

# **BOUGAINVILLEA GLABRA**



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Bougainvillea, commonly known as Bougainvillea or Paperflower, is a genus of climbing, thorny plants belonging to the Nyctaginaceae family. Its true flowers are small and white; however, it is world-famous for the bright pink, purple, orange, or red papery bracts that surround the flowers.



The genus is native to South America, particularly the regions of Brazil, Peru, and Argentina. It is named after the French explorer Louis Antoine de Bougainville, who discovered the plant in the 18th century. Preferring warm climates, this plant has today become a symbol of tropical and subtropical regions, from the southern coasts of Turkey to California.

## Cultivation and Uses

Bougainvillea thrives in full sunlight and well-drained soils. Receiving at least six hours of direct sunlight per day is essential for displaying its intensely colored bracts. It is drought-tolerant; in fact, slight water stress can encourage flowering. It can be easily propagated by cuttings, but care must be taken during planting as its roots are very sensitive.



In landscaping, it is commonly used as a climber to cover walls, pergolas, and building façades. With its rapid growth habit, it can cover large areas in a short time. It is highly tolerant of pruning and can also be grown in containers as a compact shrub or even trained in bonsai form if desired. Its resistance to salty winds makes it an excellent choice for seaside gardens.