

Successful

Clematis

Dreams of a trellis, porch, lamp post or porch pot covered in rich, vibrant color can easily be obtained by following a few important steps first:

Planting Site

Clematis like rich, well-drained soil.

Amend existing soil with organic matter, peat moss and compost.

(We recommend Fafard Complete Planting Mix.)

Plant in full to partial sun (at least six hours). The bottom of the plant needs to be shaded. This can be achieved by planting other perennials or annuals around the base or by keeping it well-mulched. Provide a sturdy trellis or netting for climbing support.

Fertilizing

At planting, use a root stimulator as directed on the container (such as Root & Grow). Use again one month later, and one month after that. The following year in the spring, fertilize with a balanced all-purpose granulated fertilizer.

Watering

Water regularly, thoroughly and deeply during the hot, dry summer months. Do not over water. This may cause root rot and kill the plant. A rich, well-drained soil is key.

Pruning

Clematis are divided into 3 groups: **A, B or C**. The plant tag or your knowledge of bloom time will indicate your group and therefore pruning time. **Group A:** Blooms in early spring on growth from previous year. Prune immediately after blooming. Minimal pruning is required unless the plant

has overgrown the area. Do not be concerned about cutting to a particular point. Remove enough growth to confine the plant to where you want it.

Group B: Blooms early to mid-summer, and some will bloom again in fall, on old wood. Again, prune minimally and immediately after summer blooming (you will lose fall blooms that season). If the plant has become over-grown, prune hard in late winter. The following summer's blooms will be sacrificed, but the aesthetics of the plant will be better in the future.

Group C: Blooms late summer and fall on new growth produced earlier in the season. This group is the easiest to prune. In late winter to early spring, prune to 12" to 36" from the ground.

Note: Double-blooming clematis bloom on old wood only; if cut back, the new shoots will bloom single. If pruning is needed and unavoidable, it may take two to three years to have enough old wood to have double blooms.



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Notes

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Caring for Clematis



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