

Although clematis are sometimes labeled “finicky” or “hard to grow,” they can be grown quite successfully when their few strong preferences are accommodated. Generally, they like to have “head in the sun, feet in the shade” – that is, a sunny area where their roots are shaded by nearby shrubbery or groundcovers. Be sure the area is protected from wind, and provide a trellis, framework or tree for the vine to climb. The new plant may initially need to be tied to its support. Most clematis prefer at least six hours of sunlight on their “heads.” Our clematis list shows which cultivars prefer or tolerate less sun.

Clematis like well-drained soil that is near neutral in pH. For our acidic west coast soils, mix a handful of dolomite lime into the soil before planting the clematis. Also mix in a handful of bone meal and generous quantities of organic matter—at least three inches of compost or other organic matter. Planting the vines root ball one to two inches below the surrounding soil level will help the plant to develop a strong crown. If the base of the clematis is in the sun, shade it; plant a small shrub in front or set a rock or garden art where it will shade the roots.

Clematis benefit from deep, regular watering and feeding through the growing season. Use a balanced fertilizer (5-5-5, 15-15-15, etc.) as directed on the package. Stop fertilizing by mid August to encourage the wood to “harden off” for winter. Once a year, sprinkle another handful of dolomite lime around the plant.

PRUNING

Not all clematis need pruning in order to flower well. Refer to your plant tag or the Sky Clematis List for your plant’s pruning requirements. Pruning needs generally vary according to the plant’s bloom season, so if you inherit an unknown variety, observe it for a year to determine its bloom habit before taking shears to it. New plants should always be pruned hard their first spring in the ground; this may sacrifice their first seasons blooms but will encourage strong root growth and a healthier plant. If you need to renovate an out-of-control vine, don’t worry. Prune it as hard as you need to in early spring; you may delay flowering but will not damage a healthy plant. New shoots will quickly appear.

PRUNING GROUP A: SPRING BLOOMERS

Clematis that bloom ONLY on last year’s growth usually bloom profusely in the late spring—typically May to June. Best time for pruning these varieties is just after they finish the spring bloom because this allows for maximum development of wood on which next year’s flower buds will be set. Cut away any dead or weak canes. You can also prune out “extra” canes if your vine is getting overgrown. Pruning too late (more than a month after blooming) or too severely can result in delayed or reduced bloom the following year. Examples of this group are *Clematis montana* or *Clematis armandii* cultivars.

PRUNING GROUP B1: SPRING/FALL BLOOMERS

Clematis that bloom primarily on old wood usually have a heavy flush of flowers in May/June followed by a smaller flush of blooms in the fall. For optimum bloom, prune lightly in early spring (late February/ early March). Remove any dead or weak canes and carefully space the remaining canes. Ideally, leave some variation in the lengths of the canes to produce a well-balanced plant. Examples of this group are Barbara Jackman, Duchess of Edinburgh and Gillian Blades.

PRUNING GROUP B2: EVERBLOOMERS

Clematis that bloom both on old and new wood usually bloom from May until late autumn, even into November. While blooming for an extended period of time, these clematis tend not to produce large masses of flowers at any one time like those that bloom on old wood do. Group B2 clematis can be pruned either like Group B1 or like Group C. A hard (Group C) pruning every other year is recommended, but not required. Examples of this group are The President and John Paul II.

PRUNING GROUP C: SUMMER BLOOMERS

Clematis that bloom on the current year's growth usually bloom in the summer. They should be pruned hard in very early spring when the leaf and flower buds begin to swell. Here in the Puget Sound area this usually happens in February. Cut back all the previous year's growth to a point immediately above the lowest pair of strong buds on each stem. If these cultivars are not pruned, they may get leggy with most of their blooms towards the top of the plant. Examples are Jackmanii and Rouge Cardinal.

In some cases, you may want to encourage blooms higher on the plant – for example, if you're training clematis up a tree and want all the blooms to appear through the branches. If you don't cut the "prune hard" varieties, new growth will appear each year near the end of last season's growth and the blossoms will be produced higher. The bottom of the stems will eventually become bare if you do this. Or if you prune these varieties at a given height, the new growth – and blooms – will start above your pruning cuts.

