



CLEMATIS

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These showy vines bloom in spring, summer or fall. They will grow in full to partial sun. Clematis prefer a rich, moist, well drained soil and want their roots kept cool. Plant clematis deep, (1 to 2 buds) and add some limestone and compost to the soil. Protect lower parts of stem from breakage --- it's at this point that disease frequently enters the plant.

Provide good support for these vines. Most reach 8-12' in height, but some can go higher. Clematis can easily grow onto a trellis. It can be more difficult to get clematis to grow on light post or fencing. Fishing line fastened from the ground up throughout a structure works well as a support. The tendrils of the vine will wrap around the line and grow up onto the structure.

Proper pruning stimulates new growth and helps to keep the vines healthy. Pruning clematis depends entirely on their flowering time and is best done in spring. There are three (3) groups of clematis: A B or C (sometimes called 1, 2 or 3). If you are not sure which group your clematis belongs to, let the plant grow for a year and make a note of its flowering time.

Group A: These clematis bloom in spring; flowers are produced off the previous season's stems. Do not prune; only remove dead wood. If the plant has become overgrown, prune back after the plant has finished flowering. The new stems that grow will make the flower buds for the following year.

Group B: These are the traditional, spectacular spring and summer bloomers. Flowers come from the previous year's growth as well as from new growth. Do not prune; only remove dead wood in early spring. After the first blooming period, you can prune lightly to encourage repeat blooms.

Group C: These clematis tend to be late bloomers --- late summer to fall. Flowers come from the current season's growth. In early spring, cut plants back to 12"-18" above the ground. Pruning is necessary for the plants not to become over-grown or to flower only on the outer border. Sweet Autumn Clematis is a great fall bloomer. It will reward you with masses of fragrant little white flowers --- give it lots of room.