Bougainvillea

Discover

Where is the flower?

This card covers cultivated bougainvilleas as a group.
Classification: Nyctaginaceae · Bougainvillea

Start with the whole · spreading woody shoots



Whole-subject illustration; not to scale

Circled area → detail at right; pruning changes the form.

Look closer · flowering shoot



Enlarged view of the circled part; not to scale

- **Bright papery parts:** bracts
- **Small tubes inside:** flowers
- **Thorny stems:** look without touching
- A woody climber; thorny shoots carry colourful bracts around small flowers.

A role for colour

- Bright bracts help attract pollinators
- Cultivars differ; the local plant is not identified

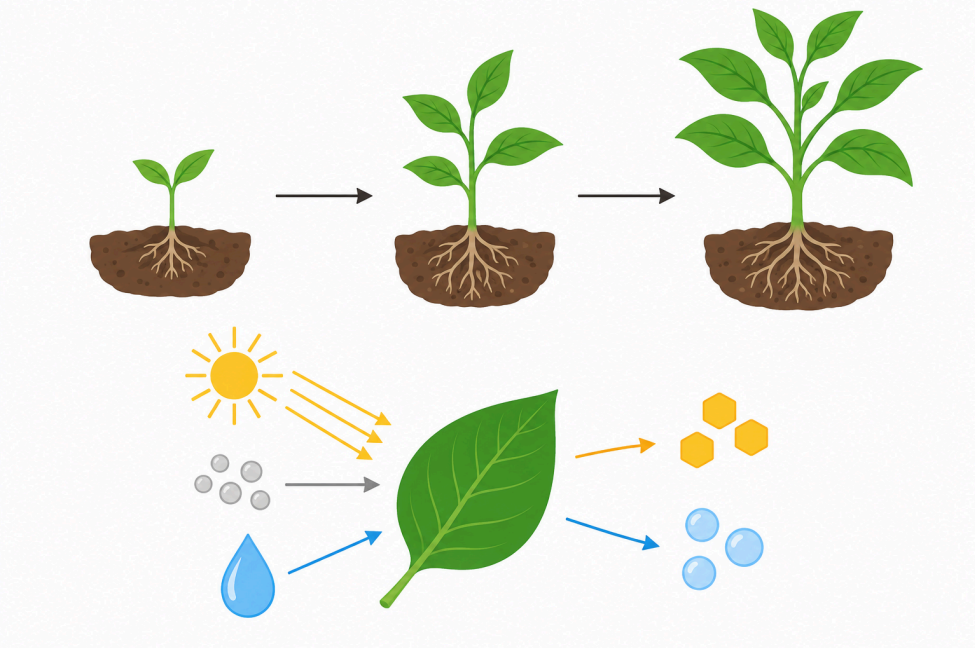
Light and water

- Warm conditions and plenty of sun
- Common cultivars tolerate drought; soil should drain well
- Notice where the flowering shoots grow

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What helps it grow?



- New shoots grow leaves and may flower
- **Light + water + carbon dioxide:** leaves make sugars
- **Grey circles:** carbon dioxide; blue drop: water
- **Gold hexagons:** sugar; blue circles: released oxygen
- **Partly known:** Growth symbols are not species forms or growth rates
- **Partly known:** Leaf sugar-making is a general plant principle

Reproduction • one gardening route

Stem cutting → **Roots** → **New plant**

- A cutting begins without a seed
- Learn the idea; do not cut park plants
- **Partly known:** One simplified route, not every individual or detail

Cultivars and pruning change appearance; this is not a field identification.
Pictures do not replace field identification. Not found and unsure are valid records.
Sources: see the linked review notes.

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Observe

Choose 1–3 tasks. Point, say or draw; writing is optional.

1 · Look

Find a bract, then a small flower inside.



Teaching illustration. Compare with real subjects from a distance.

2 · Look

Which is larger: a bract or a flower?

3 · Record

If the tiny flowers are hidden, can you say there are none?

4 · Write

Find “bracts”. Say it; write if you wish.

bracts

5 · Draw

Draw a bract and the flower inside. Mark one difference.

6 · Record

Colours I saw: ____

Tiny flowers: seen / unclear

I wonder: ____