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Climbing Plants

Non-Hardy Vines

The tender perennial vines in this section will only survive the winter outdoors in climates much, much warmer than ours.

We usually treat them as if they are annuals, enjoying them until frost, but some can be brought inside for the winter.

Key

- Full sun
- ◐ Part sun/part shade
- Shade
- 🐝 Attractive to bees
- 🦉 Audubon-endorsed
- 🦋 Butterfly-friendly
- 🐦 Hummingbird-friendly
- 🌿 Attractive foliage
- 🍷 Culinary
- 🌸 Edible flowers
- 🌱 Ground cover
- 🏠 Houseplant
- 📖 Medicinal
- 🇺🇸 Minnesota native
- 🪨 Rock garden
- ❄️ Cold-sensitive: keep above 40°F
- ☠️ Toxic to humans
- 🔄 Saturday restock

C001 Bell Vine, Purple 🌿
Rhodochiton atrosanguineus Purple Rain
Tubular dark purple flowers hang like earrings from rosy purple cups. Heart-shaped leaves. Beautiful and vigorous. Climbs by twining. 10'h ○●🌿
\$4.00—3.5" pot

Black-Eyed Susan Vine
Thunbergia alata

Charming trailing or twining vine. Flowers have flat, open faces. ○●🌿

\$4.00—3.5" pot:

C002 Sunny Susie Orange 🌿—Orange 1.5" flowers with a black eye. 4–5'h

\$7.00—5.25" pot:

C003 Blushing Susie 🌿—Shades of red, pink, peach, apricot, and ivory. 5'h

C004 Sunny Susy Brownie 🌿—Not brown at all, it's a dark orangish red with a much darker eye. The more sun, the deeper the color. In spring and in less sun, it will be pale orange. 5–8'h

C005 Tangerine Slice A-Peel 🌿—Cheerful pinwheels of reddish orange petals with wide yellow margins. 5–8'h

C006 Blue Butterfly Vine 🌿
Clitoria ternatea Double

Vivid blue 2" flowers with a light yellow center bloom late summer. Oval flower traditionally used in Asia to dye natural fibers and in Southeast Asia to color a sticky rice dish. Young pods and leaves are eaten as a vegetable. This extra-tender perennial can be grown in a container and moved indoors when temperatures fall below 60°F. It grows rapidly, should bloom in its first year, and may reach the 10–15' it does in the tropics. Larval host plant for long-tailed skipper and painted lady butterflies. Does well in moist soil. Twining. Known by many names, including Asian pigeonwings and blue pea. 6–15'h ○🌿🍷🌿🌿 \$6.00—4" pot



Black-eyed Susan vine

C007 Cup and Saucer Vine 🌿
Cobaea scandens

Bell-shaped, honey-scented 2" flowers that change from green to lovely violet. If planted in a sheltered spot, the flowers continue after early frosts. Graceful and grows well in a container. Climbs by tendrils. 25'h ○●🌿 \$4.00—3.5" pot

C008 Firecracker Vine 🌿
Mina lobata Exotic Love

Flowers emerge red, change to orange, then yellow, and finally cream. All colors are out at once. In full sun, one plant can easily produce several hundred arching sprays of lined-up 1" flowers, August until frost. More restrained in part shade. Also known as Spanish flag. 20'h ○●🌿 \$4.00—3.5" pot

C009 Hyacinth Bean
Lablab purpureus Ruby Moon

Fragrant, wisteria-like rose-purple flowers in loose clusters midsummer through fall. Elegant, heart-shaped purple-tinged leaves and glossy magenta seed pods in fall are a bonus. Vigorous, fast-growing, and twining. Needs a strong trellis. Grown as food in tropical areas, the young shoots, immature pods, and flowers are edible, but dried pods and seeds can cause upset stomach without special treatment in cooking. Formerly *Dolichos lablab*. 10–20'h ○🌿🍷🌿 \$3.49—seed packets

C010 Love-in-a-Puff 🌿

Cardiospermum halicacabum Love-in-a-Puff

Small white flowers followed by inflated light green pods containing seeds marked with a distinct little heart. Quick-growing vines with pretty, lacy foliage are excellent for covering wire fences. Climbs by tendrils. 10'h ○● \$4.00—3.5" pot

