

## Ways Clematis Can Be Used

- Grow on all types of fences
- Grow on stone walls and rock piles
- Cover a large, blank wall of your home
- Train to grow up a tree trunk or stump
- Use as a ground cover
- Frame around porches or entrances
- Grow up unsightly utility and light poles
- Screen unwanted views
- Grow along with a climbing rose
- Grow through shrubs of all kinds
- Grow in a container on a trellis
- Use as a cut flower & float flowers in a bowl
- Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds
- Hiding spot for small birds
- Excellent backdrop for other plants



Above: Jackmani Clematis

Front cover: Dr. Ruppel Clematis

Left: Comtesse de Bouchard Clematis

Inside Left: Niobe Clematis

Inside Center: Duchess of Edinburgh Clematis

Inside Right: Bees Jubilee Clematis

## CLEMATIS



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## Clematis Planting Tips

Clematis have the reputation of being difficult to grow. However, like any other plant, if their needs are met by the site and the proper care, they will thrive. Clematis require full sun to grow best (6+ hours direct sun per day), although some dappled shade during the heat of the day is beneficial. Eastern exposure is ideal.

Clematis roots are long and run deep and like it cool and damp, but not soggy. A good idea is to plant annuals or a low growing shrub around the base of the Clematis, to shade the roots, or mulch the ground around the base of the plant to keep the soil and roots cool. Loosen the soil to a depth of 2 feet. Mix this soil with peat and sand. Remove the plant from the pot and carefully plant in the hole so the crown is 1" - 2" below the soil level when the plant was in the pot. Soil should be rich and well-draining with a pH close to neutral (7.0). Though the plant's stems and foliage should be in sun, the roots like a cool, moist environment.



## General Care

Stake the plant and wrap a piece of screen loosely around it to prevent animals from breaking or eating off the stem for the 1st year. The stake should be placed towards the trellis to train the plant to its permanent support. Do not tie too tightly to stake or trellis, this will hamper growth and cause cracking.

Be sure Clematis is well-watered, do not let it dry out. In years to come always soak once a week in dry weather. Clematis is a heavy feeder, feed twice a year with a granular fertilizer, or more often with a water soluble fertilizer.

Be sure to use a strong, sturdy trellis or host to bear the heavy weight of the Clematis once it is full grown.

Apply a mulch around the base of your clematis through the winter dormant months. Protect from deer and rabbits with a wire screen.

## Pruning

Clematis are classified in three main pruning groups. For best results, check the plant tag for the proper technique for the plant you purchased. Improper pruning could eliminate blooms for an entire year.

**Group 1** – Produce their flowers directly from old stems and must not be done until right after all flowering has completed. Prune by removing all dead and weak stems immediately after flowering. Large established plants over 15 feet are normally not pruned. Tie all stems onto trellis. If Clematis has outgrown its space, the only time to prune is right after flowering is done. After pruning new growth will begin, this will be the stems for next year's flowers.

**Group 2** – All first flowering comes from last year's stems. In early spring, watch for swelling leaf buds beginning to show. Cut all dead material off above these swelling buds. Tie all stems to trellis

**Group 3** – This group blooms later and from new growth. These Clematis should be pruned in March or April as new leaf buds begin to show low on the plant. All dead material above these buds should be removed. Clean out old foliage or foliage with mildew.

