



# clematis 'queen of vines'



These easy to grow vines offer a tremendous variety of flower colours, shapes, seasons of bloom & attractive seed heads that often stay on through the winter months.

## planting

Clematis like a cool, moist, deep root run with plenty of water & regular balanced feeding. To achieve this...

- 1 Water your clematis well before planting.
- 2 Dig a hole 45cm (18") deep & wide.
- 3 With the soil you removed from the hole mix organic matter (mushroom manure or your own compost), a handful each of bonemeal, lime & CLEMATIS & VINE FOOD or 14-14-14 slow release fertilizer. Incorporate well together.

- 4 Backfill the hole with your good soil mixture to within 30cm (12") of the surface. Tamp down lightly to remove air pockets.

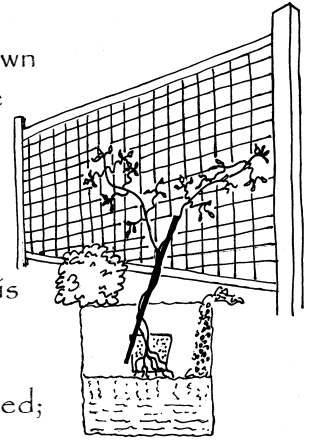
- 5 Remove the clematis, stake & all from the pot being careful not to bend or break the stems.
- NOTE: if the stake is stapled to the pot remove the staple before attempting to remove the clematis from the pot!

- 6 Place root ball in the hole so that 15cm (6") of stem is below the soil surface.

TIP: if the stem is still green (not ripe) cover the root ball with soil mixture leaving the stem uncovered; fill in the hole later in the season when the stem has matured & turned brown.

- 7 Backfill with your good soil mixture, firming gently until the hole is filled.

- 8 Water in well.



## location

Some varieties need full sun, some prefer a shaded spot & others perform well in either location. All enjoy a cool root run so plant a small shrub in front for protection. See our CLEMATIS REFERENCE GUIDE to select a variety that matches your available light.

## pruning

There's a lot of attention paid to the pruning of clematis, but it's not nearly as tricky or complicated as you think.

**rule...** The first spring after planting, all clematis should be pruned. In late February/early March (no earlier!) when swelling buds are visible, cut back your clematis to 2 sets of strong buds on each stem. The result is a bushier plant in the long run. From then on follow the recommendations for your variety.

### group A

No pruning. These varieties flower on the previous year's growth - if you cut that off you won't have flowers until next year. Only remove weak or damaged stems after flowering has finished. Examples: *C. montana*, *C. alpina* & *C. macropetala* varieties.

### group B1

Prune only to shape the plant, if at all, late February/early March. Examples include hybrid *C. 'Nelly Moser'*, most double flowered varieties & *C. 'Blue Ravine'*.

### group B2

Hard pruning is recommended every second year & light pruning (only to shape the plant) in alternate years. To prune hard, cut each stem back to 2-3 buds, 30-60cm (12-24") from the ground. Examples: *C. 'The President'* & *C. 'Lincoln Star'*.

### group C

Prune hard every year late February/early March to 2-3 buds, 30-60cm (12-24") from the ground. Examples: *C. 'Jackmanii'*, *C. viticella* varieties, *C. Tangutica*.

## clematis in containers

Many, but not all, clematis do well in containers. Some are simply too vigorous to be restrained & others produce significantly fewer flowers if grown in a pot. Our CLEMATIS REFERENCE GUIDE & clematis signs will tell you if a variety is recommended or not. When choosing a pot, select one that is at least 45cm (18") wide & deep for both a good root run & root protection in winter. Use PLANTER BOX MIX & generous amounts of manure in the bottom of the pot. Always plant the top of the container with low-growing & trailing annuals, perennials or ground covers to help keep the roots of the clematis cool. Be diligent with watering & fertilizing on a regular basis.

