

Clematis Care

Soil and Site Requirements

- Clematis like moist, rich soil with good drainage
- Can take full sun but like afternoon shade so roots stay cool & moist
- Mulch the base of the Clematis or shade the roots by underplanting with a shallow-rooted groundcover

Planting

- Plant at least 2 feet apart from other plants
- Hole should be 2-3 times wider than the root ball and a few inches deeper
- When preparing site, add fertilizer or compost (1 part compost, 2 parts soil)
- Set the crown, where the stem and roots meet, two to three inches below the soil surface

Watering and Care

- Clematis like moist soil — water thoroughly once a week depending on rainfall/ drought conditions
- Fertilize with compost in the spring
 - You can also use a water-soluble fertilizer once or twice a month during growing season
- Tie or stake to trellis or climbing structure so your clematis has support! We all need a good support system in our lives
 - Climbing stems are small, so make sure the diameter of your support system is ½" wide or less

Pruning

- The bloom time of a clematis determines when and how it should be pruned. There are three categories:
 - A) Clematis that flower once in the spring on old wood → prune immediately after the flowering period so that new growth will have time to set next year's buds
 - B) Large-flowering hybrids that bloom before the end of June on previous seasons growth, and then again on new wood in September → prune these varieties lightly in the early spring to remove dead and weak stems
 - C) Clematis that flower on new wood starting in mid-June and continuing into the fall → Easy! Since the old wood does not bear flowers, there is no reason to keep it. Cut the plant back in early spring to a height of 12" to 18", just above a pair of healthy buds

DON'T PANIC IF YOUR CLEMATIS WILTS!

- Be careful transporting and transplanting clematis! When stressed or damaged, clematis are more susceptible to clematis wilt
- Clematis wilt may affect the leaves and stem but does not affect the root system
- Do not dig your clematis up— just prune the affected areas
- Large-flowered clematis are more susceptible to wilt— species clematis, their cultivars, and small-flowered clematis are much less so
- To minimize stress and improve chances for success, plant the crown of the plant 2-3" BELOW the surface of the soil, mulch the root zone, and keep the plants moist and regularly fertilized

{For these reasons we regret we are not able to offer replacements for clematis that suffer from wilt}