C011 Moonflower, Climbing

Ipomoea noctiflora alba White

White 5–6" trumpets unfurl as evening approaches, releasing a lovely fragrance. The flowers gently spiral closed with the rising sun. Vigorous twining vine. Nectar plant for sphinx moths. 10–30'h ○🌿🌿 \$2.69—seed packets

C012 Nasturtium, Climbing 🌿
Tropaeolum majus Fiery Festival

Bright orange-red blossoms with yellow centers. Prolific bloomer with edible flowers, leaves, and seed pods. Adds spice and color to salads. Great trailing from window boxes or containers. Twining leaves. 2–3'h ○●🌿🍷🌿 \$4.00—3.5" pot
See also NASTURTIIUM, page 24

C013 Rex Begonia Vine *Cissus discolor* 🌿

Velvety elongated heart-shaped leaves are patterned with silver and green with a central burgundy stripe. The undersides of the leaves, the stem, and the clinging tendrils are all burgundy, while the youngest foliage is sprinkled with crimson. Best in light shade with consistently moist soil. Stays 12–36" in containers. Can be over-wintered indoors. 10–12'h ○●🌿🍷🌿 \$6.00—4" pot

Runner Beans *Phaseolus coccineus*

If grown for the showy sprays of bright flowers, keep the beans picked to encourage flowers. Pods filled with large 1" beans that are delicious eaten as shell beans or dried. Flowers and very young bean pods are also edible. Vigorous twining stems that need strong support. From the mountains of Mexico and Central America, they produce more pods in cooler weather. ○🌿🍷🌿 \$4.00—seed packets:

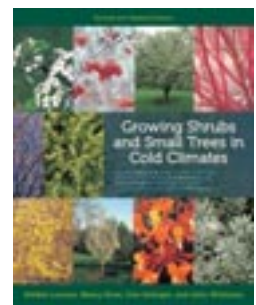
C014 Painted Lady Improved—Sprays of bicolor red and pale pink flowers, tan and black speckled beans. Tolerates heat better than other runner beans. Heirloom variety from the early 1800s. 55–68 days to bloom, 110 days for dry beans. 8–10'h

C015 Scarlet—Heirloom with brilliant red flowers and 8" pods containing burgundy and black speckled beans. 65 days to bloom, up to 120 days for dry beans. 10'h

C016 Snapdragon, Climbing 🌿
Asarina Joan Lorraine

White-throated purple-blue 2" trumpet flowers. May politely self-seed. Blooms all summer. Twining. 6–8'h ○●🌿 \$4.00—3.5" pot

Perennial Vines



About those stars...

Throughout this section, you will notice trees and shrubs that are marked with four or five stars (★★★★). These plants have been noted by Lonnee, Rose, Selinger, and Whitman in the 2011 edition of *Growing Shrubs and Small Trees in Cold Climates* as some of the very best plants available on the market.

C017 Bittersweet
Celastrus scandens Autumn Revolution
Bright red to orange berries are wonderful in dried arrangements. Self-fruitful bittersweet, from Bailey Nurseries. Vigorous, twining variety of the Minnesota native climber. 15–25'h ○☺ \$36.00—2 gal. pot

Clematis see page 33

Honeysuckle, Climbing *Lonicera*

A vigorous grower with tubular flowers, popular with hummingbirds and nectar-seeking moths. Red berries, which many birds relish. Good for fences or trellises. Twining. ○🌿🍷🌿☺

\$12.00—1 gal. pot:

C060 Dropmore Scarlet *L. × brownii* 🌿—Coral-scarlet summer flowers attract orioles. Bred in Manitoba. ★★★★★ 12'h

\$13.00—1 quart pot:

C061 Blanche Sandman *L. sempervirens*—Deep rose flowers sporadically May–frost. Blue-green foliage. Needs at least a half-day of sun for best blooming. A native species as nearby as Iowa. 12'h

C062 John Clayton *L. sempervirens*—Lovely yellow flowers that are slightly fragrant. The species is native as nearby as Iowa. 10–20'h

C063 Major Wheeler *L. sempervirens*—Coral-red flowers bloom profusely from late spring into fall. A mildew-resistant, noninvasive selection. 6–10'h

Honeysuckle, Climbing *continued*

\$14.00—5.25" pot:

C064 Kintzley's Ghost *L. reticulata*—Otherworldly silver-white discs resembling eucalyptus leaves encircle yellow flower clusters in June, then persist into fall as berries appear. Compact for a honeysuckle. Reaches mature height in 10 years. Found in an Iowa greenhouse in the 1880s by horticulturist William Kintzley, this unusual heirloom vine was rediscovered in the Colorado yard of a grandson in 2001. It's a selection of a native Minnesota honeysuckle. 8–12'h by 4–5'w 🌿

C065 Scentsation *L. periclymenum*—Fragrant yellow and cream flowers bloom heavily from mid-spring to mid-fall followed by berries in fall. 10–15'h

Hops *Humulus lupulus*

Fast-growing vine with maple-like leaves. Pine-scented greenish flowers resembling cones are attractive to butterflies. Young shoots are edible like asparagus. Dried or fresh, the flowers are also a key ingredient in beer brewing. Dies back to the ground each winter. Strong spreader from the roots; toxic to dogs. Twining. ○●🌿🍷🌿

\$8.00—3" deep pot:

C066 Cascade—Aroma-type hops with moderate bitterness, often used in West Coast ales. Considered the most popular hops in North America. 20'h by 10'w

C067 Nugget—A great bittering hop with a heavy herbal aroma. Gold leaves. 25'h

C068 Willamette—Fruity and floral. Great for American pale and brown ales, and English-style ales. 15–25'h

C069 Hydrangea Vine, Japanese
Schizophragma hydrangeoides Rose Sensation

Lacy flower clusters in late spring to midsummer, shading white to pink. The plant (whose listed height may be optimistic in Minnesota) can be cut back in late winter to control the ultimate size. Needs a thick mulch around the root zone for winter protection. Vigorous vine that clings by aerial rootlets. 40–50'h ○🌿☺ \$16.00—5.25" pot

C070 Hydrangea, Climbing
Hydrangea petiolaris

Clusters of fragrant flowers with showy white bracts (petal-like leaves). Early summer bloom. Very slow to establish; worth the wait. Climbs and clings by aerial rootlets. From Japan. 30'h ○●☺ \$11.00—1 quart pot

C071 Passion Flower, Maypop 🌿
Passiflora incarnata PinkPop

Intricate 3" flowers with frizzy, threadlike lavender-pink strands surrounding a center we can only call bizarre. Grow it on a fence or trellis or let it scramble over shrubs and trees. Climbs by tendrils. Place in a protected micro-climate such as the south-facing foundation of a house. 8–10'h ○● \$35.00—1 gal. pot

C072 Sweet Pea, Everlasting 🌿

Lathyrus latifolius Pearl Mix

Pink, red, or white flowers with winged stems. Plant in a protected area. Climbs by tendrils. 6'h ○●☺ \$3.00—2.5" pot

Trumpet Creeper
Campsis radicans

Large trumpets in August and September. Excellent for attracting hummingbirds, good for butterflies. Vigorous vine with glossy, serrated leaves. May die back to the ground in severe winters, but regrows from the ground. Climbs by aerial roots. Not for small spaces. Not recommended to grow up the side of a house or garage because it can grow through building materials. 30'h ○🌿☺

\$3.00—2.5" pot:

C073 Orange 🌿

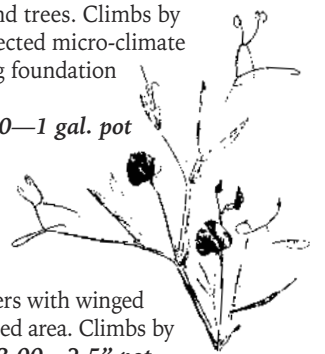
\$10.00—1 quart pot:

C074 Red Sunset—Red flowers with an orange throat.

C075 Wisteria 🌿

Wisteria macrostachya Blue Moon

Light bluish lavender flowers dependably rebloom up to three times a year when planted in full sun. Blooms as a two-year-old plant. Developed by Harvey and Brigitte Buchite from a wedding present seedling of 'Betty Mathews' (now also sold as First Editions Summer Cascade). Locally selected to do well in our climate, their original plant is now 30 years old. Hardy to -40°F. Charming, fragrant flowers in long, hanging clusters beginning in May or early June, followed by fruit pods that remain throughout winter. Grow only on a strong arbor or pergola. Rapid grower. Twining. 15–30'h by 4–8'w ○●☺ \$18.00—1 gal. pot



Everlasting Sweet Pea

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Climbing Plants

Clematis clematis ○☉

Showy flowers in a range of colors and shapes. Best in full sun with the roots protected from the hottest midday rays. Those that tolerate a bit more shade have been marked with ☉. Climbs by twining leaves that must grab something less than a half-inch in diameter. Great scrambling through shrubs or other supports, or even as a ground cover.

