

How to Grow Clematis Successfully

1. **You must follow the planting instruction!** Don't take short-cuts!!
2. **Do not leave in small pots**, this to wait for a mishap,
3. **Plant as soon as possible!**

If plants wilt, cut back below wilting point and don't dig it out for at least 3 month. (if not shooting again then take complain to supplier) Clematis is semi herbaceous, the root will survive 1-2 year without any topgrowth! It is always an good idea to prune Clematis back to 1 pair of buds above ground level when planting in spring or summer, it is wise to keep shoot below 1.5 metres first & second year.

When planting in pots, use at least an 20 litre pot and use an bark based potting-mix with slow release fertilizer (boosted occasional with a spoonful "Nitrophoska Blue Extra") **Do not use water-holding gel!**

When purchasing smaller plants during spring it is advisable to grow them in a 2.5-3.5 litre container for the first season

To lime or not to lime:

It is a wide spread assumption that Clematis need Lime;

Clematis will grow equally well in peat with a pH 4 as in limestone pH 9.

All plants use calcium! Calcium is used in plants to strengthen the cell walls, when readily available it will strengthen the stems of your Clematis and help it to resist stem wilt!

Now, where can we get a high calcium supply without raising the pH level?

The answer is **Natural Gypsum!** Gypsum is more than 5 times as soluble as lime and 3 times as soluble as quick lime! It doesn't change the pH level and it doesn't burn like lime! Lime is calcium carbonate and gypsum is calcium sulphate. Coarse gypsum will work as a slow release calcium supply and is therefore preferred for planting of perennials, shrubs and trees.

Trichoderma the friendly fungus !

It's a good help in protecting plants against Clematis StemWilt. Used in all our potting mixes since 1998 . There are two products we recommend using for Clematis in the home garden: "Trichopel" (Gro-Max" rootmate) to be incorporated in the soil / pottingmix and "Trichoflow" to be watered or sprayed over plants and into soil. "Trichoflow" (Gro-Max" plantmate) 50 gram to 20 litre of water, you can mix 1 tsp. (approx. 4 tsp in a bag) with 5 litre of water and water over plants and ground and repeat every 4-6 weeks until used. Leftovers in bag must be sealed and kept in fridge. (Clematis stem wilt rarely kill whole plant, it will mostly only kill a single stem and do worry people more than it worry the Clematis)

"Gro-Max plantmate " are our most preferred choice

Planting time!

Anytime: In any case, they need water during the summer otherwise they will become dormant and young plants can die or will be retarded. When sufficient water and temperature is available, they will start growing again. **Ensuring water will reach the root zone is paramount !** (Use a piece of drainpipe or a bottomless plastic bottle to water through)

Flowersize variation

Clematis flowers vary in size during the season, are depending on nutriens, water & temperature, during hot weather the flowers develop faster and are smaller than in cooler weather!

