Gardenias may not be low-maintenance plants, but many southern gardeners think they're worth the effort. There are over 200 species of gardenias but in Florida varieties of the species *Gardenia jasminoides* are used almost exclusively. Variety ‘August Beauty’ is desired for its vigor and its long and abundant flowering season. Gardenias do not tolerate coastal conditions or water with high salts (e.g., water from water softeners, irrigation water from certain reclaimed water systems, or salt-intruded wells). An acidic soil pH between 5.0 and 6.5 is required or their foliage will yellow. Gardenias are toxic to dogs, cats and horses when ingested.

**Type:** evergreen shrub

**USDA hardiness zones:** 8 through 11

**Uses:** border; container or above-ground planter; accent; screen

**Origin:** not native to Florida

**Height:** 4-6 feet  
**Spread:** 3-4 feet

**Plant spacing:** 4 feet

**Light requirement:** full sun to part shade

**Soil tolerances:** best in well-drained, rich, acid soil

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Soil salt tolerances:** low

**Invasive potential:** low

**Pest resistance:** mealybugs, aphids, scales and whiteflies are all problematic

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