



First Love Gardenia *Gardenia Augusta (jasminoides)*

03-42



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 7-9, 12-16, 18-24, H1, H2	Full sun or partial shade	Hard to grow in adobe or alkaline soils	Regular to ample watering	White, turning a creamy yellow as they mature, sweet fragrance	Can grow 6-8 feet

Picture gorgeous, dark to bright green, opposite leaves on a shrub that can grow 6-8 ft (1.8-2.4 m) high with almost equal spread. The leaves are glossy and leathery. Mature shrubs usually look round, and have a medium texture. This is not a "bloom all at once and it's over" shrub! It blooms in mid-spring to early summer over a fairly long season. The flowers are white, turning to creamy yellow as they age, and have a waxy feel. They have a powerful, sweet fragrance, and can perfume an entire room. Air currents waft the scent throughout the warm summer garden to the delight of all. Cultivars are available that are distinctly different from the plant as described, particularly a prostrate version with very dark green leaves that makes an excellent ground cover in a protected, partly shady area. Cultivar 'Prostrata' grows only 2-3 ft (0.6-0.9 m) in height, with a much greater spread, and produces smaller, but equally fragrant white flowers.