



# Vine Selection & Care

Vines add new dimension to landscapes by providing vertical interest and color. Choose vines by light requirements and what type of structure they require for adequate support. Some vines, such as certain clematis, are light enough to scramble in, over, and around other plants. Other vines, such as wisteria, need strong support from sturdy arbors and trellises. Another important factor to consider is the method by which vines climb as it can affect structures such as building siding and whether or not you need help vines by tying them up. Vines climb or grow in four ways: 1) by twining their stems around vertical objects, 2) by modified stems called tendrils which wrap around objects and sometimes have adhesive disks at their tips, 3) by sprawling - these are the plants which need to be tied to supporting structures since they have no mechanism by which to climb and stay attached, and 4) by clinging rootlets which grow along vine stems and attach to a support or wall. Vines which grow by clinging rootlets or which have adhesive disks, such as ivy or climbing hydrangea, shouldn't be planted on wood, stucco, or hardboard siding, & only on masonry structures, brick, or stone that is in good condition at the time of planting.

## Deciduous Vines

**Boston Ivy** (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*) - Climbs as a rootlet vine with adhesive disks. Vigorous and dense once established. Flat-growing stems grow tightly against structures. Beautiful scarlet fall color. Plant in sun or shade. Grows to 30'-50'.

**Clematis** (certain cvs. and spp.) - Twining. Fantastic displays of large, colorful blooms. A lightweight vine that can be grown on small trellises, mailboxes, and other plants. Plant in full to part sun and mulch over the root zone. To 6'-15'.

**Climbing Hydrangea** (*Hydrangea anomala* subsp. *petiolaris*) - An extremely handsome and elegant vine with deep green, shiny, heart-shaped leaves and lovely white lacecap flowers. Plant in part shade in moist, fertile soil.

**Climbing Roses** - many varieties available in a range of colors. Plant in sun in a rich, well-drained soil. Grow to 10'-25' depending on species or cultivar.

**Dutchman's Pipe** (*Aristolochia macrophylla [durior]*) - Climbs by twining. Large, rounded leaves provide dense cover and the odd cream colored flowers flecked with brownish purple resemble a pipe that Sherlock Holmes would carry. Plant in sun or shade providing regular water. Easy and trouble free. To 15'-20'.

**European Hop** (*Humulus lupulus*) - Climbs by twining and is a very fast grower. Deeply lobed maple-like leaves provide attractive cover while the soft, green cones (fruit) provide additional interest and have a nice, piney fragrance. Plant in sun to part shade in well-drained soil. Grows to 15'-25'.

**False Climbing Hydrangea** (*Schizophragma* spp.) - Climbs by rootlets. Toothed, heart-shaped leaves and loose white lacecap-style flowers with large outer bracts. Plant in part shade in well-drained soil. Grows to 30'.

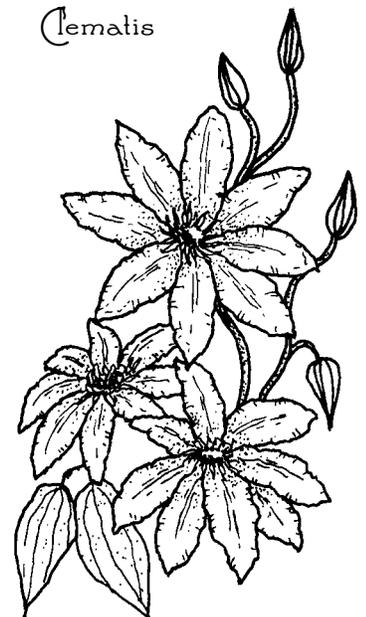
**Trumpet Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera sempervirens*) - The GOOD honeysuckle (the one that won't take over your garden and everyone else's unlike the Japanese form). Climbs by twining. Bright coral flowers from late spring to summer are visited by hummingbirds. Slow to moderate growth to 10 to 15'.

**Trumpet Vine** (*Campsis radicans*) - Climbs by twining and clinging rootlets. A boisterous plant both in growth habit (up to 40' or more) and in its flared cherry-pink and orange flowers which are produced in summer. Plant in sun to part shade where you have LOTS of room for a vine. Try growing it up an old, ugly tree.

**Virginia Creeper** (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) - Climbs by twining and adhesive disks. A trouble-free native vine with great fall color and vigorous growth to 30-50'. Nice planted with ivy for fall foliage contrast. Plant in sun or shade. Excellent for covering just about anything including slopes.

