



**Aylett Nurseries**  
*The Complete Garden Centre*

# Clematis

## Information Leaflet No. 2



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*Clematis include some of the most popular flowering climbers to cover walls, trellis or pergolas with a mass of blooms from spring until autumn. The early summer flowering types may have a second flowering in autumn. Herbaceous varieties are less well known but add colour scrambling through roses, shrubs, etc. Late flowering viticella types may be grown through early flowering shrubs to give a longer season of colour. They grow best in good loamy soil with plenty of well-rotted manure and their heads in the sun and roots in the shade.*

Most clematis are heavy feeders and benefit from an annual mulch and watering in dry weather. Planting should be carried out according to our diagram (see overleaf) to ensure a good start.

Many may be grown in containers. Please see page 8 for cultural instructions.

**AGM** = The Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit

## **Pruning**

Clematis will grow and flower without pruning, but some varieties begin to look untidy with all the flowers at the top. When pruning cut to just above a strong pair of buds.

In order to establish a good framework of stems, harder pruning is recommended in the first two years.

**Very Light Pruning: (Group 1)** - These varieties flower on last season's growth and generally do not require pruning. They are the winter and spring flowering varieties. E.g. alpina, cirrhosa, and montana types.

**First year:** in Feb/March prune all stems to approx. 30cm.

**Second year:** After flowering prune all stems to approx. 1m.

**Subsequent years:** Any dead stems may be pruned back to healthy buds in March. If the plant has become too large for its allotted space some stems may be removed down to a strong pair of buds after it has flowered.

**Light Pruning: (Group 2)** - Clematis which flower May - June on short growths from last season's wood. Most flower again September - October, e.g. Nelly Moser, Elsa Spath.

**First year:** In Feb/March prune all stems to approx. 30cm.

**Second year:** In Feb/March prune all stems to approx 1m.

**Subsequent years:** In the spring when the buds start to swell, usually Feb/March, cut out any dead and weak growth. Tie in strong growths, which can be shortened slightly if necessary. If the plant has become leggy, cut out some of the longer stems to within 60cm from the ground after the first flush of flowers. This will encourage young growth from the base. Varieties in this group can also be hard-pruned, but the first flush of flower will be lost.

**Hard Pruning: (Group 3)** - Clematis which flower from June/July onwards, e.g. Jackmanii, viticella and texensis species.

**First year:** In Feb/March prune all stems to approx. 30cm.

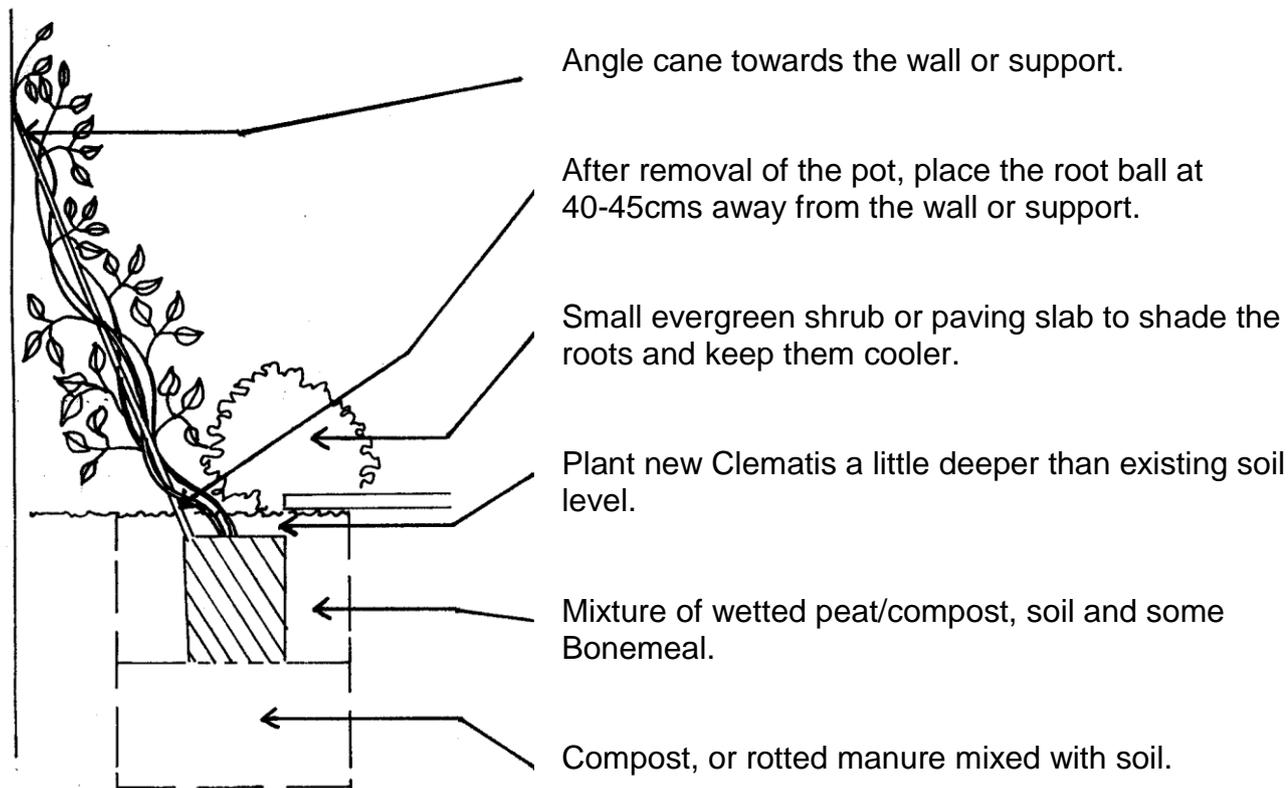
**Second year:** In Feb/March prune all stems to approx. 45cm.

