

A watercolor illustration of several purple and blue flowers with green leaves. The flowers have a delicate, papery texture and are scattered across the page. A central green box with a white border contains the text.

Plant care instructions
CLIMBERS

Richard Jackson *Garden*

Introduction



All gardens have walls, fences and other structures that need brightening up, and that's where climbing plants – or climbers – come into their own. Clothing these structures with lots of glorious blooms and foliage, also helps to hide or disguise them, or help them blend in with the rest of the garden.

But it's not only walls and fences where everyone needs at least one climber or two. Grow them up pergolas and rose arches to beautify them too. Grow them up smaller obelisks placed in beds, borders and even

containers to add height and a beautiful focal point. Or, you can even grow them up trees and large shrubs to add further colour and interest to these plants, and extend their seasons of interest.

Using climbers is important in all gardens, but especially so in smaller plots where every inch of growing space is at a premium.

And whether you have a warm, sunny, south-facing position or one in shade, such as a north-facing wall, there's a climbing plant for every aspect.

Support

All climbers need something to climb up and to support them. On walls and fences, you may need to attach a section of trellis, or use rigid clematis netting. Unless the climbers have very stiff stems, such as climbing roses and wisteria, a few horizontal wires won't provide adequate support.

Your plants on arrival

When your plants arrive, open the packaging fully, carefully lift out the plants, remove any packaging, and water them if the compost seems dry.

Your plants will either arrive as plug plants (small plants grown in their own 'plug' of compost) or larger plants in small (usually 9cm/3½in) pots.

Potted plants

Those in pots can be planted into their growing/flowering positions straight away. If you can't plant straight away, put the plants somewhere cool and bright indoors, such as a west-facing windowsill for a maximum of a few days, cool conservatory or greenhouse, or somewhere sheltered from frost, very cold temperatures and strong/cold winds outdoors until you can plant them.

Plug plants

The large plug plants should be potted up individually into 1-2 litre (13-17cm/5-6in) pots of good potting compost first, grown on in a sheltered position outdoors and then planted out when the roots start to fill the pots. Allow the compost to slightly dry out before thoroughly watering them again.

Planting out

Water thoroughly immediately before planting. Watering with [Flower Power](#) at half the recommended dilution will help get plants off to the perfect start.

Growing in beds and borders

In beds and borders, they grow best in well-drained, but moisture-retentive soil. Dig the planting hole at least twice the size of the pot, sprinkle some compost in the bottom and, ideally, add some [Root Booster](#) or [Easy Feed fertiliser](#), before planting. Pop the plant in the planting hole, adding a bit more compost if needed so that the top of the rootball is at the same level as the soil, and add more compost around the sides of the plant. Gently firm in with your fingers or the end of a trowel or hand fork and water in thoroughly with 4.5-9 litres (1-2 gallons) of water per plant, ideally using a dilute plant food like [Flower Power](#).

Growing in pots

If growing in pots, use a good multi-purpose compost – my [Premium Multi Purpose Compost](#) and [Premium Peat-Free Compost](#) are ideal – or multi-purpose compost with added John Innes. To help plants establish extra quickly, water in with a dilute plant food, such as [Flower Power](#).

The best pot size for each plant collection is given in their descriptions later in the booklet. You may want to grow them initially in smaller pots, and then gradually pot them on into bigger pots as they get older.

Growing on

Tie in the stems regularly to their supports, as they develop and grow. Where possible, fan them out and tie them in to cover the support as evenly as possible to produce an attractive display.

Water thoroughly whenever necessary to prevent the compost or soil drying out, especially during the first three months after planting while the plants are establishing.

It is important to give each plant enough water that gets to the bottom of the roots. Giving plants in the ground 9 litres (2 gallons) of water per week is far better than watering little and more frequently. Plants in pots and other containers will probably need watering more frequently. Water whenever the compost starts to dry out (the compost will turn light brown in colour) and give enough water that it just starts to trickle out of the drainage holes.



If the soil or compost dry out this will affect flowering and can cause powdery mildew disease.

Feed plants regularly with a high potash, liquid plant food, such as [Flower Power](#), through spring and summer, from two to four weeks after planting out. This really helps produce stronger, healthier plants with more flowers.

Mulch the soil around the plants, with a 5-7.5cm (2-3in) deep layer of organic matter mulch, in autumn or spring, making sure the soil is moist before putting down the mulch. Any other specific growing instructions can be found in their descriptions later in the booklet.

Award Winning Honeysuckle Collection

Honeysuckles are brilliant climbers for covering walls, fences, pergolas and obelisks, and for growing over and hiding other garden structures. Not only are they long flowering, but they produce a delightful scent - mainly in the evening - so make sure to plant them close to wherever you sit or enjoy the garden after the sun has gone down. We've chosen three of the best - all RHS Award of Garden Merit winners.



Lonicera periclymenum

'**Graham Thomas**' is covered in large, fragrant, white flowers, ageing to yellow, from July to September. Height 7m (23ft). Spread 1m (3ft).



Lonicera periclymenum 'Serotina', the late Dutch honeysuckle, bears large, fragrant creamy-white flowers streaked dark red-purple from July to September. Height 7m (23ft). Spread 1m (3ft).



Lonicera japonica 'Halliana',

the Japanese, honeysuckle, is an evergreen variety producing masses of white tubular flowers, ageing to yellow, from April to August. Height 10m (30ft). Spread 2m (6½ft).

Further growing information

Honeysuckles prefer a position in partial, light or semi-shade, but will also grow well in sunny positions that don't get too hot in summer.

When growing in pots, choose one around 30-35cm (12-14in) in diameter for each plant.

To keep plants strong, compact, bushy and flowering profusely, prune back stems immediately after flowering finishes.