**Wisteria** (*Wisteria* spp.) - Climbs by twining. Must be grown on very sturdy structures such as large arbors or well-anchored metal poles. Beautiful grape-like clusters of amethyst flowers have a sweet perfumed scent. Plant in sun to part shade. Grows to 20' to 30'. American wisteria,

Clematis



(*Wisteria frutescens*) is less rampant in habit.

## Evergreen (and Semi-Evergreen) Vines

**Akebia, Chocolate Vine** (*Akebia quinata*) - Climbs by twining. Vigorous, requiring a fairly strong support, with lovely and refined dark bluish-green foliage and dusky purple flowers. Plant in sun or shade. Grows to 15'-20'. Semi-evergreen to evergreen.

**Carolina Jessamine** (*Gelsemium sempervirens*, also *G. rankinii*) - Climbs by twining. Bright yellow trumpet flowers in spring. Plant in sun or shade (best flowering in sun). Fast growing to 20'. Plant with *G. rankinii* for bonus fall flower show.

**China Blue Sausage Vine** (*Holboellia coriacea*) - Twining. Vigorous akebia cousin with dark leathery leaves, silver-white bell-shaped flowers, and blue sausage shaped fruit. Plant in shade. Grows to 20-30'.

**Cross Vine** (*Bignonia capreolata*) - Climbs by tendrils and adhesive disks. Native, semi-evergreen, fast-growing vine to 30'. Tubular orange-red flowers bloom in spring and are attractive to hummingbirds. Plant in sun to part shade. Though not fussy, it's best in a moderately moist and rich soil. Purple winter foliage.

**Evergreen Clematis** (*C. armandii*, *C. armandii* 'Appleblossom', *C. x cartmanii* Avalanche™) - Climbs by twining leaves. Abundant, fragrant white or pink flowers in spring over shiny green leaves. Plant so that the top of the plant will receive sun and the roots will be cool (mulch helps). Avoid afternoon sun. Excellent along fence-tops or roof gables. Grows to 20'.

**Ivy** (*Hedera helix*) - Climbs by rootlets. Fast-growing vine for shady areas. Many forms available often with variegated foliage. Will grow on walls, fences, and is great on slopes. Drought tolerant. Spreads up to 20'. Miniature forms spread less.

**Kadsura Vine** (*Kadsura japonica*) - Climbs by twining. An evergreen vine with handsome dark green or variegated leaves and fragrant creamy flowers followed by red berry clusters. Plant in shaded, moist soil. Grows to 12-15'.

**Passion Vine** (*Passiflora caerulea*, *P. incarnata*) - Semi-evergreen hardy varieties. Climb by tendrils. Fascinating and showy flowers reminiscent of water lilies but with prominent crown of stamens as well as edible fruit. Plant in sun to part shade in a well-drained, moist soil. Grows to 20-30'. 'Constance Elliot' has performed well here.

**Star/Confederate Jasmine** (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) - Climbs by twining. Profusions of fragrant, star-shaped flowers May through June and some in summer. Can be used as a groundcover. Plant in part to full shade. Grows 10'- 12', sometimes more.

**Wintercreeper** (*Euonymus fortunei*) - Climbs by rootlets. Leaves come in dark green and variegated forms. Does well on many supports including other plants. Plant in sun to part sun. A slow grower to 4' to 6'. Can be used as a groundcover.



## Annual or Tropical Vines

Annual vines are typically fast-growing and will only live for one season (but offer a fantastic array of flowers.) Many annual vines can be easily and inexpensively grown from seed. Tropical vines are not cold hardy here and will usually be killed at first frost. Some tropicals can be grown in pots and overwintered indoors in a bright, sunny window.

**Allamanda** (*A. cathartica*) - Tropical. Sprawler, needs tying up or weaving onto supports. Showy yellow flowers all summer and attractive glossy green foliage. Plant in sun in moist, well-drained soil. Grows to 10'.

**Black-Eyed Susan Vine** (*Thunbergia alata*) - Tropical. Climbs by twining. Bright orange flowers with black-brown centers from midsummer to fall. Plant in sun to part shade in moderately moist soil. Grows to 6'-8'.

**Blue Pea** (*Clitoria ternatea*) - Annual here. Sprawler, needs tying up or weaving onto supports. Purple pea-like flowers with yellow and white centers from midsummer to fall. Plant in sun in moist, well-drained soil. Grows to 10'-15'.

**Bottle Gourd** (*Lagenaria siceraria*) - Annual. Climbs by tendrils. Fantastic gourd fruits in many shapes (if a seed mixture is planted) such as dipper, birdhouse, dumbbell, and bottle. Plant in full sun in moderately moist soil. Grows to 10'-15'.

