

# 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.

## 2011 Clematis Varieties

VARIETY	BLOOM COLOR/TIME	BLOOM SHAPE/SIZE	HEIGHT/ SPACING	PRUNING
BOURBON	VIBRANT RED w/yellow anthers/ June to August	SINGLE/ 4"-6"	4'-6'/ 1'	Prune lightly in early spring.
ELSA SPATH	LAVENDER BLUE w/dark red anthers /June to August	SINGLE/ 7"	6'-10'/ 2'-3'	Prune lightly in early spring.
FRANZISKA MARIA	BLUE and PURPLE/ Summer to Fall	SINGLE/ 4"-6"	6'-7'/ 3'-4'	Prune lightly in early spring.
GENERAL SIKORSKI	DARK LAVENDER w cream anthers/ June and September	SINGLE/ 8"-9"	8'-12'/ 3'-4'	Late flowering. Prune late winter to early spring.
HAGLEY HYBRID	RICH PINK with red anthers/ June and September	SINGLE/ 4"-6"	6'-12'/ 3'-6'	Late flowering. Prune late winter to early spring.
HYDE HALL	WHITE tinged with pink or green & brown anthers/ May to June	SINGLE/ 5"-7"	8'/ 2'	Prune lightly in early spring.
JACKMANII	DEEP PURPLE/ July and September	SINGLE/ 5"-7"	8'-10'/ 4'-6'	Prune hard in early spring.
KILIAN DONAHUE	FUCHSIA & ORCHID orchid edges-fuchsia petals June to July	SINGLE/ 5"-8"	8'-12'/ 2'-4'	Prune lightly in early spring.
NATASCHA	MAUVE-BLUE with red anthers/ June-July & late August	SINGLE/ 4"-5"	6'-8"/ 2'-3'	Prune lightly in early spring.
PANICULATA	WHITE fragrant flowers in clusters/ August to September	SINGLE/ 1"	10'-15'/ 36"-48"	Prune lightly in early spring.
PERLE d'AZUR	TRUE BLUE nodding flowers w/yellow anthers/ July to August	SINGLE/ 5"	10'-15'/ 10'-15'	Prune hard in early spring.
PINK CHAMPAGNE	ROSY PINK with creamy yellow anthers/ May-June & August-Sept.	SINGLE/ 5"-6"	6'-8'/ 4'-6'	Repeat bloomer. Prune immediately after flowering.
REBECCA	BRIGHT RED with yellow anthers/ May-June & August	SINGLE/ 5"-7"	6'-8'/ 3'	Repeat bloomer. Prune immediately after flowering.
ROUGE CARDINAL	VELVET CRIMSON & cream anthers/ June-September	SINGLE/ 5"-6"	6'-10'/ 3'-4'	Light pruning late winter to early spring.
TANGUTICA	YELLOW nodding bell- shaped flowers/ July to October	SINGLE/ 1"-2"	15'/ 6'	Light pruning late winter to early spring.
VINO	WINE RED with yellow anthers/ May-June & August	SINGLE/ 6"	7'-9'/ 3'-4'	Repeat bloomer. Prune immediately after flowering.
WARSAW NIKE	VELVET PURPLE with yellow anthers/ May to September	SINGLE/ 5"	8'-10'/ 3'	Late flowering. Prune late winter to early spring.