**Subsequent years:** These should be hard pruned to within 45 - 60cm from the ground in spring just before growth starts. Fresh growth will come from the base and flower in July.

## **Feeding**

To get the best flowers from your Clematis feed with a high Potash fertiliser in spring and early summer, e.g. Vitax Clematis Feed, Vitax Q4 or Rose fertiliser.

## **Planting Guide**



## **Pests & Diseases**

### **Clematis Wilt**

Clematis Wilt is a fungal disease which enters the plant through the leaves or stems. When the disease gets into the stem it infects the cells which carry sap to the plant and the stems will wilt and collapse.

Affected stems should be cut back to ground level and almost always new shoots will grow.

Keeping the plant well fed and watered will help it to resist the disease or to recover from it.

The large flowered hybrid cultivars are the most susceptible. The smaller flowered species are more resistant: alpina, macropetala, montana, orientalis, tangutica and viticella.

### **Overcoming Pests**

Slugs will eat plants, but mainly go for the young shoots. Greenfly and blackfly sometimes attack new shoots and buds. Earwigs can be a problem as they eat the flowers, feeding at night. For current information on controlling these pests, please ask our plant area staff. Alternatively visit the RHS website ([www.rhs.org](http://www.rhs.org)) or find products in our Garden Sundries shop.

**Whilst we make every effort to keep this catalogue up to date, from time to time it may vary from the stock we carry. Please ask for help in our information office as plant names can be confusing. Our plant area staff are available to help with your selection.**

## Early Flowering Species

All early flowering clematis are pruning group 1, no pruning required or very light prune after flowering, see page 2 for details. These clematis like well drained soil.

**Alpina** - These very hardy varieties are suitable for any aspect. The nodding lantern shaped spring flowers are followed by attractive fluffy seed heads.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Flower Colour</u>	<u>Flowering Time</u>	<u>Approx. Height</u>
alpina 'Blue Dancer'	pale blue	Apr/May	2.5m
alpina 'Constance' <b>AGM</b>	deep pink	Apr/May	2.5m
alpine 'Frances Ravis'	blue	Apr/May	2.5m
alpina 'Helsingborg' <b>AGM</b>	deep mauve pink	Apr/May	2.5m
alpina 'Pamela Jackman'	blue	Apr/May	2.5m
alpina 'Willy'	pale pink	Apr/May	2.5m

**Armandii** - Evergreen climber with scented white flowers April-May. All varieties are suitable for a sunny, sheltered position, ideally South or West facing. May need protection from severe weather/frosts.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Flower Colour</u>	<u>Flowering Time</u>	<u>Approx. Height</u>
armandii	white	Mar/Apr	7.5m
armandii 'Apple Blossom'	pale pink/white	Mar/Apr	7.5m

