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Unusual and Exotic Plants



Growing Sambac Jasmines

Sambac Jasmine or Arabian Jasmine is a tropical evergreen which produces a continuous show of fragrant flowers throughout the warmer months on well-established plants. These Jasmines are somewhat scandent shrubs that can produce long canes from time to time that allows for the plant to be espaliered on a trellis or other vertical support if so desired. If you prefer to keep it in a shrub form simply prune it to the desired form and head back any extra long canes.

Sambac Jasmine will need a good quality well-draining somewhat acidic potting soil. The variety 'Grand Duke of Tuscany' is slower growing than the single flowered types which makes it a good choice for container culture and it has the advantage that it's wonderfully fragrant double gardenia-like flowers last a good deal longer than the single ones. If and when you do uppot your Jasmine go up by no more than one container size at a time. If it's in a 6" pot uppot it to an 8 or 10" pot but no larger, if it's in a 4" pot step up to a 6". The reasoning behind this is that if you have too much soil it may stay too wet for too long of a period and can set the plant up for disease problems.



Grand Duke of Tuscany

Sambac Jasmines will grow under full sun conditions, although we find that afternoon shade will help to maintain a darker green foliage while still providing ample flowers. If grown in full sun at lower latitudes their foliage may yellow somewhat during the heat of summer. These are tropical plants and so do relish a certain amount of humidity, with that in mind we prefer to grow them out doors at least during the warmer months of the year and typically they will reward you for it with growth and their wonderfully fragrant flowers. They should be protected from freezing temperatures, although they are reported to be root hardy in zone 9 they will flower more and become larger plants if protected from such conditions. When grown indoors provide your Jasmines with as much direct sunlight as possible, they will tolerate high light conditions but will flower more and produce more vigorous and healthier plants with direct sunlight.

This Jasmine has average water requirements but will sulk if kept too wet and can succumb to root rot if kept overly wet. The easiest way to determine if it's time to water them is by sticking your finger in the soil to the depth of your first knuckle, if the soil feels dry and room temperature it is probably time to water, if the soil feels moist and cool, then it's not yet time to water. When watering, water from the top and let the water drain into the saucer, after 30-40 minutes dump out any excess water left standing in the saucer, if all of the water was soaked up from the saucer, the plant may require a second watering. Leaving your plants sitting in a saucer of water will often lead to suffocation of the root system for lack of air and will promote fungal and disease problems and in the case of Sambac Jasmine root rot. Over time, you will become more familiar with how much and how often to water your plants. If at any time, the soil becomes so dry as to shrink away from the sides of the pot, you may need to water it thoroughly several times or soak the entire pot, in a container of water until the soil has become fully re-saturated, this could take up to 1-2 hours to complete.



Elongata

Sambac Jasmines do need a soil rich in nutrients to grow and flower. As they flower on new growth it is important that they have the resources available to maintain plant health and vigor. A combination of periodic liquid fertilizing and a good quality balanced slow release fertilize will help to achieve that. A good rule of thumb is to apply about one tablespoon of a fertilize similar to Osmocote 14-14-14 to the soil's surface about once every 3 months at the start of and during the growing season.

Pests and diseases are not usually a problem with this plant but it is important to be aware of the ones that most commonly affect them. Sambac Jasmine is susceptible to a variety of sap sucking insects and heavy

infestations can cause the plant to go into decline. White flies, Scales, and Mealybugs are all common pests on these plants and can usually be easily controlled through mechanical or chemical means. If the

surface of your foliage is turning black like it has a soot-like mold on it, this is usually a good indication that one of these pests may have made a home on your plant. Horticultural oil is a good choice but will have to be applied, following all directions on the product label, up to 4 times at 1-week intervals to fully eradicate the pests. Another important thing to note is that most of these insects live underneath the leaves and so this is where we start looking for infestations and where spray must be applied in order to be effective.

*Thank You & Good Growing,
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