



Indian Farmer
Volume 9, Issue 04, 2022, Pp. 112-115.
Available online at: www.indianfarmer.net
ISSN: 2394-1227 (Online)

ORIGINAL PAPER



Bougainvillea: An ornamental plant known for versatility

Rakesh Kumar, Ajay Kumar Singh*, Krishna Singh Tomar and Amit Kanawjia

*Assistant Professor and Professor**
Department of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture
College of Horticulture,
Banda University of Agriculture and Technology, Banda 210001 Uttar Pradesh

**corresponding author: rakeshkashav53@gmail.com*

Article Received: 21 March 2022

Published Date: 02 April 2022

Ornamental horticulture has gained significant importance in present scenario of excessive urbanization, rapid industrialization and population pressure which led to a significant environmental degradation throughout the world. The ornamental horticulture can play a significant role in the improvement of quality of life in urban areas. Ornamental horticulture involves use of wide range of plant material for the recreational purposes in urban and peri-urban areas. In general, plants have a role in reduction of noise and air pollution, prevention of soil erosion, floods, conserving biodiversity and economic importance. So for ameliorating features or environment, plants in the urban areas are important, just as they maintain balance of life on earth. Bougainvillea is one of the important ornamental plants due to its varied growth habit and hardy nature, which makes it suitable for different uses in landscaping. *Bougainvillea* is admired for its brightly coloured bracts and profuse flowering almost throughout the year.

IMPORTANCE

Bougainvillea is a wonderful plant bestowed with special qualities which makes it a unique ornamental plant of tropical and subtropical region. It can be used as a climber, bush, hedge and a standard in landscaping. It is also grown in pots for beautifying balconies, corridors, entrance of buildings and offices. It is preferred by the gardeners due to easiness in growing and hardy nature. *Bougainvillea* with their wide range of colours makes the environment more colourful. It is most suitable plant for landscaping of industrial areas, campuses and beautification of highways, either as a standard to give a mass effect, or as road dividers, because once it established in ground, it seldom needs watering even during the hot months.

It gives a splendid effect when grown as rambler down a slope. It can be trained on pergolas or arches or as a hedge plant along with boundary wall. It can also be grown as bonsai and hanging basket.

MORPHOLOGY

It is much branched woody plant, leaves are simple alternate generally ovate, oblong or lanceolate in shape, membranous to somewhat leathery in texture. Stiff thorns arise from axil of many leaves. Flowers are small and inconspicuous but the decorative value of the plants consists in the fact that the flowers are enclosed in large and showy brightly coloured bracts. Flowers grow in a group of three, occasionally four or five as brightly coloured bracts. Fruit is a hardened achene, which resembles a wheat grain.

CLIMATE

It is a hardy ornamental plant which exhibit wide adaptability to varied climatic conditions. It grows well in plains and hilly regions as well, upto an altitude of 2,300 meters above sea level. It grows well in temperate, tropical and arid climatic conditions. Too much humidity or moisture in the soil during autumn or winter encourages growth of leaf.

SOIL

It grows in all types of soils, varying from sandy to clay, but sandy-loam is considered best for optimum growth and flowering. It does not prefer fertile or moist soil, dry atmosphere favours flowering.

PROPAGATION

It is propagated through vegetative means to obtain true-to-type plants. It is commonly propagated by cutting, even layering and budding can also be used for propagation.

PLANTING

It can be planted at any time of the year, except extreme summer/winter, the best time is the monsoon season. A pit of 60 cm deep and wide is dug for planting. The spacing to be followed depends on vigour of cultivar. Generally, it is planted at a distance of 2-2.5 m, but when grown in group for hedge purpose, a closer spacing is kept.

SPECIES AND CULTIVARS

There are about 14 species in this genus, but only three species namely *B. Spectabilis*, *B. glabra* and *B. peruviana* are having ornamental value since they have colourful bracts. Different cultivars of *Bougainvillea* are ideally suited for different purposes. It can be trained as climber, standard, shrub and pot plant. The cultivars ideally suited for different uses are enlisted below:

For pots: Partha, Subhra, Thimma, Tomato Red, Summer Time, Spring Festival, Mary Palmer, Dr. R.R. Pal and Blondie

For hedge making: Partha, Thimma and Tomato Red

For hanging basket: Blondie, Dr. R.R. Pal, Jawaharlal Nehru, Mary Palmer, Subhra and Tomato Red

For making standards: Mary Palmer, Mrs. H.C. Buck, Subhra, Thimma and Tomato Red

For climbing on walls: Lady Mary Baring, Mary Palmer, Mrs. H.C. Buck and Thimma

Multibracted Cultivars namely Cherry Blossom, Los Banos Beauty, Mahara and Roseville's Delight have many bracts instead of three. These multibracted cultivars do not possess true flowers. These varieties were introduced from Philippines. The varieties Bhabha, Thimma, Jawaharlal Nehru, Silver Top, Soundarya and Zakir Hussain possess variegated leaves.

FERTILIZER AND MANURE

Bougainvillea is a very hardy and is capable of self sustaining. Young plants in the initial stages of growth need nutrition. A well decomposed FYM is mixed with soil and sand and added in a pit of 60 cm deep and wide. About 250 kg of bonemeal may be added to each pit. After planting, the soil is to be pressed and plant watered. For growth and profuse flowering 50g N, 100g P₂O₅ and 75g K₂O may be applied to each plant per year in three split doses (50 % during rainy season and remaining 50 % during winter and summer). Application of heavy doses of fertilizers has been reported to results only in vegetative growth.

WATERING



The *Bougainvillea* needs very little water. Young and potted plants require regular watering. Watering should be avoided at the time of flowering since it results in shedding of bracts. Watering during peak summer months helps in preventing attack by termites.

PRUNING

Pruning is done to maintain shape and degree of pruning depends on variety and its use. Flowers appear on current year's shoot and pruning is necessary to encourage flowering. If left unpruned, plants produce numerous thin shoots which do not bear flowers, so these branches should be removed leaving few mature shoots of medium thickness. Vegetative growth takes place almost throughout the year but more vigorously in rainy season. Pruning should be done in May-June after the plants have finished flowering. In order to reduce height of plants and rejuvenate old plants, severe pruning is recommended at a height of 1-1.5m. Water shoots which often arise after pruning, more frequently in rainy season should be removed from base. For growing in pots, the size of pots should not be very large for the plants, pot bound condition favours flowering. The plants are transferred to larger pots when the roots completely filled the pots.

PESTS

The *Bougainvillea* is a very hardy and is generally not attacked by insect and pests, although mite and scale attack is reported from some countries. The nematode infestation has been reported only from India

	
Bougainvillea in a pot	At Entrance of House
	
Over the boundary wall	Trained as a standard