

CLEMATIS



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Clematis is the queen of the showy vines. Some varieties flower in mid-June and then again, to a lesser degree in September. Others flower most of the summer. Their huge flowers come in purple, pink, white, and bi-colors. Clematis is traditionally grown on trellises or arbors, but can also be left to sprawl on the ground or over a tree stump.

Clematis vines need sun on their tops, but coolness on their roots. This can be achieved by planting them in a good eastern exposure for full morning sun, or by underplanting with short annuals or perennials in sunnier, hotter locations.

Clematis climb by vining leaf petioles. They should be tied to their support to keep the somewhat brittle stem from breaking. If you are planting the vine on a trellis against a solid wall, keep the trellis 4" - 6" away from the wall to ensure good air circulation.

Clematis prefer rich, moist, well-drained, organic soil. Dig a large hole and amend the soil with organic matter. The crown of the vine should be planted 2" below the soil level. If the vine is tall at planting time, prune it back to 12" to promote bushiness. Water consistently, although the soil should not be soggy. Deadhead the plant for more flowers or leave seed heads for the decorative aspect.

Many books indicate that clematis require lime. Only add lime if soil tests indicate a need. In most cases, the soil pH in Minnesota is neutral to somewhat alkaline naturally and lime is not recommended. Too much lime could cause iron chlorosis symptoms (yellow leaves with green veins). Feed regularly with a balanced perennial fertilizer.

Do not expect too much growth or flowering the first two years after planting.

Clematis problems include the previously mentioned iron chlorosis (also sometimes caused by poor drainage), borers, and root rot. The main concern is a wilt disease which can cause all or part of the vine to suddenly wilt, usually when it is in full bud, during hot, humid weather. The only cure is to prune out the infected parts immediately. If the vine appears to be completely involved, do not despair. If the crown was planted deep enough, it will sometimes regrow from the base.

Pruning is usually a moot point in Minnesota, since the vine frequently dies to the ground in the winter. If this happens, don't give up on it too early. Many clematis have been pronounced dead only to surprise gardeners a few weeks later. If pruning is required, keep in mind that there are two types of clematis. The ones that flower in mid-June and then again in September, flower on old wood in June. In spring, prune out dead or weak stems only. If the vine is quite leggy, it can be pruned back to 18" immediately after the first flowering. Other clematis flower on new wood starting in June and continuing through the summer. They should be pruned to 18" in the spring.

Mulch with compost for the winter.

2010 Clematis Varieties

VARIETY	BLOOM COLOR/TIME	BLOOM SHAPE/SIZE	HEIGHT/ SPACING	PRUNING
ALLAHNAH	RUBY RED w/blackish-red tipped anthers/ June to August	SINGLE/ 5"-8"	10'-12'/ 36"-40"	Prune lightly in early spring.
ANNA-LOUISE	VIOLET with red-purple bar/May to June & August to September	SINGLE/ 5"-6"	8'-10'/ 24"-36"	Late flowering. Prune late winter to early spring.
ASAO	DEEP ROSY PINK with white center bar/ Spring to Fall	SINGLE/ 4"-5"	6'-8'/ 24"	Repeat bloomer. Prune immediately after flowering if needed.
BARBARA HARRINGTON	CERISE RED with dark border & yellow anthers/ June to September	SINGLE/ 4"	10'/ 24"-36"	Prune lightly in early spring.
BELLE OF WOKING	LIGHT BLUE rosette-shaped flower/ May to June & September	DOUBLE/ 4"	6'-12'/ 36"-40"	Repeat bloomer. Prune immediately after flowering.
BETTY CORNING Viticella	LIGHT BLUE fragrant, 4-petaled flowers/ July to September	SINGLE/ 2"	8'/ 24"-30"	Late flowering. Prune late winter to early spring.
BIJOU	VIOLET-MAUVE with pinkish bar/ May to July	SINGLE/ 2"	1'-2'/ 12"-18"	Prune lightly in early spring.
Dr. RUPPEL	PINK LAVENDER deep red center bar, ruffled edge/ May, June, & September	SINGLE/ 8"	8'/ 1'-2'	Repeat bloomer. Prune immediately after flowering.
ETOILE VIOLETTE Viticella	PURPLE/ July to September	SINGLE/ 3"-4"	10'/ 3'-6'	Late flowering. Prune late winter to early spring.
FLORIDA Sieboldii	CREAMY WHITE with deep purple anthers/ June to August	SINGLE/ 4"-5"	6'-10'/ 18"-24"	Prune lightly in early spring.
HENRYI	WHITE with brown anthers/ June & September	SINGLE/ 4"-6"	6'-8'/ 3'-6'	Light pruning late winter to early spring.
JACKMANII	DEEP PURPLE/ June, July, and September	SINGLE/ 4"-6"	8'-10'/ 4'-6'	Prune hard in early spring.
JACKMANII SUPERBA	VELVET PURPLE/ July to September	SINGLE/ 5"-7"	10'-12'/ 4'-6'	Prune hard in early spring.
PANICULATA	WHITE fragrant flowers in clusters/ August to September	SINGLE/ 1"	10'-15'/ 36"-48"	Prune lightly in early spring.
RAMONA	LAVENDER BLUE with dark anthers/ July to September	SINGLE/ 5"-7"	8'-12'/ 3'-6'	Light pruning late winter to early spring.
ROSEMOOR	WINE RED with yellow anthers/ May to September	SINGLE/ 5"-6"	10'/ 3'-6'	Light pruning late winter to early spring.
ROUGE CARDINAL	DEEP VELVET CRIMSON & red anthers/ June-September	SINGLE/ 4"-6"	8'-12'/ 3'-6'	Light pruning late winter to early spring.