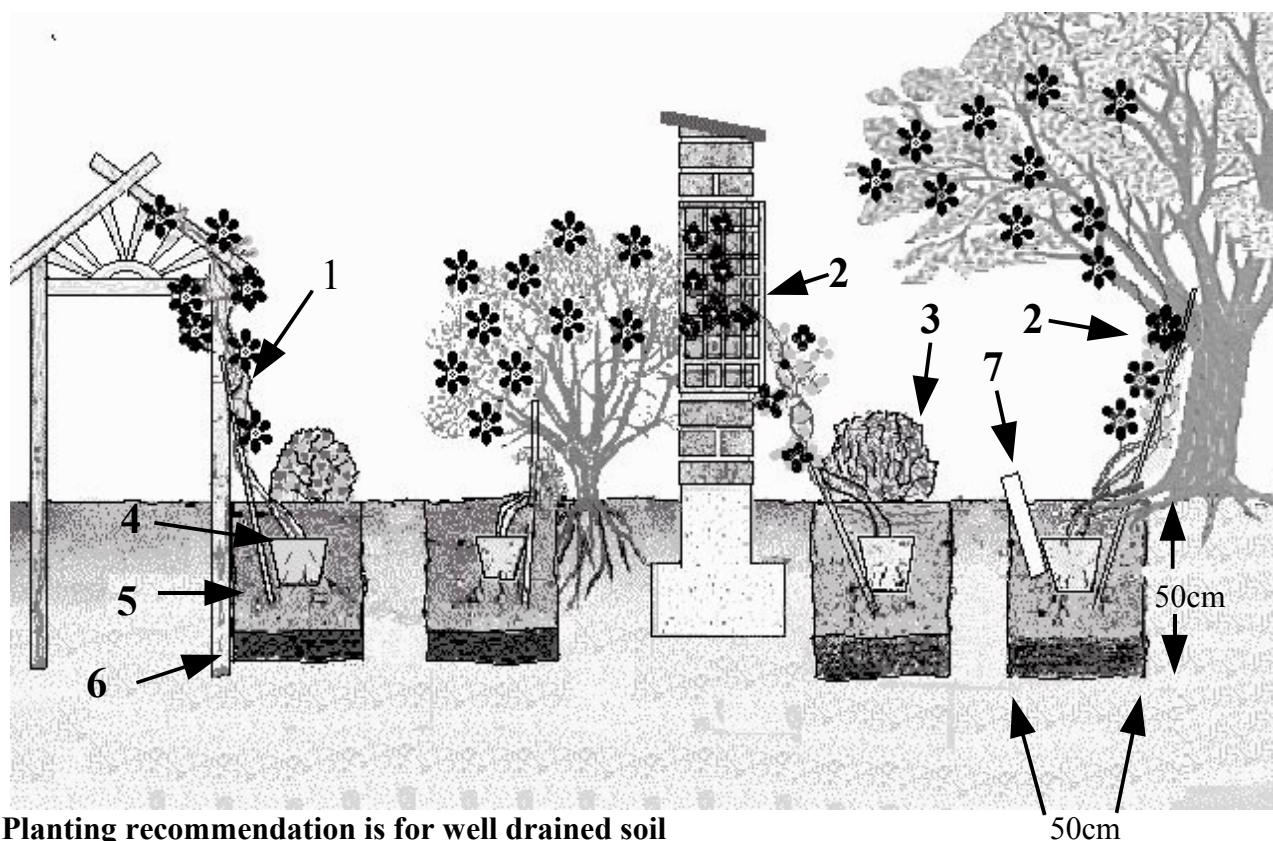
Multiple flushes of Flowers

Getting more flowers from your Clematis hybrids is accomplished by pruning just like floribunda roses, two to five flushes in a season can be accomplished. Prune 2/3 of the growth when flush is finished and feed with a handful "Nitrophoska Blue Extra" & keep watered. During spring 8 weeks to next flush, during summer approx. 6 weeks.

Do not prune between late February and mid July !

When growing montanas on fences and other places where you don't want an crow's nest. My recommendation for pruning is; when the Clematis have finished its main flowering they are pruned back to 1 or 2 pair of buds on the side shoot (not the main framework) much in the same way grape vines are pruned, this will give you a strong framework and a nice plant. When they are pruned give a good feed, compost, manure or fertilizer. Little corrective snipping will be needed on the strongest growing ones, and last tie the vines to the support, so they not blow down.

How to Plant Clematis



Planting recommendation is for well drained soil

1. Use strong cane to lead shoots to climbing support.
 2. Climbing support on wall or tree-trunk.
 3. Small plant to shade base of Clematis.
 4. **Clematis Group "B" & "C" Plant** with top level of rootball 15 cm deep
 4. **Clematis Group "A" Plant** with top level of rootball 5 cm deep
 5. Mix of soil and good compost, plus bonemeal or slow release fertilizer.
 6. Garden compost or well rotted manure (mushroom compost) 10 cm.
 7. Optional plastic pipe for watering (so water will reach rootzone)
- OBS ! Remember to tie cane to climbing support Plant at least 30 cm from house walls.

Planting!