Note that while some clematis can be grown in shade (as noted below), they will usually produce fewer flowers than if grown with more light. Some cultivars look best in part shade simply because their flower colors fade quickly in hot afternoon sun.

EVERGREEN CLEMATIS SPECIES

Clematis armandii grows to 20-30 feet with attractive evergreen foliage. Its flowers are small, starry, white, and mildly fragrant. It usually blooms March to April, and is hardy to 5° F. Pruning group A.

- **Apple Blossom** has flowers lightly blushed pink.
- **Snowdrift** has pure white flowers larger than the species norm.

Clematis cartmanii is a much smaller evergreen clematis, growing only 6-8 feet. It is excellent in containers but needs some winter protection as the vines are hardy to 20° F. Pruning group A.

- **Avalanche**-white, abundant flowers
- **Early Sensation**-white, abundant flowers

DECIDUOUS CLEMATIS SPECIES

Clematis alpina flowers look like small bells 1½ inches wide and they develop into attractive seed heads. All related cultivars grow in full sun, part shade and shade, bloom March to April, grow 6-8 ft. and are in pruning group A.

- **Blue Dancer** has 2" pale blue flowers.
- **Pamela Jackman** has rich, deep purple-blue, bell-shaped 1-2" flowers.
- **Stolwijk Gold** has sunny golden foliage with purple-blue flowers.

Clematis florida Sieboldii (also called Florida Bicolor) is sometimes confused with passionflower. Creamy white 3-4" flowers with a purple rosette center are produced from June to August. Requires an almost frost-free location. Pruning group B1. 6-10.

C. macropetala cultivars have solitary, nodding flowers in shades of blue. They grow in sun or part shade and tolerate shade (although will bloom less in shade). They can be grown through shrubs and are very cold hardy. Most grow to 8-12 feet depending on pruning and training. They bloom on old wood in May, and their silky seed heads are attractive throughout the season. Prune or tidy up after blooming; cut back hard after blooming every third year to revitalize vine and encourage a dense habit.

- **Bluebird** is vigorous and free flowering with lavender-blue flowers.

Clematis montana cultivars are vigorous and easy to grow, producing sweetly scented flowers in profusion. They are ideal for covering trees, stumps, walls and fences. All thrive in full sun and part sun and tolerate shade (but may bloom less in shade). They grow to 20-30 feet, depending on pruning and training. All bloom in May and June, covering themselves in a mass of blossoms. Pruning group A.

- **Broughton Star** has semi-double, dusky pink flowers to 2.5" across. New foliage is bronze-green.
- **Fragrant Spring** has cupped, 3-inch, light pink flowers and bronze new foliage.
- **Grandiflora** has pure white flowers and is very floriferous.

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-**Pink Perfection** is soft pink and vanilla scented with bronzy new foliage.

-**Rubens** is deep pink with golden stamens; it has bronzy foliage.

C. paniculata (aka ***C. terniflora***, or **Sweet Autumn Clematis**) produces numerous, fragrant, star-shaped white flowers from late summer to autumn, followed by attractive seedheads. Prefers full sun and is evergreen in mild winters. Grows 12-20 feet. Pruning group C.

C. texensis produces numerous, small bell-shaped flowers from July to October. Tolerates full shade. 6-10 feet. Pruning group C.

-**Princess Diana**—intense pink, tulip-shaped flowers.

Clematis viticella selections are vigorous and flower freely over a long period. Grown through shrubs, they extend the bloom season. They flower on current year's growth from July to September or October. In winter, cut back all of the previous year's growth to a pair of strong buds, 6-8 in. above the soil level. They grow to 10-12 ft high by 3-5 feet wide.

-**Crimson Star** produces 5-7" wine red flowers.

-**Madame Julia Correvon** is a very free-flowering plant whose blossoms are deep wine red with twisted sepals.

