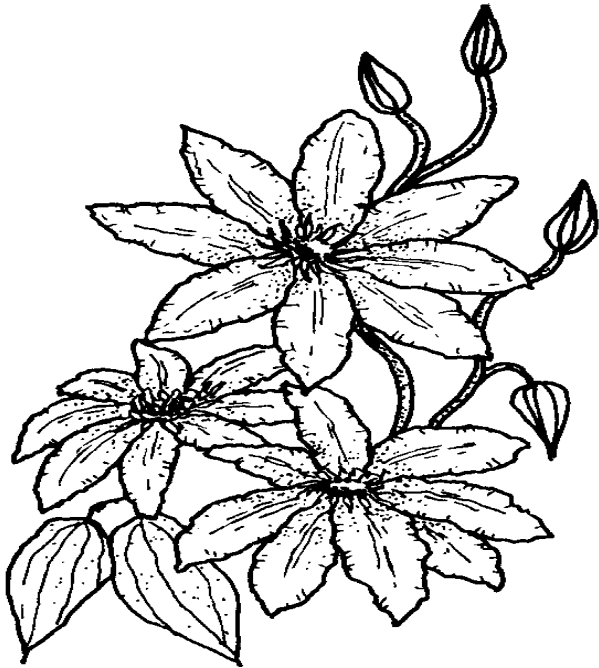


Tips and Hints to Take Home



Clematis

Clematis is one of the most popular flowering vines with its showy abundance of wide, flat blossoms in summer. A single vine trained up a post can provide a spectacular display. The open habit also makes Clematis a good choice to grow over a wide variety of shrubs. The most popular color is the common dark purple of Jackman Clematis. Other colors commonly found include pink, white, pale lavender and red.

Clematis can be slow to establish, often taking 2-3 years to have a nice display of flowers. They do have some specific needs for exposure, soil alkalinity and pruning but they are quite happy, blooming heartily, once those needs are taken care of.

Select a site that will have good, full sun for at least 5-6 hours a day. The Clematis vine will also need some kind of support to grow off the ground. While a trellis is the traditional choice, Clematis will also grow up and over large shrubs such as Dogwood, Vanhoutei Spirea, Lilac, Forsythia or Honeysuckle, weaving its flowers among the branches. Clematis can climb on its own with minimal tying to guide vines where you want them to go. The roots of a Clematis require cooler temperatures and should be shaded by a large rock or generous mulch. Roots in the shade and vine in the sun are the rule for Clematis.

Clematis needs soil that is fertile but alkaline. They should be given an application of horticultural lime at the start of each season and again during July. Apply about 1 cup per plant and scratch it into the soil around the base of the vine. They also need regular fertilizing. Growing season fertilizers with higher middle numbers (phosphorus) will promote flowering. Be very careful with lawn herbicides (weed killers) around your clematis. They can be sensitive to those kinds of chemicals.

Pruning is important but the timing depends on the species and variety. Some bloom on new wood (stems grown that season) and some bloom on old wood (stems that grew the previous season). *Clematis jackmanii* and *Clematis viticella* species bloom on new growth. They need to be pruned to about 1' high in early spring, just as the buds begin to swell. *Clematis florida*, *Clematis lanuginosa* and *Clematis patens* bloom on old shoots in spring and new shoots later in summer. Remove only dead or winter damaged stems in early spring and prune for shape and growth after flowering. A list of the varieties carried by Plant Land is on the reverse of this sheet and notes the pruning needs of each type.

Clematis Selections

C. 'Jackmannii' – The classic deep purple with 5-6" wide flowers on a vine that grows 8-12' long. Flowers appear nearly all summer. Prune hard to 1' early at the start of the season every year. This is the most commonly sold and most popular Clematis.

C. 'Comtesse De Bouchard' - Rosy pink flowers that are 4-6" wide with white stamens. Flowers appear June thru September. This clematis blooms on new wood from the current season so you don't need to maintain any old wood. They should be cut back to about 24" from the ground in spring just as the buds swell.

C. 'Ramona' - Clear blue flowers are 6-8" across, while the vine grows 10-16' long. This Clematis flowers from the middle of summer on. In year one, prune the stems to 1' early in the season. In year 2, prune all stems to 3'. All following years, prune all stems to a pair of strong buds early in the season.

C. 'Rhapsody' - Stunning sapphire-blue flowers that deepen with age are 5-7" wide. Flowers appear June thru September. This clematis blooms first on new growth beginning in midsummer, and then again on new shoots in early fall. The second round will likely produce smaller flowers than the first and flowers that were double the first time may be single the second time. Though their growth habit makes them difficult to prune, it can be done in late winter or early spring. All shoots can be cut back to the previous year's wood, just above the base of the plant.

