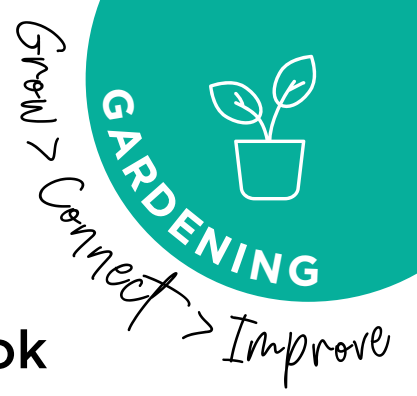




# Week Fourteen



## Daphne - not really as scary a plant to look after as you may think!

Daphne gets a bad wrap as being a temperamental and difficult plant to grow. But that's because she has just been "misunderstood", much like my great grandmother, Adelaide Daphne Myrtle Allen, known as Daphne or Gran to most.

Daphne likes stability. She doesn't tolerate being moved once she has settled in and set her roots down, so be very sure that you have found her the perfect position - partial morning sun, well drained soil and plenty of mulch.

Daphne follows the CWA collect. She takes time in all things - growing very slowly into a woody shrub around one meter tall, is calm - having white or pale pink flowers, serene and gentle - with a lovely fragrance that lasts in cut flowers for up to a week.

There is no need to prune daphne. Cutting 5-10cm stems when picking flowers will help maintain the plant. If you do need to prune due to broken or errant branches, the best time is early spring after flowering has finished. Cut stems at a slight angle to help water away from the plant and prevent rot.

Daphnes are a great pot plant, and do cope with having the pot moved around the garden. Just be careful not too let the pot dry out too much - droopy yellowing leaves may be a sign that you need to give the pot a deep watering. Much like Gran, when she started to flag a good strong cup of bushels would get her up and going again.

