

Jasminum sambac

Common name: Mogra / Gundumalli / Malligai / Arabian jasmine / Tuscan jasmine

Family: Oleaceae

The genus *Jasminum* contains more than 200 species native to tropical and warm temperate regions of the Eurasia, Australasia and Oceania. Jasmines are widely cultivated for the characteristic fragrance of their flowers. Four important species of *Jasminum* widely cultivated in India are *Jasminum sambac*, *Jasminum grandiflorum*, *Jasminum auriculatum* and *Jasminum multiflorum*.

Soil and climate

They prefer mild tropical climate. Jasmine can be planted on a wide range of soils. Well-drained sandy loams and red loams under tropical conditions are suitable for its cultivation.

Propagation

Jasmines can be propagated by cuttings, layering, sucker, grafting, budding and tissue culture. Commercially *Jasminum sambac* is propagated by terminal and semi hardwood cuttings.

Varieties

Some of the popular varieties of *Jasminum sambac* include Gundumalli, Motia, Virupakshi, Sujimalli, Madanabanam, Ramabanam, Khoya, Single Mogra, Double Mogra, Iruvatchi, Ramanathapuram gundumalli, Kasthurimalli, Oosimalli etc.

Season of flowering and harvest

Flowering commences in March - April. Fully developed unopened flower buds should be picked in the morning hours.

Yield

About 5t / ha can be obtained.

Uses of Jasmine

Jasmine flowers are preferred for making special type of flower strings called veni, garlands, floral decorations, religious offering, extraction of essential oil which is used in preparing high grade perfumes, perfumed hair oils and attars, soap and cosmetic industry, colognes and flavouring the beverages etc. Jasmine is enjoyed in the garden, as a house plant. The flowers are worn by women in their hair in south India. The flowers of Arabian jasmine (*J. Sambac*) are reported to be used in China for flavouring tea. They also have medicinal uses which has growing demand in India as well as in many developed countries.