**Cardinal Climber** (*Ipomoea x sloteri*) - Annual. Climbs by twining. Produces bright red flowers with yellow centers all summer among deeply toothed leaves. Plant by seed in full sun in a soil of average moisture. Grows to 10'-15'.

**Cup-and-Saucer Vine** (*Cobaea scandens*) - Annual here. Fast-growing vine with purple cup-shaped blooms. Plant in full sun in moderately moist, well-drained soil. Grows to about 20'.

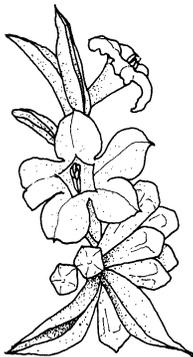
**Cypress Vine** (*Ipomoea quamoclit*) - Annual. Climbs by twining. Fast growing vine with fine-textured, feathery leaves and small, bright red flowers. Plant by seed in full sun in a well-drained soil of average moisture. Grows to 10'-15'.

**Firecracker Vine/Spanish Flag** (*Mina lobata*) - Tropical. Climbs by twining. Fast-growing, long-blooming vine with flower spikes that start yellow at the base and turn to a deep scarlet at the tip, and attractive, lobed leaves. Plant by seed in full sun in a well-drained, moderately moist soil.

Wisteria



## Jessamine



Grows to 10'-20'.

**Hyacinth Bean Vine** (*Dolichos lablab*) - Annual here. Climbs by twining. Showy, bright pink, pea-like flowers are attractive as are the shiny, bright purple seed pods that come after the flowers. Plant in full sun in a moderately moist soil. Grows to 10'.

**Luffa/Sponge Vine** (*Luffa cylindrica*) - Annual. Climbs by tendrils. Produces a fruit similar to a cucumber that can be dried and peeled and then used as a bathing sponge. Showy yellow flowers and large, dense leaves for great temporary screening. Plant by seed in full sun in moderately moist soil with a strong support structure.

**Mandevilla** (*Mandevilla x amabilis*) - Tropical. Twining. Large, beautiful, trumpet-shaped pink flowers are understandably popular. Plant in full sun in moderately moist soil or in a container. Grows to 10'.

**Moonflower** (*Ipomoea alba*) - Annual here. Climbs by twining. A fast grower with howy white, night-blooming flowers that have a lovely scented talc fragrance. Plant by seed in full sun in a soil of average moisture. To 10-15'.

**Morning Glory** (*Ipomoea tricolor*) - Annual. Twining. A fast-growing vine with gorgeous funnel-shaped flowers in bright blue, pink, purple, & more. Plant by seed in full sun in a soil of average moisture. Grows to 10' or

more. **Ornamental Gourd** (*Curcubita pepo ovifera*) - Annual. Climbs by tendrils. A fast-growing vine with bold-textured leaves and very ornamental fruit in many shapes and in a mix of colors from yellow to orange to green. Some are all one color while others are striped. Plant in sun in a moderately moist, well-drained soil. To 10'-15'.

**Scarlet Runner Bean** (*Phaseolus coccineus*) - Annual. Climbs by twining. A fast-grower with attractive scarlet pea-like flowers (also in salmon and white). Plant in sun by seed in a well-drained soil of average moisture. The bean pods are edible and can be eaten whole while small or harvested when ripe for shelling. Grows to 15'.

**Sweet Pea** (*Lathyrus odoratus*) - Annual. Climbs by tendrils. A spring-bloomer with beautiful, wonderfully fragrant flowers in a range of colors. Plant by seed in fall and choose a heat-resistant strain. Good for cutting.

**Sweet Potato Vine** (*Ipomoea batatas*) - Annual here. A sprawler excellent as a small-scale groundcover. The dwarf 'Sweet Caroline' series is great spilling out of container plantings.

## Good Vines for Containers

**Allamanda** - see Annual and Tropical Vines section

**Blue Pea** - see Annual and Tropical Vines section

**Bougainvillea** - see Annual and Tropical Vines section

**Cardinal Climber** - see Annual and Tropical Vines section

**Cypress Vine** - see Annual and Tropical Vines section

**Clematis** (the large flowered hybrid cultivars) - see Deciduous Vines section

**Climbing Hydrangea** - see Deciduous Vines section

**Dutchman's Pipe** - see Deciduous Vines section

**English Ivy** - see Evergreen Vines section

**European Hops** - see Deciduous Vines section

**False Climbing Hydrangea** - see Deciduous Vines section

**Mandevilla** - see Annual and Tropical Vines section

**Passionflower** - see Annual and Tropical Vines section

**Sweet Potato Vine** - see Annual and Tropical Vines section

Mandevilla

