prefers partial sun at desert sites

Soil requires a rich well-drained loam; avoid wet clay soils

Hardiness hardy to 20° F (zones 7-9, 12-16, 18-24); prefers low-elevation humid sites

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, opposite or whorled, elliptic, 3"-4" long; dark green and shiny; lateral veins run parallel out to the margins (leaves larger than variety 'Veitchii')

Flowers white, double-petaled, very fragrant, fairly large (3"-5" across); mostly single at ends of stems - June through September

Fruit if present, a small capsule

Propagation: softwood or semi-hardwood cuttings

Usage: a medium to large filler or informal hedge, for tropical or subtropical landscape themes; valued for their large-sized fragrant white flowers

Landscape Care:

Watering requires regular - tolerates heavy irrigation if planted in well-draining soils

Fertilizing feed at least 3 times annually for best flower production; use balanced fertilizer and iron chelates to correct chlorosis

Pruning periodically head back to develop a fuller shape tends to become leggy with age

Pests/Diseases aphids, scale, mealybugs; chlorosis in high pH soils

Special Conditions plant high in well-mulched soil

Origin: China Family: Rubiaceae