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DECIDUOUS CLEMATIS HYBRIDS * AVAILABILITY MAY VARY- PLEASE CALL TO CHECK STOCK. *

Variety	Flower	Bloom	Prune	Ht.	Comments
Asao	Rosy carmine with yellow stamens; 6-8"	May, June & September	B1	6-8 ft.	nice plant for a fence or small obelisk; sun to shade
Countess of Lovelace	Bluish-lilac, 6-8" across; double in spring, single in fall	May, June, and August	B1	8-12 ft.	good for containers; sun, part shade or shade
Daniel Deronda	Violet-blue, 5-7", double in spring then single in fall	May, June & September	B1	6-9 ft.	strong grower; sun or part shade
Dr. Ruppel	Rose red with carmine bar; 6-8" across	May, June & September	B1	8-12 ft.	Compact; free-flowering; color best in shade
Elsa Spath	Large violet purple, 6-8" blooms	May, June & September.	B1	8-10 ft.	Part shade or shade
Ernest Markham	Bright magenta red, 4-5" across	July to September	C	8-12 ft.	one of the strongest growers; sun or part shade
Fair Rosamund	4-6", single, white and blush pink with red stamens, scented	May, June & September	B1	8-12 ft.	sun, part shade or shade
Fuji-musume	Wedgwood blue with pretty gold stamens, 6-7" across	June to September	B2	6-7 ft.	golden seedheads; compact; excellent for containers; part shade
Gillian Blades	Pure white, frilled edges, 5-7" across	May, June & September	B1	6-8 ft.	looks beautiful against a red brick pillar or wooden post; sun, part shade or shade
Guernsey Cream	White, 4-5" across	May, June & September	C	6-9 ft.	good for containers; sun, part shade or shade
H. F. Young	Medium blue with cream stamens, 6-8" flowers	May, June & September	B1	7-9 ft.	sun, part shade or shade
Haku Ookan	Violet-blue with white stamens; 4-6" across; double in spring, single in fall	May, June & September	B1	7-10 ft.	very compact and free flowering; beautiful against a pale wall; sun or part shade
Henryi	Creamy white with dark stamens, 7-9" blooms	June to September	B2	8-14 ft.	sun, part shade or shade

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Jackmanii	Very dark purple, 4-5" across	June to August	C	8-12 ft.	the most famous clematis; sun to shade
Jackmanii Superba	Very dark purple, 4.5-5.5" across	June to August	C	10-12 ft.	Larger, rounder flowers than Jackmanii
John Warren	Carmine edges on pale ground with carmine bar	June to September	B2	8-10 ft.	Tolerates shade
Julka	Purple with dark red bar, white stamens	June to September	B2	6-9 ft.	
Kardynal Wyszynski	Deep carmine red 5-6" blooms	June to September	C	8-12 ft.	
Kathleen Dunford	Rich rosy purple, semi-double in spring, single in fall	May, June & September	B1	7-9 ft.	Sun or part shade
Madame Le Coultre	White, 6-8" across	June to September	B2	10-14 ft.	also called Marie Boisselot; ideal with climbing roses; sun or part shade
Moonlight	Creamy white with primrose rib and yellow stamens, 6-8"	May, June & September	B1	6-8 ft.	also known as Wada's Primrose; scented; sun or part shade
Multi Blue	Mid-blue, double in spring, semi-double in fall, 4-5" across	May, June & September	B1	6-8 ft.	this charming cultivar has unusually large stamens; sun or part shade
Nelly Moser	Pale mauve with carmine bar, 7-9" across	May, June & September	B1	8-12 ft.	a very popular cultivar; part shade or shade (flower color fades quickly in full sun)
Niobe	Dusky ruby red with gold stamens, 5-6" across	June to September	B2	8-10 ft.	sun or part shade
PIILU	3-5"; mauve-pink with purple bar, yellow anthers, white stamens. Double in spring, single in fall	May & June, August & September	B1	5-7 ft.	good for containers or small areas. Sun to part shade. The name Piilu means Little Duckling in Estonian.
Ramona	Large, lavender blue with dark stamens, 5-7" across	June to September	C	8-10 ft.	sun, part shade or shade
Red Star	4-6" raspberry-red with white stamens, double in spring & fall	May, June & September	B1	4-6 ft.	Sun to part shade

