

# Vines & Climbers

## Take your garden to new heights with vertical growers

Add new dimension to your garden with easy to grow vines and climbers. Climbing plants add vertical texture to the garden, clinging to walls, scrambling up trellis and arbors, and twining around fences and other supports.

### The many uses of climbers

- Softening large bare walls and fences
- Screening outdoor living areas between neighbors using trellises and latticework
- Providing shade by growing climbers up a pergola over a porch or deck
- Covering an arbor or walkway
- Adding color and life to deck posts, lamp posts and mailbox posts
- Decorating deck or porch railing and vegetable garden fencing
- Hiding unsightly views and features such as gas meter, oil tanks, chain-link fences, and sheds
- Adding a focal point in perennial borders using obelisks and other garden features

Not all vines need to grow up to give your garden a 'lift', clematis, trumpet vines and even climbing roses all make great ground covers when left to ramble along a bank or wall.

### Types of climbers

Once you know the use and site for your climber, decide on whether you want an annual or perennial climber.

**Annual climbers** grow quickly and generally bloom all summer- a key factor if color is most important to you. The down side is that frost kills off these plants, so they must be replanted each spring.

**Perennial and Woody climbers** come back year after year with little maintenance other than pruning and an occasional feeding. These plants usually bloom for just a few weeks in spring or summer.

### Supporting your vines

Climbing plants fall into one of four groups and this determines what kind of support you will need

•**Winders & Twiners**— these climbers entangle themselves on poles or cords, but will not grow up a wall or large structure unless you install supports for them to wrap around

Examples/Wisteria (W), Honeysuckle (W), Bittersweet (W), Kiwi Vines (P), Clematis (P), Morning Glory (A), Hyacinth Bean (A), Black-Eyed Susan Vine (A), Moon Vine (A), Mandevilla (T)

•**Tendrils forming** – these climbers support themselves by sending out little tendrils that grab onto and wrap around nearby supports. These vines will grab onto cords, narrow poles or other supports without your help  
Examples/Grapes (W), Cardinal Climber (A), Passion Flower Vine (T)

•**Clingers** – these climbers get their support by growing aerial rootlets or small suction-cup-like discs that attach to flat surfaces

Examples/ Climbing & Japanese Hydrangea Vine (W), Boston and English Ivies (W), Euonymus (W), Trumpet Vine (W)

•**Ramblers** – a few climbers will grow up a little on their own but then flop over or arch down unless you provide support for them by tying or attaching to walls and posts

Examples/ Climbing Roses (W), Pyracantha (W), Bougainvillea (T)

\*W-Woody, P-Perennial, A-Annual, T-Tropical/Annual