

# Care Guide for Clematis

Clematis plants are among the most popular and attractive flowering vines in home landscapes. These plants include woody, deciduous vines and herbaceous and evergreen varieties. These climbers provide you with height and colour throughout the summer season! Their flowers range in size from small bell sizes to dinner plate sizes. They also vary greatly among species, with different flowering forms, colours and blooming seasons, though most bloom between early spring and fall.



## Where to Plant

- Suitable for USDA zones 4-9.
- Prefers full sun to partial shade.
- Requires well-draining, nutrient-rich soil.
- Can be planted along walls, fences, arbors, trellises, or used as ground cover, depending on the variety.
- Ideal planting locations allow for adequate airflow to prevent disease.

## Watering

- Water deeply, about 1 inch per week, increasing during dry spells.
- Keep soil consistently moist but not waterlogged.
- Apply a 2-inch layer of mulch around the base to retain moisture and keep roots cool.
- If grown in containers, water more frequently to prevent drying out.

## Support

- Clematis vines require a sturdy support structure to climb.
- Small varieties (2-5 ft.) can be trained on poles or small trellises.
- Larger varieties (8-12 ft.) do well on arbors, fences, or larger trellises.
- Regularly tie or guide vines onto supports to encourage upward growth.

## When to Plant

- Best planted in early spring or fall when temperatures are mild.
- Can be planted in summer but requires frequent watering to establish roots.
- Dig a hole at least two feet deep and amend the soil with compost before planting.
- Cutting back the plant slightly before planting can help reduce transplant shock.

## Pruning and Maintenance

- Early spring bloomers: Prune after flowering but before July, as they bloom on old wood.
- Mid-spring bloomers: Cut back to the topmost buds in late winter or early spring.
- Late-season bloomers: Prune back to about 2-3 feet in late winter or early spring.
- Regularly remove dead or weak stems to encourage healthy growth.