**Cartmanii** - Evergreen non-twining Clematis with masses of cream/white flowers April-May. All varieties need a sunny sheltered site and may need protection from severe weather/frosts.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Flower Colour</u>	<u>Flowering Time</u>	<u>Approx. Height</u>
cartmanii 'Avalanche'	white	Apr/May	2.5m
cartmanii 'Early Sensation'	white	Apr/May	2.5m
cartmanii 'Michiko'	white	Apr/May	1.5m

**Cirrhosa** - Evergreen climbers with ferny foliage. All do best in a sheltered South or West facing position. Flowers from Jan-March. May need protection from severe weather/frosts.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Flower Colour</u>	<u>Flowering Time</u>	<u>Approx. Height</u>
cirrhosa 'Freckles'	cream speckled red	Nov/Feb	3.5m
cirrhosa 'Jingle Bells'	cream/white	Dec/Feb	3.5m
cirrhosa 'Wisley Cream'	cream/white	Jan/Mar	3.5m

## Koreana

We stock some cultivars of clematis koreana, these are similar to the alpina clematis. They have nodding bell shaped flowers in April/May. Some cultivars are hybrids between the early flowering species (alpina/koreana/macropetala)

**Macropetala** - Very hardy vigorous clematis suitable for cold exposed positions. Any aspect. All have nodding lantern-like double flowers followed by attractive fluffy seed heads.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Flower Colour</u>	<u>Flowering Time</u>	<u>Approx. Height</u>
macropetala 'Jan Lindmark'	purple/blue	Apr/May	2.5m
macropetala 'Markhams Pink'	pink	Apr/May	2.5m
macropetala 'Wesselton'	pale blue	Apr/May	2.5m

**Montana** - Vigorous spring flowering Clematis suitable for any aspect.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Flower Colour</u>	<u>Flowering Time</u>	<u>Approx. Height</u>
montana 'Broughton Star' <b>AGM</b>	semi-double pink	May/Jun	6.0m
montana 'Elizabeth ' <b>AGM</b>	pale pink scented	May/Jun	9.0m
montana 'Grandiflora' <b>AGM</b>	white scented	May/Jun	9.0m
montana 'Mayleen' <b>AGM</b>	pale pink scented	May/Jun	9.0m
montana 'Odorata'	pale pink scented	May/Jun	9.0m
montana 'Rubens' <b>AGM</b>	pale pink scented	May/Jun	9.0m
montana 'Spooneri'	white scented	May/Jun	9.0m
montana 'Tetrarose' <b>AGM</b>	pink	May/Jun	9.0m
montana 'Warwick Rose'	pink with bronze foliage	May/Jun	7.5m

**Urophylla 'Winter Beauty'** - Evergreen Clematis with small creamy white flowers in winter. Prefers a sunny sheltered site. Height 3.5m. Will need protection from severe weather/frosts.

## Large Flowered Hybrids - early summer-autumn (pruning group 2)

All varieties require sun or part shade and good well-drained soil which doesn't dry out.

Those with subtle/delicate colours are best in **part-shade**, these are marked in the list below.

All require a light prune in early spring (Feb/March) see page 2.

Feed in early spring (Feb/March) and again in early summer (May/June).

Varieties which have semi-double or double flowers will also bear single flowers, this usually happens with second flowering or if they are lacking in food or sunlight.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Flower Colour</u>	<u>Flowering Time</u>	<u>Approx. Height</u>
Bees Jubilee <b>part-shade</b>	pale pink/white + pink bar	May/Jun & Sep	2.5m
Carnaby <b>part-shade</b>	pale pink/white + pink bar	May/Jun & Sep	2.5m
Clair de Lune	lilac/white	May/Jun & Sep	3.0m
Daniel Deronda <b>AGM</b>	deep purple/blue	Jun-Sep	3.0m
Dr Ruppel	mauve/pink + red bar	May/Jun & Sep	3.0m
Duchess of Edinburgh	double cream/white	Jun-Sep	2.5m
Elsa Spath	violet blue	Jun-Sept	3.0m
Fireworks <b>part-shade</b>	lilac/blue + red bar	May/Jun & Sep	3.0m
Guernsey Cream <b>part-shade</b>	cream/white	May/Jun & Sep	2.5m
Henryi	white	Jun-Sep	3.0m
H.F.Young	pale blue	May/Jun & Sep	2.5m
Josephine	double lilac/pink/white	Jun-Sep	2.5m
Kiri Te Kanawa	double purple	May/Jun & Sep	2.5m
Marie Boisselot <b>AGM part-shade</b>	white	Jun-Sep	3.0m
Miss Bateman	white	May/Jun & Sep	2.5m
Mrs Cholmondely <b>AGM</b>	blue	May-Sep	3.0m
Mrs N. Thompson	purple + red bar	May/Jun & Sep	2.5m
Multi Blue	semi-double blue	May/Jun & Sep	2.5m
Nelly Moser <b>AGM part-shade</b>	white + pink bar	May/Jun & Sep	3.0m
Niobe <b>AGM</b>	deep red	Jun-Sep	3.0m
Piilu <b>part-shade</b>	semi-double white + pink stripe	May/Jun & Sep	2.0m
Pink Champagne	pink	May/Jun & Sep	3.0m
The President <b>AGM</b>	deep purple/blue	May/Jun & Sep	3.0m
The Vagabond	purple	May-Oct	2.0m

