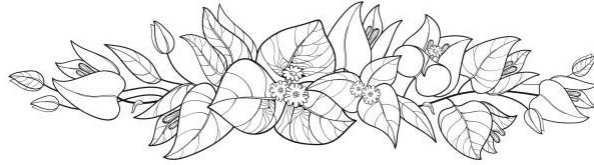


Bougainvillea Growing & Care

Bougainvillea can be grown in the Bay Area, but because they are semi-tropical, there are some guidelines prospective bougainvillea buyers should consider.



PLACEMENT

Where frost is expected, vines should be given a protected, warm wall or the warmest spot in your garden. If you can get your bougainvillea through the first couple of winters, it will become established and more able to take some frost damage and still recover.

ROOTS

Bougainvillea roots don't knit the soil together into a firm root ball in the container and are highly sensitive to disturbances. Transplanting, rough handling or knocking the root ball around can fatally injure the plant. To minimize disturbance when planting, cut out the bottom of the container and slit the sides from an inch below the top of the can to the bottom. After you have planted the vine, carefully pull the container up and out of the soil then water your bougainvillea.

SUPPORT

Supply sturdy support such as a trellis, stake or arbor and keep long shoots tied up so they won't whip in the wind or shred the leaves against the sharp thorns along the stems.

FERTILIZE

Fertilize in spring and summer with **Master Nursery Rose & Flower Food** or **EB Stone Rose & Flower Food**. With plentiful sunlight and consistent feeding, these plants can bloom much of the year. If your bougainvillea is not flowering, it is probably not receiving enough sun or fertilizer.

WATER

Water normally while plants are growing fast; then ease off temporarily in midsummer to promote better flowering. Bougainvillea are more likely to flower when they are stressed a little to the dry side.

PRUNING

Don't be afraid to prune to renew the plant or to shape or direct growth. Prune heavily in spring after frost. On wall-grown plants, nip back long stems during growing season to produce more flowering wood. Shrubby or heavily pruned plants make good self-supporting container shrubs for terrace or patio.

CONTAINER GROWING

Plants do best in large clay containers (which tend to stay drier) or in large hanging baskets. Use **Master Nursery Potting Soil** for a well-draining container.

Some varieties of Bougainvillea are more frost hardy than others. A few of our favorites are:

'*Barbara Karst*' sports vigorous growth and a quick come back from frost damage. This vine blooms young and for a long period with showy bracts that are bright red in the sun or bluish crimson in the shade.

'*San Diego Red*' has large deep green leaves that hold well in cold winters lead to deep red bracts over a long blooming season. This vigorous high-climbing vine can be trained into a tree form with staking & pruning.



Alden Lane Nursery

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