



# Bougainvillea

## **Bougainvillea sp.**

Bougainvilleas have become a prominent garden classic over the years and new cultivars are often appearing in garden centres. Forms range from scrambling shrubs to vigorous climbers of varied sizes and habits. Dwarf varieties are under 3 metres, whereas the larger varieties can reach up to 12 meters and beyond if left to grow wild.

Available in a wide range of gorgeous colours including different shades of pink, purple, orange, red, yellow and white, these versatile plants are perfect for a pop of colour in your garden. Create a showy display, cascading feature or courtyard spectacle, provide an excellent screen for unsightly sheds and fences, clip into a hedge, or use as a groundcover.

So, this spring and summer, come in and check out our range. You'll be sure to fall in love with their stunningly bright, cheery blooms!

### **How to grow:**

All forms of bougainvillea prefer a full sun position to allow for optimal flowering and will tolerate light frost. They are typically evergreen but can appear to be semi-deciduous in colder climates.

Bougainvilleas will grow happily in pots or in the ground, requiring a trellis or structure for the larger climbing varieties or growing as a small flowering shrub, such as the dwarf 'Bambino' varieties. They prefer a well-drained soil or potting mix. Be sure to take care when planting or repotting as these plants have a sensitive root system.

Younger plants need a regular watering regime while they settle their roots, especially over the warmer months. Watch out for wilting and leaf drop which could indicate underwatering. Yellowing and leaf drop can occur when the plant is being overwatered.

Once established, they require minimal watering.

Bougainvilleas will perform spectacularly with regular feeding from a fertiliser high in potassium for beautiful blooms. It is important not to use a fertiliser too high in nitrogen as this can lead to over-production of green, leafy growth which overshadows the flower bracts.

Bougainvilleas are generally pest and disease free with only occasional aphids present at the time of new growth or fungal spots from becoming too wet.