

BOUGAINVILLEA GLABRA



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Bougainvillea glabra*, also known as Bougainvillea or Paper Flower, is an evergreen, woody climbing plant native to South America, known for its vibrant clusters of bracts (flower-like leaves). It is a popular ornamental plant in gardens, balconies and terraces.



It is a thorny shrub that can grow to a height of 3 to 3.5 meters, or even 9-12 meters with proper support. Its leaves are bright green and oval-shaped.

The showy part of the plant is actually the papery, brightly colored bracts (usually purple, pink, red, or white) that enclose the small, white or yellow true flowers.

Cultivation and Uses

It is a fast-growing species and, thanks to its climbing structure, is ideal for covering walls, fences, or pergolas.

It can be used in the landscape to create a privacy screen, in pots, in hanging baskets, or as a ground cover. In Mexico, an infusion of its leaves and bracts is used in traditional medicine to treat respiratory and gastrointestinal ailments.



It requires plenty of sunlight; it needs at least six hours of full sunlight per day to bloom well. In shade, it produces only green leaves.

It is a temperate plant and is sensitive to frost. In regions with cold winters, it should be grown indoors or in a conservatory when temperatures drop below freezing.