



## How to Grow Clematis

**Position** – Full sun or part shade

**Soil** – Well-drained

**Flowering Period** – January to December

**Hardiness** – Fully hardy

### About Clematis

Clematis are deciduous or evergreen shrubs or herbaceous perennials that add colour and height to any garden. They can be trained up fences, walls, pagodas and even against trees and shrubs. There are many varieties of clematis and if you pick the right one you can have them flowering all year round. Their flower forms are varied too with an abundance of colours to choose from. You should expect to see Clematis grow to an approximate height of between 8-12m (26-40') and a spread of 3-4m (10-13').

### How to plant Clematis

Clematis will need a vertical surface for it to climb up as mentioned above. You may need to tie it in place initially until it reaches a mature size. Choose a site that will accommodate its eventual height and spread. They are best suited to moist, well-drained soil of chalk, clay, sand and loam within an alkaline or neutral PH balance.

Clematis are best positioned in a position of full sun or part shade. The most important thing is that the roots are kept in full shade. Dig a hole that is deep so that the crown of your Clematis is well below the soil surface.

### How to care for Clematis

Apply a potassium-rich fertiliser every year during late winter or early spring and mulch with organic matter such as leaf mould or garden compost. During periods of dry weather water regularly, especially whilst they are young.

### How to prune Clematis

Clematis are organised into three groups to help us understand when to prune.

- Group 1 includes those that flower during the spring on the previous seasons growth. No regular pruning is needed for group 1 clematis. Instead, prune immediately after flowering in mid- to late spring to neaten your plant.
- Group 2 includes those that flower during May and June. These should be pruned during late winter or early spring and again after once the flowering period is over during the summer.
- Group 3 include those that flower during late summer on the current season's growth. Prune during late winter to early spring. They should be pruned back to around 30cm (12") above ground level.

### How to propagate Clematis

It is possible to propagate Clematis by layering or by semi-hardwood cuttings.