



Where to Plant Clematis

Clematis does best in a sunny location; a south or west-facing wall is preferred. They are also effective grown under trees or on the north side of a low structure. Most are easily trained to grow on a trellis, arbor, tree or the roof of a structure, seeking the sun. Clematis will do well in most soils except soggy, wet soil – choose a place where the soil drains well.



Shopping List:

- Trellis or support
- Compost
- Lime
- Labels or markers
- Fertilizer
- Mulch

Growing Clematis

‘Queen of the Vines’



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Clematis is called ‘Queen of the Vines’ for good reason. Give it a little tender care and it will pay back tenfold.

Planting

- When planting clematis, make the planting hole 18 inches wide and deep.
- Enrich the soil in the bottom of the hole (and the soil that was removed from the hole) with a generous amount of compost and bone meal. Add lime if needed; clematis prefer a pH 5.5-7.0.
- Place a few inches of the back-fill soil mixture into the hole.
- Remove the clematis from its container and loosen the roots.
- Place your clematis on top of the fill, making sure the top of the root mass is almost level with the surface.
- Back fill around sides with the remainder of the soil mixture, firming the soil around the roots.
- Water well immediately after planting and for the next few weeks until roots become established.

Fertilizing

Clematis plants are heavy feeders and respond well to constant feeding. Two weeks or so after planting, apply a well-balanced liquid feed fertilizer, such as *Fish Emulsion* or *Miracle-Gro*, and continue to do so every 2 weeks from April through the end of July according to label directions. A time-release fertilizer such as *Osmocote* applied in spring when new growth begins instead of liquid fertilizer will work well, too. Do the same every year.



Shading Roots

Clematis must have cool, moist roots. Shade the roots in summer with an organic mulch such as shredded cedar or pine bark to keep the soil and roots cool and moist.

Training

Clematis is a twining, climbing vine that will do best if provided with a trellis or structure to grow on. In the beginning, direct the growth of young plants by loosely tying young shoots to the structure. Subsequent tying and a little selective pruning will keep vine where you desire it.

Pruning Clematis

Pruning will keep clematis full and loaded with flowers. Making a mistake will not kill clematis, and when it's done right it will be rewarding.

If you are unsure about what type yours is:

Restrict pruning to removing dead branches and unruly excess growth anytime. If you need to reduce the size significantly, do so in early spring. Even if it's the wrong time for that particular type, the worst that will happen is that you'll have to wait for the flowers to return the next year.

For pruning, clematis fall into the three groups.

GROUP 1 – Alpine and Montana Types *(No spring pruning)*

Montana, Montana Rubens and others.

Last year's ripe stems produce this year's flowers. So, prune only as flowers fade or immediately there-

after but before August 1st. If you prune any later than that it won't bloom the following

year. Montanas love to ramble so don't prune unless it is taking over and is absolutely necessary.

GROUP 2 – Early Large Flowering *(Prune before new growth starts in spring)*

Barbara Jackman, Candida, Carnaby, Daniel Deronda, Dr. Ruppel, Dutchess of Edinburgh, General Sikorski, Henryii, Marie Boisselot, Miss Bateman, Mrs. N. Thompson, Nelly Moser, Niobe, The President, Ramona, Will Goodwin and others.



This type produces flowers only on short (12 inch) stems on the current year's growth. No pruning is required except to remove dead stems. Light pruning can be done to keep the vine inbounds in early spring – but only before new growth starts.

GROUP 3 – Late Flowering *(Hard pruning in March)*

De Bouchard, Duchess of Albany, Ernest Markham, Hagley hybrid, Jackmannii, Lady Betty Balfour, Ville De Lyon, Paniculata, Viticella: Mme. Julia Correvon, Polish Spirit and others.

Flowers are produced only on vigorous new growth. Cut these back hard in March. Cut back all stems from last year's growth; remaining stem should be at least 12 inches long with at least 2 side buds. Train (tie-up) new growth as needed as it climbs up in April and May.