

BOUGAINVILLEA

REGION OF ORIGIN

South America



LIGHT

Bougainvillea needs bright, direct sunlight to thrive and bloom well. Aim for at least 5–6 hours of direct sun daily. Without enough light, it may produce lush foliage but few or no blooms. A sunny south- or west-facing window is ideal.



SOIL

To ensure your Bougainvillea thrive, we recommend using a mixture of 2/3 Rooted Goods All-Purpose Potting Mix or Uncle Mike's Organic Potting Mix with 1/3 coarse garden sand, perlite, or small pre-rinsed gravel. Another great option is Espoma's Organic Cactus mix.



WATER

Water when the top 1–2 inches of soil feel dry. Bougainvillea prefers to dry out slightly between waterings and is more tolerant of underwatering than overwatering. Consistently soggy soil can lead to leaf drop and root rot. Ensure your pot has proper drainage and always empty the saucer after watering to prevent root rot.



FERTILIZER

We recommend fertilizers like Espoma Organic Bloom! Super Blossom Booster, Jack's Blossom Booster, or Organic Plant Magic. These options provide essential nutrients to keep your plants vibrant, thriving, and promotes flowering.



TEMPERATURE

Bougainvillea prefers warm conditions between 65–85°F (18–29°C). It is sensitive to cold and should be kept away from drafts and windowsills that get chilly at night. Avoid exposure to temperatures below 50°F (10°C), which can lead to leaf drop.



ISSUES + FIXES

Bougainvillea is generally pest-resistant but may occasionally attract aphids, whiteflies, or spider mites, especially in dry conditions. Check the undersides of leaves and treat infestations promptly with natural or chemical remedies. Leaf drop can also occur from sudden changes in light, water, or temperature.



PRUNING & PROPAGATION

Propagate Bougainvillea from semi-hardwood cuttings taken in spring or summer. Cut a healthy section with a few leaves and at least one node. Place the cutting in moist soil and keep it warm and humid. Roots should form within 4–6 weeks.



PET FRIENDLY ?

Bougainvillea is considered mildly toxic to pets. Ingesting leaves or stems can cause gastrointestinal upset. The plant also has sharp thorns, which can injure pets and humans. Keep out of reach or opt for pet-safe alternatives.