

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. **Life Below** is a good soil 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.

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