

## Great Gardenias!

Beautiful velvety petals and an intoxicating scent make gardenias an exotic favorite, but growing these beauties can be problematic.

This bush, with its lush, green foliage and fragrant white blooms produced through the summer isn't compatible with San Diego's poor soil and alkaline water.

There is a solution, however, by planting grafted gardenias that thrive in poor soil and also tolerate our Colorado River water. The key is *Gardenia thunbergia*, a large, vigorous South African variety that is easy to grow. In fact, many of the grafted plants flourish and stand well over 12' tall.

Seedlings of *Gardenia thunbergia* are used as the rootstock for the more attractive *Gardenia Mystery*, *G. veitchii*, *G. radicans* and other varieties. The robust root system of Grafted Gardenias allows them to grow larger and faster with none of the problems associated with cutting-grown gardenias.

Grafted Gardenias are grown as shrubs and also make great 'patio trees' if the *Gardenia thunbergia* stock is allowed to grow tall before the grafting takes place.

There is a very limited supply of grafted gardenias. Most of the gardenia stock sold in nurseries is grown from cuttings. These cutting-grown gardenias are cheaper, but they are prone to problems due to weaker root systems. Few nurseries grow Grafted Gardenias due to the added labor and handling it takes to establish the grafted plants, grow them. However, once these grafted plants are established, almost nothing stops them.

Walter Andersen Nursery is proud to offer Grafted Gardenias from Monrovia Nursery, one of the premier wholesale nurseries in the United States. Monrovia's vast growing experience and skilled horticulturalists produce the most beautiful Grafted Gardenias on the market today. We have three varieties available, *Mystery*, *First Love* and *Veitchii*. Because of the long growing time involved with these plants inventories can be limited. Our staff can let you know availability at anytime if you ask.

We are continually impressed with how tough and vigorous these Grafted Gardenias are. If you love gardenias but have been disappointed with poor results in the past, these grafted beauties are just what you need!

If you feel you are a more advanced gardener you may want to consider trying the grafting process yourself. It is a relatively simple process if you have the time and patience. Talk to the experts in our stores for a quick lesson in *Gardenia* grafting!