



CLEMATIS

There are more than 200 species of clematis. Most are deciduous vines with very attractive flowers. Clematis are hardy and grow well in northeast Washington.

PLANTING AND CARE

- Clematis need loose, fast-draining soil. Inland Northwest soils tend to be neutral, which is ideal for clematis.
- Plant clematis in a site where the top of the plant gets lots of sun and the roots are kept cool. Cover the base of plant with mulch, rocks, or a shallow-rooted groundcover to help shade roots.
- Clematis should be planted deep. Set the top of the root ball 2-3 inches below the soil surface.
- Provide a stake, trellis or other surface for clematis to climb.
- Keep clematis moist and well fertilized. Apply a balanced fertilizer about once a month during the growing season.

PRUNING

The first spring, as buds begin to swell, all clematis should be cut back to the first two sets of strong buds on each stem. This encourages the growth of new stems at the base of the vine. In subsequent years, prune to control size and shape or to encourage more profuse bloom, as detailed below.

- Clematis that bloom only on old wood (i.e. previous year's growth) should be lightly pruned after they are done blooming. Prune out dead or weak stems.
- Clematis that bloom in the spring on old growth **and again** in the summer or fall on new growth should be lightly pruned in late fall or early spring to remove dead or weak wood and to shape and untangle. The number of later flowers can be increased if the seed heads from the first flowering are removed right after they are done blooming.
- Clematis that bloom on new growth (i.e. current year's growth) should be pruned **hard** in late fall or early spring. Cut stems back to 6 to 12 inches from the ground (or 2 to 3 buds) for the first three years. Older plants should be pruned to two feet or less.

DISEASES

Clematis Wilt: *Ascochyta clematidina* is the most common fungus to attack clematis. Clematis wilt can occur at any time but usually happens just as the flower buds begin to open. The whole plant can be affected or, more commonly, only one or two stems will wilt or turn black. Carefully cut off all diseased parts of the vine. The fungus will remain on the healthy-looking part of the stem so it is imperative that about one inch of the stem **below** the infection be removed. Be sure to disinfect your clippers and dispose of diseased parts in a sealed plastic bag. New shoots will soon appear at or below the soil line. At worst, this therapeutic pruning will delay your flower display. Clematis wilt seldom destroys the whole plant. If the problem persists, the use of the fungicide benomyl will help.

VARIETY	COLOR	FLOWER SIZE	BLOOM TIME	PLANT SIZE	PRUNING
Asao	Deep pink	6"	Early summer/fall	8'	Light
Bee's Jubilee	Pink and carmine bi-color	6-7"	Early summer/fall	8-10'	Light
Carnaby	Pink and white bi-color	5"	Early summer/fall	8-10'	Light
Chrysocoma	Soft pink clusters	1-2"	Spring	15-25'	Light
Comtesse de Bouchard	Rose pink	5-6"	Early summer	8-12'	Hard
Dr. Ruppel	Pink and red bi-color	7-8"	Early summer/fall	8-12'	Light
Duchess of Edinburgh	Double white	3-5"	Early summer	8-12'	Light
Elsa Spath	Lavender blue	6-8"	Summer	8-12'	Light
Ernest Markham	Bright magenta	5-6"	Late summer	12-16'	Hard
General Sikorski	Medium blue	4-6"	Early summer	8-12'	Light
Gillian Blades	White	5-6"	Early summer/fall	8'	Light
Gypsy Queen	Velvety purple	4-6"	Late summer	12-20'	Hard
Hagley Hybrid (Pink Chiffon)	Shell pink	5-6"	Summer	6-8'	Hard
Henryi	White	6-7"	Summer	12-20'	Light
H.F. Young	Wedgewood blue	6-7"	Early summer/fall	8'	Light
Horn of Plenty	Rosy mauve, deep bar	6-7"	Early summer/fall	8-10'	Light
Jackmani	Purple	5-6"	Summer	8-12'	Hard
John Warren	Pinkish-lilac, veined	8-10"	Early summer/fall	8-12'	Light
Lady Betty Balfour	Rich purple	5-6"	Late summer	12-20'	Hard
Lanuginoscia Candida	White, yellow center	7-8"	Summer	8-14'	Light
Macropetala	Blue, semi-double	2-3"	Spring	8-12'	Light
Markham's Pink	Pink, semi-double	2-3"	Spring	8-12'	Light

VARIETY	COLOR	FLOWER SIZE	BLOOM TIME	PLANT SIZE	PRUNING
Mme. Baron-Veillard	Lilac rose	5"	Summer	10'	Hard
Mme. Edouard Andre	Purplish red	4-6"	Summer	10'	Hard
Montana Marjorie	Pinkish white	2-3"	Spring	15-30'	Light
Montana Pink Perfection	Medium pink	2-3"	Spring	12-20'	Light
Montana Rubens Superba	Pink, fragrant	3"	Spring	15-25'	Light
Mrs. N. Thompson	Violet, red bar	4-6"	Early summer	6-8'	Light
Mrs. Cholmondeley	Lavender blue	4-6"	Summer	10'	Hard
Nelly Moser	Pale pink, red bar	7-9"	Early summer	10-20'	Light
Niobe	Ruby red	6-8"	Summer/fall	8-12'	Hard
Paniculata	Cream clusters	1/2-1"	Fall	10-20'	1/2 way
Prince Hedrick	Pink, red bar	4-6"	Summer/fall		Hard
Ramona	Sky blue	6-8"	Summer	10-16'	None
Rouge Cardinal	Bright crimson	4-6"	Summer	8-12'	Hard
Spooneri	White, yellow center	3"	Spring	15-25'	Light
Star of India	Reddish plum	6"	Summer/fall	8-12'	Hard
Tetrarose	Pink, yellow center	3 1/2"	Spring	12-20'	Light
The President	Deep blue-purple	6-8"	Early summer	8-12'	Light
Ville de Lyon	Red, yellow center	5-6"	Summer	10-14'	Hard
Will Goodwin	Blue, yellow center	6-8"	Early summer	8-12'	Light
Wm. Kennett	Lavender blue	6-8"	Summer	10-20'	Light

Compiled by Tonie Fitzgerald. For more information, contact Master Gardeners at (509) 477-2181.
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