Growing your Randia sp.

Randia Formosa and Randia ruiziana are vigorous and hardy members of the gardenia family. They are small shrubs, usually under 1.8 metres tall, but you can prune them to any size or shape you like.

The flowers are white and fragrant, as you would expect they are similar to a single Gardena flower. The fruit is around the size of a large grape and yellow when ripe. The pith can be eaten fresh or used in preserves and as a flavouring in cookery.

They will grow in full sun to partial shade and only require water to get them established and then only under the most extreme dry spells.

When you plant arrives, pot it up using a top quality potting mix such as ‘Searles Premium’ in a 100 to 125 mm pot. Water it in well and add a level teaspoon of osmocote to the soil.

Keep damp, not boggy though. Keep your plant out of direct sun for a couple of weeks, just bright filtered light at this stage. If it looks a bit wilty, a mist of water on the leaves will help it recover. Sometimes nipping the very soft growth off your plant will help it establish more quickly if wilting is a problem.

Nip the tips of your plant back now and then, particularly over the first year or so, this will give you compact growth and also many more flowers and fruit.

Once the plant re-establishes, slowly move it into more sun, but while it is in a pot I’d protect it from hot afternoon sun.

Hope these pointers help, do drop me a line if I can be of any further assistance.

Cheers for now,

Steve
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