UK Plant Passport
A *Lonicera periclymenum*
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UK Plant Passport
A *Lonicera periclymenum*
B 130137
C 2021100222
D GB

UK Plant Passport
A *Lonicera japonica*
B 130137
C 2021100221
D GB

Award Winning Perennial Sweet Peas



Lathyrus latifolius, the everlasting or perennial sweet pea, is a brilliant climbing plant for walls, fences and trellis and growing up pergolas and obelisks. The flowers look just like normal sweet peas in appearance, but plants come back each year and flower every summer without having to start new plants from seed or buying in new plants. It flowers from July to September, producing conspicuous carmine, rose or white blooms. They make one of the finest cut flowers.

Height up to 2m (6½ft). Spread up to 1.2m (4ft).

Further growing information

Perennial sweet peas prefer a sunny position that doesn't get too hot in summer.

In borders, they grow best in well-drained, but moisture-retentive soil.

When growing in pots, choose one around 25-30cm (10-14in) in diameter for each plant. Keep cutting the blooms to keep plants flowering on and on. If any flowers do set seed pods, remove these. Once plants set their seed pods, they stop flowering.



Tuscan Evergreen Jasmine



Star jasmine or Tuscan jasmine, **Trachelospermum jasminoides 'Star of Toscana'**, is an elegant evergreen climbing plant, producing masses of star-shaped flowers that start off a creamy-yellow, turning buttery-yellow as they mature, which perfume the air with an irresistible, sweet fragrance. They look lovely against the backdrop of the rich, dark green evergreen leaves that often turn bronze in winter. Height up to 9m (30ft). Spread up to 3m (10ft).

Further growing information

Star jasmine needs a warm, sunny, south- or south-west-facing aspect.

If growing in pots, choose one around 30-35cm (12-14in) in diameter for each plant. Plants don't need regular pruning, apart from removing any dead, damaged or weak growth. But plants can be trimmed to size, or to remove unwanted growth, immediately after flowering finishes.

Once established, star jasmine is hardy down to -10C, and may need winter protection in areas prone to colder temperatures. Young plants and those in containers are more prone to cold damage.



Clematis Collections



Clematis, commonly referred to as the queen of the climbers, are some of the best choices for bringing life to and brightening up walls, fences and trellis and growing up pergolas, rose arches and obelisks. Or grow them through trees and shrubs to bring even more colour and interest to these plants too. Clematis are one of the longest flowering climbing plants.

Growing Clematis

Make sure to provide plenty of support for the stems, such as a trellis or use rigid clematis netting.

Unlike most other plants, clematis benefit from deep planting. Plant with the lowest 7.5-10cm (3-4in) of the stems below ground level.

If growing in pots, choose one around 30-35cm (12-14in) in diameter for each plant. Clematis need a lot of water in summer especially, otherwise they grow and flower poorly and are more prone to clematis powdery mildew disease.

Once flowering finishes, if possible, you can deadhead the plants; this is certainly a good idea in their first year.

Award Winning Clematis Collection

In this collection, we've chosen two of the best large-flowered, summer-flowering varieties that have earned the prestigious RHS Award of Garden Merit.



Clematis 'Niobe' features large, velvety, deep ruby-red flowers with contrasting butter-yellow centres from early spring to autumn.
Height up to 2.4m (8ft).
Spread up to 1.8m (6ft).

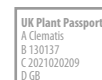


Clematis 'Nelly Moser' produces large, single flowers that have pale rosy-lilac petals with a distinctive carmine stripe and reddish centres from late spring to early summer and again in early autumn.
Height up to 2.4m (8ft).
Spread up to 1.8m (6ft).

Further growing information

While both varieties will grow well in sunny positions that don't get too hot in summer, 'Niobe' produces the deepest flower colour in a shady spot, and 'Nelly Moser' is best in light to medium shade, such as a north-facing wall, as the flower colour fades in strong sunlight.

Both varieties are in Clematis Pruning Group Two. This means cutting back the stems by around half to three-quarters in February/March, once the leaf buds begin to break/open, just above a set of buds.



Repeat Flowering Double Clematis



Clematis 'Kokonoe' is a new long-flowering variety, with the potential to produce lots of flowers over a long period from late spring into autumn, but certainly from June to September. The double flowers of rich, violet-purple have an inner ruff of smaller petals. The earliest blooms are singles, but as the year progresses the flowers become more double, taking on the pompom-like appearance. Grow it up a wall, fence, trellis, pergola, rose arch or obelisk, or through trees and shrubs.
Height up to 2.4m (96in). Spread up to 1m (40in).

Further growing information

Clematis 'Kokonoe' prefers a position in the sun, but also deals well with part shade.

Clematis 'Kokonoe' is in Clematis Pruning Group Three. This means cutting back the stems hard - even down to the lowest pair of buds above ground level in February/March, once the leaf buds begin to break/open, just above a set of buds.



Amazing Colour Changing Clematis



Clematis 'Taiga' is a new variety and the chameleon of the clematis world, thanks to its amazing ever-changing flowers produced in abundance from July to September. The blooms vary in shape and colour throughout the year, from rich purple singles with inner frills and cream centres to deep purple-blue, double flowers with greenish cream tips that look like they've had a dab of paint added, and amazing star-shaped flowers. 'Taiga' is quite compact, making it ideal for large pots on the patio or other prominent positions where the flowers can be fully appreciated.
Height up to 2m (80in). Spread up to 1m (40in).

Further growing information

Clematis 'Taiga' thrives in a sunny position or partial shade.

Clematis 'Taiga' is in Clematis Pruning Group Three. This means cutting back the stems hard - even down to the lowest pair of buds above ground level in February/March, once the leaf buds begin to break/open, just above a set of buds.



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www.richardjacksonsgarden.co.uk