

Caring for Bougainvillea

Blooming bougainvillea are a show stopper. They are the start of every backyard paradise. To get the most out of your new bougainvillea, follow the tips below for planting, pruning and pest control.



Site Selection

- Bougainvillea need full sun, so choose a spot in your yard that receives at least six hours of direct sun per day.
- Bougainvillea also prefer to be dry, rather than wet. So select a well-drained location.

Watering

- The most common reason for lack of blooms on a bougainvillea is **over-watering**.
- Water every other day when newly planted and then each month add an extra day in between until you are down to one watering per week.
- Adjust lawn irrigation if needed so that sprinklers aren't soaking bougainvillea.
- Plant a bougainvillea raised out of the ground a little to increase drainage.

Planting

- The best way to plant a bougainvillea is to leave it in the pot! Young bougainvillea have sensitive root systems and leaving them in the pot reduces transplant shock. Also, over time, the stress of confined roots contributes to more blooms.
- Cut 4 large X's around the sides of the pot and cut away the rim so that you won't see it once planting is complete.
- Dig a hole and amend the area with well-drained soil such as our Kerby's Pine Soil and then plant the bougainvillea as you would any other plant, planting it so that the top of the root ball is about an inch above the surrounding area.

Fertilizer

- Regular fertilizer will keep your bougainvillea growing and blooming.
- Use The Kerby's Special monthly for the first year.
- In the second year, fertilize in spring and fall with the Kerby's Special, and in summer, fertilize with Bloom Booster fertilizer.

Pest Control

- Watch for little chew marks and holes on the leaves. It's a sign of a warm weather pest, the bougainvillea worm or looper. Treat plants with Natural Guard Caterpillar Spray with Bt in the evenings to control and prevent.

