

GROWING GARDEN SHRUBS



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Plant Classification

Based on Plant Height, Stem Hardiness and Canopy Spread, plants may be classified into THREE categories:

1. **Herbs:** Small low growing plants with tender stems and small canopy spread
2. **Shrubs:** Medium growing plants with somewhat woody stems and average canopy spread
3. **Trees:** Perennial, tall woody plants

Shrubs

Shrubs are a group of perennial woody plants. Shrubs are larger than herbs but smaller than trees. Shrubs are with medium height and canopy spread.

Types of Shrubs

Based on their utility, shrubs are mainly categorized into TWO groups:

1. Flowering Shrubs
2. Foliage Shrubs

Flowering Shrubs

Shrubs grown for their flowers. Best examples are hibiscus, bougainvillea, ixora species and nerium species.



Foliage Shrubs

Shrubs grown for their ornamental foliage. Best examples are crotons and acalypha species.

Shrubbery Border

Shrubs of different groups may be grown in creating shrubbery borders. A shrubbery border is a special area devoted exclusively for growing shrubs along the borders of the garden. A shrubbery border may be established right in front of trees, which are normally planted alongside the fence of the garden. Shrubs are arranged according to their heights in a shrubbery border.

Shrubs for Hedges

Shrubs are also used for making hedges. Group planting of similar evergreen shrubs may be done to create a mass effect. Best examples are, *Clerodendron* sp. and *Lawsonia inermis*.

Soil Requirements for Growing Shrubs

Shrubs are hardy plants and grow in any garden soil. As a rule well-drained, deep and rich soils are recommended.

Propagation of Shrubs

Propagation is mainly through:

1. Seeds
2. Cuttings
3. Suckers
4. Layering
5. Budding
6. Grafting



Planting

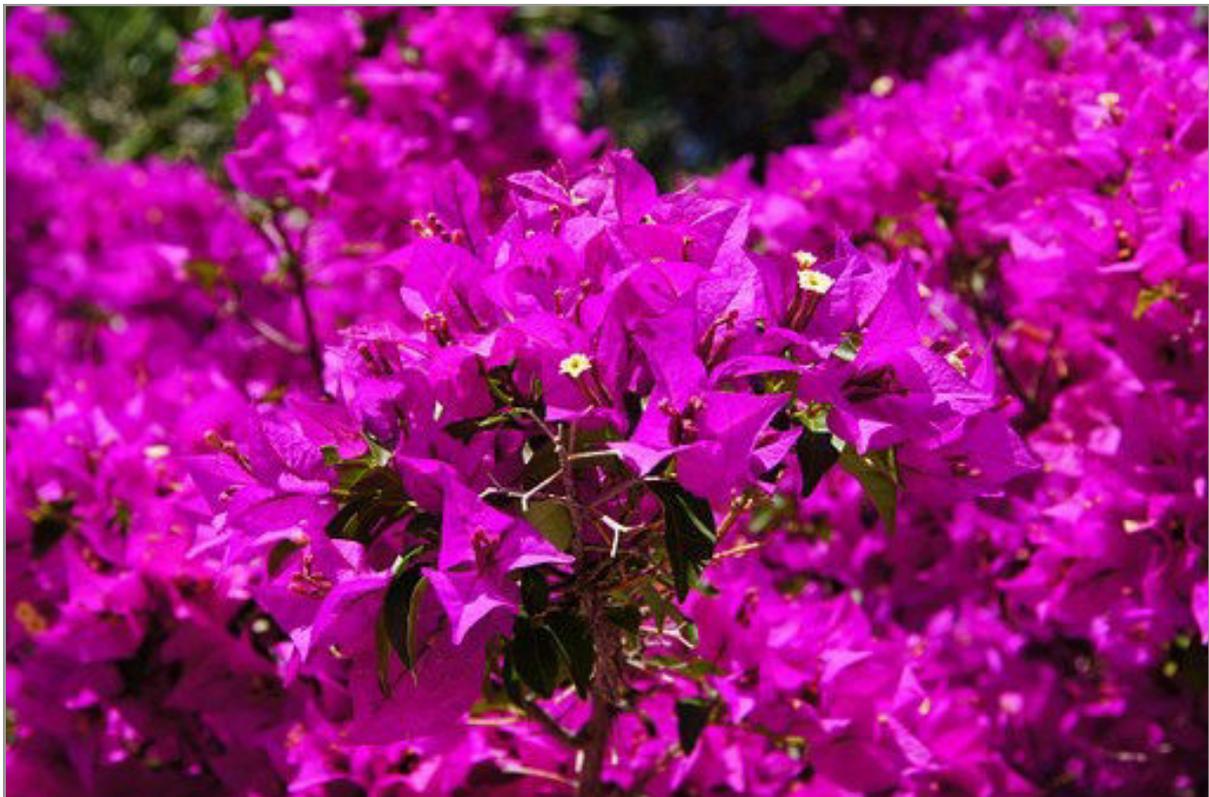
60 cm deep pits are dug in the garden for planting a shrub plant. Top soil mixed with organic manures is used to refill the pit.

Watering

Soon after planting a shrub plant, light watering is done. Frequent watering is recommended until the plants get established and after that, shrubs do not require much watering except during scorching summers.

Weeds, Diseases and Pests

Generally most of the shrubs are hardy plants and are easy to grow. Weeds, diseases and pests are not a serious issue in growing shrubs. Hence not much care is needed with regard to weeds, diseases and pests.



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