Vyvyan Pennel	double lavender/purple	May/June & Sep	3.0m
Westerplatte	dark red	May/June & Sep	2.0m

## **Raymond Evison Clematis**

We stock a selection of Raymond Evison Clematis. These are mostly compact large flowered hybrids. The selection will vary as new varieties become available.

Although these really belong to pruning group 2 (light prune in spring), to simplify the pruning and keep them compact, most of these can all be pruned down to approximately 30cm every spring.

Those which are better lightly pruned (as group 2) are marked as such.

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Flower Colour</u></b>	<b><u>Flowering Time</u></b>	<b><u>Approx. Height</u></b>
Abilene	pink	May-Oct	1.2m
Alaina	pink + darker bar	May-Sep	1.2m
Bernadine	blue/white + dark centre	May-Oct	1.2m
Bijou	violet mauve	May-Sep	0.5m
Chantilly	pink/white & pale pink bar	May-Oct	1.5m
Crystal Fountain	lavender blue semi-double	May/June & Sep	1.8m light prune
Diamantina	lilac/blue double	May-Sep	1.8m light prune
Diana's Delight	blue	May-Sep	1.5m
Filligree	pale mauve/blue	May-Sep	0.5m
Fleuri	deep wine/purple	May-Oct	1.2m
Giselle	lilac/pink	May-Sep	1.5m
Hyde Hall	white	May/June & Sep	1.8m light prune
Ooh La La	white & pink stripe	May-Oct	1.2m
Rebecca	red	May-Sep	1.8m
Samaritan Jo	white + purple/pink margins	May-Sep	1.5m

## **Late Flowering Species & hybrids (including herbaceous varieties) pruning group 3**

These clematis need hard pruning (Group 3) in Feb/March - see page 2 for details.

These large flowered hybrids are mid-late summer flowering:

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Flower Colour</u></b>	<b><u>Flowering Time</u></b>	<b><u>Approx. Height</u></b>
Blue Angel	Pale lavender blue	Jun-Sep	3.0m
Comtesse de Bouchaud <b>AGM shade</b>	pink	Jun-Sep	2.5m
Ernest Markham	red	Jun-Sep	3.5m
General Sikorski	lilac/blue	Jun-Sep	3.0m
Gipsy Queen <b>AGM</b>	deep purple	Aug-Oct	3.5m
Hagley hybrid <b>part-shade</b>	pink	Jun-Sep	2.5m
Jackmanii <b>AGM</b>	blue/purple	Jun-Sep	3.5m
Perle d'azur	blue	Jun-Sep	3.0m
Prince Charles <b>AGM</b>	pale blue	Jun-Sep	2.5m
Rouge Cardinal	deep pinky red	Jun-Sep	2.5m
Ville de Lyon	deep pinky red	Jun-Sep	3.5m
Warsaw Nike <b>AGM</b>	deep purple	Jun-Sep	3.5m

