

• Clematis

characteristics

Clematis are the aristocrat of climbers; their rich hues and varied bloom times enable the gardener to have masses of bloom from early spring to late fall. The blooms of the clematis often change color, some very markedly through the life of each flower. With over 50 varieties at Adams, finding your favorite color will be easy.

planting

Plant in full sun or light shade. Dig a hole deep enough so the clematis may be planted 2" deeper than it grew in the container. Mix plenty of compost or well-rotted manure into the soil. Gently remove the plant from the container, keep the rootball as intact as possible. Place in the hole and fill in with soil, tamp down. Water thoroughly and mulch lightly with grass clippings. To ensure root growth, keep well watered throughout the growing season. Prune to the lowest pair of healthy buds immediately after planting. Tie the young stems to a trellis as they grow.

care & maintenance

Clematis flowers in spring, summer, and fall, depending on variety.

Feed clematis by sprinkling the base of established plants with organic fertilizer.

Clematis likes a moist, rich, alkaline soil that drains well. Roots prefer cool soil, mulch with several inches of compost.

The growth height for clematis is 6-20' high with a 6-48" spread.

Prune the first spring (Feb. or March) after planting. When the buds are swelling, cut back to two sets strong buds on each stem.

Clematis

Winterizing isn't necessary for clematis.



Clematis can suffer from clematis wilt. Signs to look for include black fungal spots on leaves. Once this fungus reaches the stem the plant will suddenly wilt and die back. To remedy, prune the clematis back to within 6 in. of the plants base.

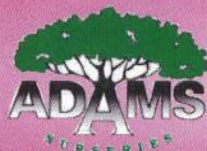
pruning

Most clematis will be tagged with variety and pruning code. It is important to keep this tag for reference. From then on use the following recommendations:

Group A (1): Flowers on last years growth. When the flowers have finished blooming (May/June) cut out weak/dead stems. Severe pruning or pruning later than June will produce less flowers.

Group B (2): Flowers on last years growth, but less so. Light pruning in late February/March, varying the length of stems. Cut out any weak/dead wood.

Group C (3): Flowers on this years growth. Prune each February/March to two strong buds on each stem.



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