Start digging a hole approx. 50 x 50 cm and 50 cm deep be sure the planting hole is well drained and not will collect water so the plant get waterlogged, if planting along an house wall then dig an hole along the wall at least 1 meter long 35 cm wide and 50 cm deep at least 30 cm from the wall. Next place manure in bottom of hole and then fill with compost soil mix to height where the bottom of the Clematis is going to sit. Place plant with PB (plastic- bag) in the hole and then cut the PB (plastic- bag) down the sides in 4 or 5 places after it's placed in the hole and fold bag down and bury the bag!

Don't Try to take the PB off you will properly break the stem and loose the plant!!!!

If plant is short stemmed it may be necessary to leave hole only partly filled in and fill as plant grow.

When planted deep, they will sprout again, it is rarely they will die from wilt!

PB's (Plastic-Bags) are superior to Hard Pots for Clematis I think, when handled in the right way! It is near impossible to get a Clematis out of a hard pot without breaking it and then, loose it to Clematis-wilt, if not cut back to below the breaking point.

It is essential to water the plant during establishment, ensure the water reaches the roots (Partly bury bottomless 2 litre plastic bottle and water through it, see 7.)

Pruning Groups (on labels = (xA,B,C))

Pruning A-B-C.

First Year:

All: July - August, cut back to 30 cm, 10mm above a pair of buds (node) and lead new shoots horizontally to help make a base framework.

Second year and onward!

Group "A" Clematis

(*Montana's* and other spring only flowering varieties.)

1. Flowers appear on short flower stalks directly from a leaf axil bud, generally from previous season's growth.
2. After flowering new growth is produced, which in turn will produce next spring flowering.

Pruning Group "A"

After flowering, cut back to one metre, in subsequent years cut out weak and dead stems.

Group "B" Clematis

Most larger than 10 cm across Spring & Autumn flowering hybrids like '*Nelly Moser*'

Flowers on previous season's wood at first, later on current season's growth.

The true double flowering one (like 'Kiri Te Kanawa') produces the most filled flowers on previous seasons wood! Those that only produce double flowers on previous seasons wood and single flowers on current seasons wood, will NOT produce double flowers in the milder areas, this is varieties like Cl. 'Proteus', 'Vyvyan Pennell' & 'Patricia Ann Fretwell' and many more.

Pruning Group "B"

July - August. Cut back to approx. 1 metre above base, in subsequent years cut all stems back to a pair of buds. **When growing this group in a mild and wet climate they tend to get "the flu" during the winter. 95 % of this group benefit from hard pruning like group "C" this will delay the flowering a little. The plants will be much healthier with many more flowers and nice lush foliage! Don't winter hardprune 'W.E. Gladstone' (dislike that), 'Sir Garnet Wolseley', 'Edouard Desfosse', 'Etoile de Paris', (loses a flush) 'Mrs. George Jackman' (long delay before flowering)**

Group "C" Clematis

(*Viticellas, texensis* and other late flowering hybrids like '*Jackmani*') smaller flowers not more than 10 cm across and generally produced in abundance during early summer and again in Autumn. Flowering on current seasons growth only. Previous flowering wood is dead and will not sprout again, all new shoot from below old flowering wood.

Pruning Group "C"

July - August. Second year and subsequent years reduce all stems to just above previous seasons growth, as close down to ground level as possible or within 75 cm of base.

When climbing in larger trees, the pruning should be adjusted accordingly. Group "C" may need a 2 metre stem to get into the first branches.

Mildew:

Mildew is a fungus that might affect your clematis. It is necessary for the Texensis to be pruned hard during winter to avoid mildew, as the spore over-winter in the old wood and dead leaves and will be activated by rain in the spring when the temp. becomes ideal for the spore to germinate (late September- early October when night temp goes above 12°C). It is seldom a problem until late in the season and not a problem at all if there is good air circulation. If mildew is noticed in its early stages it can be easily controlled by many different fungicides which are readily available. If the plant is badly affected: prune hard and spray protective as new growth emerges. **We do recommend "Sunspray" or "Excell "spraying oil** (as summer oil) in a 1:100 = 10ml per litre water – it's efficient and low risk. (concentration can be lifted to 2:100 = 20ml per litre of water.)