

BUCHANAN'S

NATIVE PLANTS

Bougainvillea Care

- Plant bougainvillea in a location with lots of sunlight. Full sun exposure is essential for bougainvillea plants, and they will not bloom in shade. Bougainvillea also prefers a rich, slightly acidic soil. You can lower pH by incorporating **aluminum sulfate**.
- Water bougainvillea enough to keep the soil moist but not soaking wet. Wet, waterlogged soil can cause root rot and make the plants susceptible to pest problems. Vortex potting soil is a good medium for your bougainvillea because it provides good drainage. If you are using a container, be sure the hole in bottom is not blocked.
- Fertilize bougainvillea at the time of planting and again as needed throughout the plant's life. A balanced, slow-release fertilizer containing nitrogen and iron keeps plants healthy and encourages blooming. Avoid overdoing it with nitrogen fertilizers, however; too much nitrogen can lead to large, bushy plants that produce few flowers. Potted bougainvillea plants can be fertilized as needed, according to the directions on the **Nutri Star Bougainvillea Food** package.
- Prune bougainvillea after it stops blooming. Bougainvillea blooms on new growth. So once its blooming cycle ends, use a set of garden pruners to trim off one half of the new growth that ends with the flower. For example, if the plants have 4 inches of new growth at the end of a blooming cycle, you can cut off the flowers along with 2 inches of stem. This will encourage the next blooming cycle to begin more quickly.

This and other plant care tip sheets are available at Buchanansplants.com.