All clematis are toxic to people and pets. Deer-resistant.



\$4.00—3.5" pot:

C018 **Virgin's Bower** *C. virginiana* ☉—Vigorous native vine with festoons of small white flowers in summer. Suitable as a cut flower, with interesting seed heads. Good to ramble over slopes, it can spread aggressively by roots and self-seeding. Can be pruned any time; treat as Group 3 for a bushier plant, or don't prune and allow it to ramble. Seed from Clayton County, Iowa. 12–20'h ○☉☉☉☉☉

\$5.00—2.5" pot:

C019 **Sweet Autumn** *C. terniflora*—Four-petaled white 1–2" flowers in clusters. Hardy, vigorous, and easy to grow; very fragrant, August–September. Seldom needs pruning, but when desired, prune in early spring when the buds begin to swell. Syn. *C. paniculata*. Group 3. ★★★★★ 15–20'h

\$16.00—5.25" pot:

C020 **Pink Mink** **NEW**—Bright pink on light pink 2–3" cross-shaped flowers from June to September. Charming and abundant. Group 3. 9–10'h
 C021 **Sweet Summer Love**—Cranberry-purple flowers will bloom more than a month before its cousin Sweet Autumn and keep blooming. Cherry-vanilla scent. Group 3. 10–15'h

\$22.00—1 gal. pot:

C022 **Blue Bird** *C. macropetala*—Semi-double, small, slate-blue flowers with creamy-white stamens. Free-flowering in May and June with a good sprinkling of repeat bloom throughout the summer. Group 1. 16'h
 C023 **Blue Explosion**—Prolific rebloomer. First flowers in May and June are 5" blue semi-doubles with pink petal tips. Single lavender flowers bloom July–September. Group 2. 7–9'h
 C024 **Boulevard Abilene** ☉—Ruffled 4" pink flowers with darker pink bars on a June-blooming, compact vine. Reblooms later in summer. The compact, vigorous Boulevard Collection clematis from England bloom and rebloom profusely with flowers all the way to the ground June–September. Deadheading and feeding promote bloom. Group 2. 4'h ○☉
 C025 **Boulevard Acropolis** ☉—Magenta 3–4" flowers with spidery pale yellow centers. Group 3. 3–4'h
 C026 **Boulevard Bernadine** ☉—Very light lavender 3–4" flowers have central white filaments tipped with deep red. Group 3. 4–6'h by 1–2'w
 C027 **Boulevard Edda** ☉—Rosy purple petals with pointed pale tips and a darker central bar. The colors change to lavender-blue with a rosy pink bar. The 2–5" flowers are sometimes semi-double. Group 3. 3–4'h ○☉
 C028 **Boulevard Kitty** ☉—Broad white petals with small pointed tips show palest green bars before turning all white. Whiskery lavender center. Group 3. 2–3'h ○☉
 C029 **Boulevard Nubia** ☉—Dark red 5–6" flowers with purplish red centers. Group 3. 4'h ○☉
 C030 **Boulevard Sarah Elizabeth** ☉—Cotton candy pink 4–6" flowers with frilly-edged petals and burgundy stamens. Group 3. 4–6'h by 2–3'w
 C031 **Boulevard Tranquillité** ☉—Icy lavender 4" flowers. Ruffled and overlapping petals are broad with pointed tips and a white center stripe. Group 3. 4–5'h by 2–3'w ○☉
 C032 **Boulevard Vicki** ☉—Pink 4–5" flowers have curly petals with darker pink center lines and yellow anthers. Group 3. 3–4'h ○☉
 C033 **Bourbon** ☉—Vibrant red 5–6" flowers with a yellow center from June through early August. A good candidate for summer containers (24" wide or more). Group 2. 4–6'h

\$22.00—1 gal. pot (continued):