## clematis varieties & uses



**armandii:** The EVERGREEN clematis. Fragrant white flowers March/April. Grows 6-9m (20-30ft) in full sun or light shade. Pruning group A. 'Apple Blossom' is a variety with pink buds opening to white flowers with a pink blush. Grow over archways, pergolas, gazebos or cover unsightly fences, walls or outbuildings.

**alpina & macropetala:** Both produce dangling, open bell-shaped flowers (semi-double in the case of the latter) in April/May. Tolerant of all aspects but well suited to north facing or cool shaded areas. Pruning group A. Use on trellises, scrambling up small trees or over shrubs, on fences, over pergolas & archways. Grows 2-4m (6-12ft) depending on variety.

**montana:** Vigorous grower to 6m (20ft) or more. Massive bloom display in April & May. All have scent - some stronger than others. Full sun, part sun or light shade. Pruning group A. Use to cover fences (chain-link, wire or wood), pergolas, archways, arbors, unsightly tree trunks or out buildings. Also useful to camouflage a rough hedge or old trees past their prime.

**hybrids:** This group has the large open blooms that are so popular. Sun needs range from full sun to shade & they fall into pruning groups B1 & B2. Early varieties bloom May/June & again July/August. The mid-season group, which includes doubles & semi-doubles, bloom June to August while the late group bloom late June to August/Sept. The late group are pruning group C. Grow on a trellis against walls or as a privacy screen on patio or balcony. Ideal for growing through wall-trained shrubs (espalier pyracantha, camellia) or free standing shrubs (rhodos, magnolias). Enhance a climbing rose or evergreen clematis by growing a hybrid through it. Or be daring & use them as a groundcover.

**viticella:** Blooms profusely June/Sept. on 3-3.5m (10-12ft) vines. Many have semi-nodding flowers. Pruning group C. Use them to grow up a small tree & cascade from the branches; grow up a climbing rose to add contrast or have them tumbling through shrubs or at ground level for an interesting groundcover. Imagine them clambering over the dark green background of a yew hedge where their nodding flowers can be viewed from below.

**tangutica:** Profusion of bright yellow, nodding lantern-shaped blooms July - Oct. Grows 3-4.5m (10-15ft). Pruning group C. Full sun, part sun or shade. Fast growth & large size makes this clematis highly suitable for covering fences, poles, old stumps & unsightly outbuildings. Also excellent for covering pergolas & archways.

**texensis:** Fast growing to 2.5-3.5m (8-12ft). Pitcher-shaped flowers & dense bluish-green foliage. Blooms July-Sept. on current season's growth & tolerates full sun, part sun or shade. Pruning group C. More tolerant of dry soils than other clematis. Very effective for growing over low hedges. Makes an excellent flowering screen. Grow it up trees where dangling flowers can be appreciated from below; over low out-of-flower shrubs; as a groundcover or scrambling up a post, over an arbor, pergola or gazebo.

**paniculata:** Tall, vigorous vine growing 6-9m (20-30ft) with masses of small, fragrant creamy-white flowers in Sept.-Oct. Often evergreen in mild winters. Pruning group C. Full or part sun. The framework of large deciduous or evergreen trees displays this clematis' blooms to perfection. Easily & quickly covers large wall areas, pergolas, archways & gazebos.

Clematis don't like acidic soil ... sprinkle a generous handful of lime around the base of the vine once a year.

## clematis wilt

**symptoms:** Some or all of the stems of an apparently healthy plant suddenly wilt & die.

**cause:** Clematis Wilt Fungus (*Ascochyta clematidina*)

**remedy:** Make sure that when you plant clematis you place the root ball 15cm (6") below the soil surface. This ensures that you will have some dormant buds underground to fall back on if necessary. Cut back affected stems to just above ground level. Destroy these stems & do not put in compost. If you wish you can treat the foliage, lower stems & surrounding soil with a sulphur solution or systemic fungicide (Benomyl). If all fails & wilt reappears remove & destroy the affected plant (not in compost). Remove the soil from the hole (dig hole 30cmx30cm (12"x12") & replace with fresh soil. Plant wilt resistant clematis like clematis viticella.



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