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Romantika	Deep purple	June to September	C	6-8 ft.	Sun to part shade
Rooguchi	2" purple bells with upswept tips and pale lilac edging	June to September	C	6 ft.	one of the best bell-shaped clematis; sun, part shade or shade
Rouge Cardinal	Glowing crimson with brown stamens; 4-6" across	June to September	C	8-10 ft.	sun or part shade
Royalty	4-6" purple-blue with white stamens, double in spring and semi-double in fall	May, June & September	B	8-10 ft.	Sun or part shade; British Award of Merit
Saphyra Indigo (SAPPHIRE INDIGO)	Showy flowers of dark blue-violet, stamens violet at first, then white at base	May, June and August	B1	2-3 ft.	compact form; great in a container or even a hanging basket; sun and part shade
Snow Queen	White with dark stamens	May, June and August	B1	6-8 ft.	spring flowers have a light blue tint, fall flowers a light pink tint; sun or part shade
Sunset	Deep burgundy red with carmine highlights, 5-7" across	May, June & September	B2 / C	8-12 ft.	very free flowering and strong growing; sun, part shade or shade
Sympatia	Rosy-lilac, 6" across	July to September	B2	8-10 ft.	sun or part shade
Taiga	Indigo tipped with green-white; single and double flowers at the same time	July to September	B1	7-8 ft.	sun or part shade
The First Lady	Silvery blue, 8-12" across	May, June & September	B1	7-9 ft.	sun or part shade
The President	Deep purple blue with red-tipped stamens, 6-8" across	June to September	B2	8-12 ft.	a favorite for over 100 years; sun or part shade
The Vagabond	Deep purple shading to crimson on the midrib, striking white stamens, 5-7"	late May to October	B2	4-5 ft.	seedling of Rouge Cardinal; very compact; good for containers; sun or part shade
Tie Dye	Very dark purple with white streaks, 4-5"	June to August	C	8-12 ft.	A sport of Jackmanii

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Toki	6-8" white flowers with yellow anthers	May-June	B	5-7	sun or part shade
Vancouver™ Cotton Candy	White with raspberry-pink bar, feathery yellow stamens	May, June & September	B1	6-8	Sun or part shade
Vancouver™ Danielle	Deep purple blue with a red bar, red-tipped stamens	May & September	B1	6-8	Sun or part shade
Vancouver™ Daybreak	Purple petals, white midrib, red stamens	May, June & September	B1	6-8	Sun or part shade
Vancouver™ Deborah Dahl	Lavender blue 7-9" flowers with red stamens	May, June & September	B1	6-9	Sun or part shade
Vancouver™ Fragrant Star	Clear white, 6-8" flowers with red-tipped stamens	May & September	B1	6-8	Sun or part shade; vanilla fragrance
Vancouver™ Morning Mist	Large, 7-9" blush pink flowers	June to September	B	6-8 ft.	Sun to part shade; compact growth habit
Vancouver™ Mystic Gem	Dusty pink on white 6-8" flowers with red stamens	May, June & September	B1	6-9	Sun or part shade
Vancouver™ Plum Gorgeous	6-8" velvety plum purple flowers facing purple-blue	June to September	B2	6-8 ft.	Sun to part shade; compact growth habit
Vancouver™ Sea Breeze	Soft lavender with a rosy tint	May to September	B1	5-7 ft.	Sun or part shade
Vancouver™ Starry Nights	8", fuchsia, darker at center, midrib "dusted with gold"	May & September	B1	8-10 ft.	Sun or part shade
Warsaw Nike	Rich velvety plum-purple flowers with yellow stamens	June to August.	B2	8-12 ft.	Sun or part shade
Westerplatte	Intense, velvety red, 4-5" across	June to September	B2	6-7 ft.	consistent performer ideal for large patio containers sun, part shade or shade
Will Goodwin	Rich lavender-blue, wavy edges, cream stamens, 5-7" across	June to September	B1	8-10 ft.	looks great grown through a yellow climbing rose; sun, part shade or shade