



GROWING *climbers* IN PERTH

How to Grow Clematis in Perth

Clematis are renowned for their large, delightfully coloured flowers in many different varieties. They are one of the most beautiful climbers available.

Position

Clematis originated in woodland conditions and so they will benefit from a sheltered aspect with a cool root run, where the stems can grow up into the sunlight.

They will flower best when enjoying about six hours of morning sunlight a day. They need to be protected from harsh afternoon sun and Perth's late afternoon heat in warmer months. Also, avoid windy positions when deciding on a spot to plant.

Clematis need a support to climb on and look stunning when grown on an obelisk, arbour or as a feature wall. Also, they can be trained to grow up trees or ramble as a ground cover. They are a deciduous climber so consider this when planning your garden. The bare tracery of branches can be an attractive feature when they are dormant in winter.

Soil

Clematis have deep roots and like free draining, organic rich soil. Before planting, ensure you choose a suitable position and dig through soil improver and compost. If you can't find the right spot in the garden, you can grow clematis in a large pot with premium potting mix. Use a slow release fertiliser when planting and ensure that the soil is mulched well to keep the roots cool.

Watering

Clematis require consistently moist (but not wet) soil. Depending on your soil type and preparation, this may mean a couple of deep waterings a week. In pots, they will dry out faster and may need watering more during hot weather.

Fertilising

Clematis are heavy feeders and benefit from combination feeding of a good quality slow release fertiliser accompanied by liquid feed during periods of active growth and flowering.

Pruning

Develop a sturdy framework by pruning clematis hard when they are young. This should be done when dormant buds are swelling and about to burst. A good prune at the right time will allow the plant to put more energy into the remaining growth and develop a strong structure, much like with roses.

Check your plant's label for individual pruning requirements. There are three basic groups based on where the flowers on the plant. Group 1: Spring flowers develop on the previous season's growth and require less pruning.

Group 2: Spring flowers develop on the previous season's growth and summer/autumn flowers on new growth.

Group 3: Late spring to autumn flowers develop on new growth.

General advice only. Please ask one of our Horticulturists if you require specific advice for your situation.