

# Gardenia jasminoides 'Prostrata' Dwarf Gardenia<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

This dwarf cultivar of *Gardenia jasminoides* is much different from the species (Fig. 1). Trailing gardenia reaches a height of 2 to 3 feet and can spread 4 to 6 feet. This plant has an open, horizontal branching habit that makes it an attractive ground cover. It will not grow into a shrub as does the species. The small, dark, lustrous, green leaves generally occur on the stems in 3s. The leaf veins of this cultivar are not as prominent as the species. The leaves are accompanied by one-inch, white, fragrant flowers in the spring and summer. The fruits of trailing gardenia are small, ovate berries that are relatively inconspicuous.



Figure 1. Dwarf gardenia.

## **General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Gardenia jasminoides* 'Prostrata' **Pronunciation:** gar-DEEN-ee-uh jass-min-OY-deez

Common name(s): dwarf gardenia

**Family:** *Rubiaceae* **Plant type:** ground cover

USDA hardiness zones: 8 through 10 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 8: year round
Planting month for zone 9: year round
Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year rou

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

**Uses:** ground cover; container or above-ground planter;

mass planting; cascading down a wall

Availablity: generally available in many areas within its

hardiness range

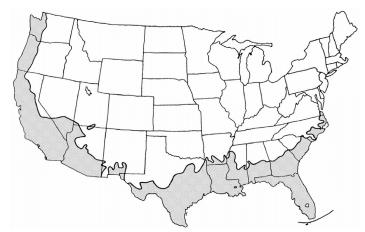


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

# **Description**

**Height:** 2 to 3 feet **Spread:** 3 to 6 feet

**Plant habit:** spreading; prostrate (flat)

Plant density: dense
Growth rate: moderate

**Texture:** fine

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## **Foliage**

Leaf arrangement: whorled

Leaf type: simple Leaf margin: entire Leaf shape: ovate Leaf venation: pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen **Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches

Leaf color: variegated

Fall color: no fall color change Fall characteristic: not showy

#### **Flower**

Flower color: white

Flower characteristic: pleasant fragrance; spring flowering;

summer flowering

#### **Fruit**

Fruit shape: oval

Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches

Fruit cover: fleshy Fruit color: orange

Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

#### **Trunk and Branches**

Trunk/bark/branches: usually with one stem/trunk

Current year stem/twig color: green Current year stem/twig thickness: thin

## **Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun

Soil tolerances: clay; sand; acidic; loam

**Drought tolerance:** moderate **Soil salt tolerances:** poor **Plant spacing:** 24 to 36 inches

#### Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

**Pest resistance:** very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect plant health or aesthetics

## **Use and Management**

This plant is great in planter boxes or pots and makes a lovely border plant. It is also a good mass or facing plant for the front of a shrub border. Trailing gardenia will also cascade nicely over a wall. It is most commonly used as a ground cover.

Position this plant in an area that receives full sun or partial shade. Trailing gardenia prefers acidic, well-drained soils that are of medium fertility. It is moderately drought tolerant and can be grown throughout Florida. However, this cultivar is not as cold hardy as the species. Plants that are regularly fertilized maintain a dark green color.

*Gardenia jasminoides* 'Prostrata' is commonly propagated by softwood cuttings in June, July, and August. Seeds can also be used to grow this plant.

The cultivar 'Radicans Variegata' has white variegations on most leaves. Some nurseries and catalogues refer to 'Prostrata' as 'Radicans'. They can be used interchangeably in landscape applications.

#### **Pest and Diseases**

Trailing gardenia is susceptible to white fly, scale, and aphids and, therefore, requires some attention to keep it looking nice and healthy. Plants in poorly drained soil often develop yellow leaves and grow poorly.