C034 **Cardinal Wyszynski** ☉—Grows with 6–8" deep purplish red flowers from July–September. Vigorous. Group 2. 8–10'h
 C035 **Diamantina** ☉—Deep violet-blue 4–6" double flowers with silver-green central petals when they first open. Pompom flowers can last up to a month. Reblooms in late summer to early fall. Excellent cut flower. Group 2. 6–8'h
 C036 **Diana's Delight** ☉—Shades of lavender-blue with creamy centers. Blooms May–June and September. Group 2. 4–6'h ○☉
 C037 **Duchess of Edinburgh** ☉—White 4–6" double flowers with soft yellow anthers. Blooms May–June and again in September. Group 2. 8'h
 C038 **Ernest Markham** ☉—Grown since 1926, this classic offers an abundance of handsome reddish magenta 4" flowers. Vigorous and blooms in summer. Group 3. 10–12'h
 C039 **Etoile Rose** *C. texensis* ☉—Vigorous vine, covered mid- to late summer with showy, urn-shaped cerise pink flowers. Group 3. 8–10'h
 C040 **Golden** *C. tangutica* ☉—Lantern-shaped 1.5" bright yellow flowers in midsummer followed by attractive seed heads. Vigorous. Group 3. 12–16'h
 C041 **Gravetye Beauty** *C. texensis* ☉—Introduced in the early 1900s, this vigorous favorite has showy, tulip-like red flowers in late summer. Pronounced "Grave-Tie," named for the home of Victorian English gardener William Robinson who influenced the 20th-century fashion for naturalistic gardens. Group 3. 8–12'h
 C042 **Guernsey Cream**—Creamy white 4–6" flowers with yellow centers. Blooms in early summer with a second flush of bloom in late summer. Reliable. Group 2. 6–8'h ○☉
 C043 **H.F. Young** ☉—A stalwart clematis with large Wedgwood blue flowers. One of the best blue clematis. Popular because it blooms in late spring and again in mid-late summer. Group 2. 6–8'h
 C044 **Hyde Hall**—White 5–7" flowers whose wide, pointed petals show hints of pink and green. Pinkish brown center. Part of a series celebrating Royal Horticultural Society gardens in England. Group 2. 8'h by 2'w
 C045 **Jackmanii Superba** *C. viticella* ☉—Velvety 5" purple flowers bloom in abundance through the summer. Beautiful, vigorous, hardy—it ticks all the boxes. An improved version of one of the most deservedly popular clematis. Group 3. 10–12'h
 C046 **Lindsay** ☉—Bluish purple 6–7" flowers with wide, pointed petals and red anthers. Blooms in midsummer and again in late summer. Group 3. 6–8'h
 C047 **Madame Edouard Andre** ☉—Deep velvet red 6" flowers with light yellow anthers. Vigorous grower, with many flowers July–August. Group 3. 8–10'h by 3–4'w
 C048 **Nelly Moser**—Pale pink 6–8" flowers with a deep rose stripe on each petal. Reddish brown anthers. Blooms May–June with a second, less prolific bloom in August and attractive seed heads in the fall. A reliable classic since 1897. Group 2. 6–10'h ○☉
 C049 **Piilu**—Heavy-blooming, shorter vine with many pinkish lavender flowers. A repeat bloomer, the early flowers are double or semi-double, the late flowers are single. Group 2. 4–6'h
 C050 **Princess Diana** *C. texensis* ☉—Abundant raspberry pink flowers with wide, lighter margins. The four 2" petals are curled outward at their pointed tips. Because the trumpet-shaped flowers face up, this vine can be used as an unusual ground cover. Blooms all summer and fall. Group 3. 6–10'h ☉

\$22.00—1 gal. pot (continued):

