

CLEMATIS PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Clematis
- Scientific name: *Clematis*
- Perennial; native to temperate areas of both hemispheres
- Temperate species are deciduous; species native to warmer climates are evergreen
- The majority of clematis species are climbers; others are herbaceous climbers
- Climbing varieties generally grow to 8–12' in height
- Flowers can be almost any color of the rainbow
- Plants can survive 25 years or more
- Many varieties are hardy to zone 3
- Nearly 300 species in genus Clematis

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Grows well in full sun or partial shade
- Media should be rich and well-drained with a pH close to 7.0
- In dry weather, water deeply once a week
- Plants may require staking
- When planting, soil should be prepared to a depth of 24 inches in an area three feet wide
- Incorporate one-third by volume compost or manure

- Plant with six inches of stem below the soil line
- During establishment, fertilize annually with a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 fertilizer

PROPAGATION

- Can be propagated by cuttings or layering
- Take cuttings in May or June from half-hardened shoots of new growth
- Supply high humidity, warmth, and light for cuttings to root in 4–5 weeks
- If no rooting occurs by the end of summer, hold cuttings in pots over winter and plant the following spring
- When layering, choose a mature stem of old growth
- Secure the stem in media at the nodes
- Rooting occurs in 12 months at which point the newly rooted section should be detached and planted

DISORDERS

- Fungal stem rot and leaf spot (*Ascochyta clematidina*)
 - Also known as Clematis wilt
 - Sudden stem collapse followed by stems and leaves turning black
 - Remove diseased section
- Powdery mildew (*Erysiphe cichoracearum*)
 - White coating on upper leaves

- Leaves wilt and turn brown
- Reduce humidity and remove infected foliage
- Slugs
 - Attack young shoots
 - Remove by hand and use slug bait

CONSUMER CARE

- Effective pruning maximizes flower production; details depend on the species and cultivar
- For early-flowering species, prune back after the bloom to provide time for new growth
- For late-flowering varieties, cut each stem to a height of 2–3' in early spring
- Clematis grows well in containers; the container should be at least 18" deep and 12–18" wide

CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Clematis*
 - 'Carnival': powder blue flowers with dark lavender bars
 - 'Dr. Ruppel': Rose pink flowers with ruffled edges
 - 'Ernest Markham': magenta-red flowers
 - 'Jackmanii': dark purple flowers
 - 'Tie Dye': purple flower with white marbling

- *Clematis recta*
 - 'Purpurea Plena Elegans': reddish-purple, double flowers
- *Clematis tangutica*
 - 'Helios': nodding, yellow flowers
- *Clematis ternifolia*
 - 'Sweet Autumn': small, fragrant white flowers

References

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clematis>
<http://www.homeofclematis.net/>
<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/1247.html>

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