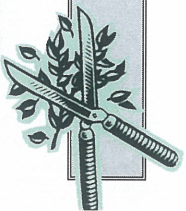


Pruning



The proper pruning of Clematis causes many gardeners high anxiety. Note that improper pruning will never kill a Clematis, it merely leads to delayed flowering. And if never pruned at all, they will still flower well, just mostly at the top leaving the lower branches "leggy".

Where the vines flower determines how and when they should be pruned.

Those that bloom only on growth produced the previous year should be lightly cut back as soon as they finish blooming in May or June.

Those that flower in spring on last year's growth, then again in fall on *this* year's growth should be lightly pruned in late February or March.



*Keeping a garden journal is very helpful in remembering details from year to year.

Clematis that bloom in early summer to fall on the current year's growth tend to become quite leggy, with flowers occurring progressively higher, leaving much of the vine naked. These vines can be trained up into a tree, where their growth habit works well. Failing that, they should be aggressively cut back in late Feb. or March to two strong sets of buds on each stem as close to the ground as possible.

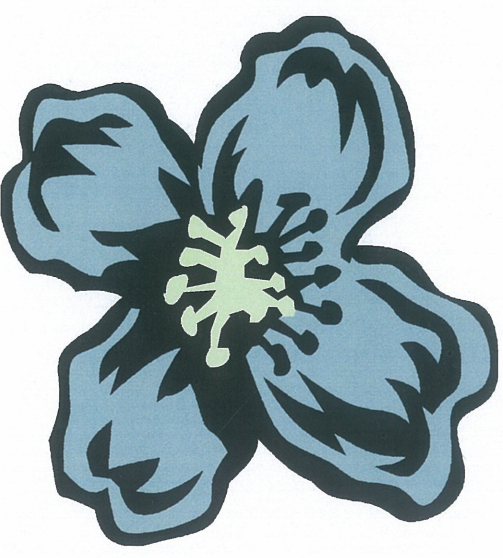
This will ensure a compact vine with flowers at eye level.

Fertilizing

When growth begins in spring apply a balanced fertilizer. Later when actively growing, a general purpose liquid fertilizer works well. Once the flower buds are well formed stop fertilizing until after flowering to prolong the bloom time. To help plants settle down for winter, discontinue fertilizing in mid-August.

Clematis

How to prune and care for
your vine



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