C051 **Rooguchi** *C. integrifolia* × *durandii* ☉—Deep bluish purple petals with lavender margins. Nodding 2" bells with up-curved tips are suspended from upright wiry black stems June–October. Fluffy silver-green seed heads. Can be tied to a support. Also known as Roguchi. Group 3. ★★★★★ 2–8'h by 3–4'w ○☉☉☉☉☉
 C052 **Rosalie** ☉—Two-toned pink and deep pink flowers that change to lighter shades of lavender-pink as they age. Long-blooming. Group 2. 5'h
 C053 **Sapphire Indigo** ☉—Cross-shaped, long-blooming purple flowers on a compact vine that makes a great ground cover. Taller if used as a climber. Unusual and lovely in a hanging basket or container, but plant in the ground in the fall. Group 2. 3–4'h ○☉☉☉
 C054 **Silver Moon** ☉—Silvery lavender 6" flowers with wavy-edged petals and yellow centers. Recommended for light to open shade, where the unusual flower color makes a gentle impact. Midsummer bloom with some repeat. Group 2. 8–10'h ○☉
 C055 **Tumaini** **NEW** ☉—Deep lavender 4–5" flowers with a magenta bar on each petal become lavender and pink. Blooms enthusiastically in early May and June, then again in September. Chartreuse foliage. Group 2. 4'h ○☉☉☉☉☉
 C056 **Ville de Lyon**—Cherry red 4–6" flowers with a creamy yellow center bloom most of the summer. Very floriferous. Group 3. 10–12'h by 2–3'w ○☉
 C057 **Warsaw Nike** ☉—Abundant burgundy 5" blossoms early to midsummer, again in fall. From renowned breeder Brother Stefan Franczak of Poland. More shade-tolerant than many. Group 2. 8–12'h ○☉
 C058 **Will Goodwin** ☉—Very large lavender-blue flowers with wavy-edged petals and gold centers. Blooms June–August. Group 2. 8–12'h
 C059 **Clematis, Bush** ☉
***Clematis integrifolia* Arabella**
 Bluish purple flowers with a prominent cream center, followed by puffs of silvery brown seed heads. Flowers are open and out-facing, with four to six petals. Reliable bloomer from early summer to fall, its stems become woody and self-supporting as the plant matures. A smaller, low-maintenance clematis that will grow through neighboring plants or can be unobtrusively staked or supported by a tomato cage. Winner of Award of Merit from RHS. 3–5'h ☉☉☉☉☉ **\$20.00—1 gal. pot**

"If it blooms before June, don't prune."

Pruning Clematis

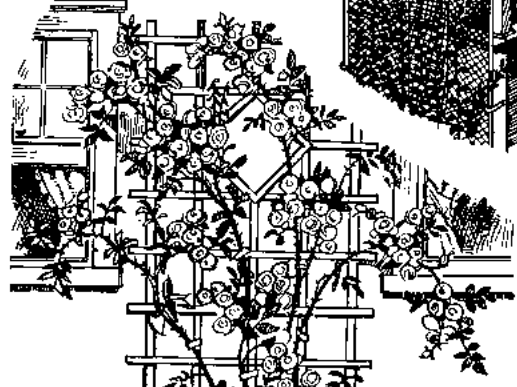
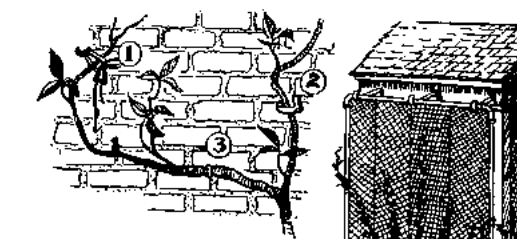
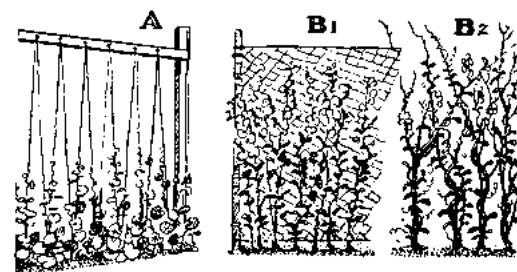
It may seem intimidating, but pruning the various types of clematis is mostly a matter of common sense.

Pruning groups include the early-blooming varieties (Group 1), the repeat bloomers (Group 2), and the vines that usually bloom in summer or later (Group 3).

GROUP 1
 Blooms in spring on last year's growth. After blooming, prune lightly to shape vine if needed.

GROUP 2
 Repeat bloomers, first blooming on last year's growth, then reblooming on new growth. If needed, lightly trim in early spring when buds swell. After the first bloom, again lightly prune to increase later flowers.

GROUP 3
 Blooms in summer or later, on new growth. Prune severely in early spring when new buds begin to swell, cutting stems back to 12–14" from the base of the vine to produce good growth and encourage abundant blooming.



CLIMBING KEY—
A: Twining
B: Tendrils and leaf tendrils
C: Aerial rootlets
D: Twining leaves

Some of the classic supports for climbing plants.

