

Bougainvillea sp.

Genus: Bougainvillea
Family: Nyctaginaceae
Order: Caryophyllales
Class: Magnoliopsida (Dicotyledons)
Phylum: Tracheophyta (Vascular Plants)



Key Facts:

Toxicity: Bougainvillea is considered mildly toxic to humans and pets if ingested. The sap can cause skin irritation in some people.

Invasiveness: Bougainvillea can become invasive in some regions, especially in tropical and subtropical areas where it can outcompete native vegetation.

Plant Type: Evergreen shrub or vine.

Lifespan: Perennial.

Characteristics:

Plant Height: 1 to 12 meters, depending on the species and growing conditions.

Spread: Can spread several meters, often growing as a vine over structures.

Leaf Color: Green.

Bloom Time: Blooms throughout the year in tropical climates; mainly in summer and autumn.

Flower Size: Small, inconspicuous flowers surrounded by large, colorful bracts.

Flower Color: Various colors including pink, magenta, purple, red, orange, white, and yellow.



Distribution:

Origin: Native to South America (Brazil, Peru, Argentina).

Habitat: well-drained areas. Thrives in a variety of soil types as long as they are not waterlogged.

Care:

Difficulty: Moderate.

Toughness: Very tough; drought-tolerant once established.

Maintenance: Requires regular pruning to maintain shape and encourage blooming.

Watering: Water regularly during the growing season, but allow the soil to dry out between waterings. Reduce watering in winter.

Pruning: Prune after flowering to shape the plant and remove dead or damaged branches. Hard pruning can be done in late winter or early spring.

Propagation: Propagate by semi-hardwood cuttings taken in late spring or early summer.

Repotting: Repot young plants annually in spring; older plants can be repotted every 2-3 years or top-dressed.

Conditions:

Temperature: Prefers temperatures between 18°C to 35°C. Cannot tolerate frost.

Hardiness Zone: USDA zones 9-11.

Sun Requirements: Full sun for best flowering.

Soil Type: Well-draining soil, preferably sandy or loamy. pH 5.5 to 6.0.

Use: Ideal for ornamental landscaping, hedges and privacy screens and erosion control.

Location: Suitable for containers, hanging baskets, or ground planting in warm climates. Ideal for trellises, walls, and fences.

Pests and Diseases: Can be affected by aphids, caterpillars, and scale insects. Fungal diseases like leaf spot and root rot can occur in overly wet conditions.