The following clematis are small flowered, species and herbaceous clematis which also need hard pruning in Feb/March (Group 3, see page 2 for details):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Flower Colour</u>	<u>Flowering Time</u>	<u>Approx. Height</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Arabella <b>AGM</b>	blue	Jun-Sep	2.0m	Herbaceous
Durandii <b>AGM</b>	purple/blue	Jun-Sep	2.5m	Herbaceous
flammula	v. small white	Jul-Sep	6.0m	Scented
florida 'Sieboldii'	white + purple	Jun-Oct	2.5m	Sunny + sheltered
Guiding Promise	purple	Jun-Sep	1.0m	Herbaceous
Petit Faucon <b>AGM</b>	purple/blue	Jun-Sep	1.0m	Herbaceous
tangutica	yellow	Jul-Oct	4.5m	Fluffy seed heads
tangutica/orientalis 'Bill Mackenzie' <b>AGM</b>	yellow	Jul-Oct	4.5m	
texensis 'Duchess of Albany'	pink	Jul-Oct	3.0m	Tulip shaped flowers + fluffy seed heads
texensis 'Gravetye Beauty'	red/pink	Jul-Oct	3.0m	
texensis 'Princess Diana' <b>AGM</b>	deep pink	Jul-Oct	3.0m	
triternata rubromarginata	v. small white + purple	Jul-Sep	6.0m	Scented
viticella 'alba luxurians'	white + green	Jul-Sep	3.5m	
viticella 'Etoile Violette' <b>AGM</b>	purple	Jul-Sep	3.5m	
viticella 'Mme Julia Correvon' <b>AGM</b>	deep pink	Jul-Sep	3.0m	
viticella 'Polish Spirit' <b>AGM</b>	purple	Jul-Sep	4.0 m	
viticella purp. Plena elegans <b>AGM</b>	double mauve	Jul-Sep	3.0m	

Herbaceous clematis don't twine and usually die right back to the base each winter.

## Clematis in Containers

Clematis can make excellent container plants, creating spectacular patio features. Almost any Clematis can be grown in a container, the smaller/shorter growing ones (i.e. up to 3m) being the most suitable.

### Container

To achieve the best results, a few guidelines need to be followed.

- Firstly, don't be stingy with the size of the container. A depth of at least 45cm with a similar diameter is needed, and bearing in mind that clematis need a cool root run, thin plastic pots should be avoided.
- Secondly, a good quality compost must be used. We recommend using John Innes No.3 or a 50/50 mixture of John Innes No. 3 and Multi-Purpose Compost.
- Thirdly, drainage must be good. A layer of crocks and gravel about 5-8cm deep before the compost is added will help keep the plant from becoming waterlogged. Also standing the pot on feet will ensure the drainage holes do not get blocked.

### Planting

Planting can take place at any time of the year, provided watering is attended to. Plunge the plant into a bucket of water to soak until the compost is well saturated. In the meantime, make up the container with the layer of crocks and gravel followed by compost. Fill to about 5cm below the pot rim to allow watering space.

Gently remove the Clematis from its pot – it's not necessary to tease the roots out – and bury the crown about 6-8cm below the surface of the compost. Firm in gently.

Once the Clematis has been potted, the support framework can be added. Of course, the container could simply be placed next to a trellis clad wall or fence, but for a really stunning feature, an obelisk could be used with the pot. Even something as simple as a tripod of canes can look very effective.

### Training

Training the Clematis into the support is best started in late winter. Hard prune the plant down to about 25cm in February. This will encourage plenty of new stems low on the plant. Make the cut just above a strong pair of buds. Once the resulting new shoots have formed three or four sets of leaves remove the growing tip to create further side shoots.

Train this new framework as close to horizontal as possible to encourage bushy growth and flowering from top to bottom. This rather ruthless pruning regime in the first year is well worth following as it ensures a mass of flower on good bushy plants. In subsequent years, follow the pruning guide for the variety you choose (pruning details are on the plant labels or page 2 of this leaflet).

### Aftercare

Watering and tying in shoots as they lengthen are the main tasks through the growing season, but a liquid feed, applied according to product instructions, is beneficial until the flower buds have formed. Feeding can be resumed once the flowering has finished, until late summer when the plant should be allowed to slow down naturally. Watering obviously still needs attention all through the year.

## Evergreen Clematis

All of our evergreen Clematis are the early flowering type (pruning group 1). They all do best in a sheltered south or west facing position;

Clematis armandi (all varieties)  
Clematis cartmanii (all varieties)  
Clematis cirrhosa (all varieties)  
Clematis urophylla 'Winter Beauty' } All may need protection from severe weather/frosts.

## Scented Clematis

Clematis armandii  
Clematis flammula  
Clematis montana (some cultivars e.g. Elizabeth, Mayleen, Odorata)  
Clematis triternata rubromarginata

## Clematis for Shade

These clematis are happy in **part** shade:

Clematis alpina  
Clematis macropetala  
Clematis montana  
Clematis viticella

Some large flowered hybrids are particularly suitable for shade – these are marked in the tables on pages 5-6.

**This leaflet is available in alternative formats.**

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