

# A Practical Guide to Growing Clematis Throughout the Year

	Winter	Spring		Summer				Autumn	
Main groups	<b>cirrrosa napaulensis</b>	<b>alpina macropetala koreana armandii</b>	<b>montana</b>	<b>Early large flowered hybrids</b>	<b>Late large flowered hybrids</b>	<b>viticella</b>	<b>heracleifolia integrifolia flammula</b>	<b>texensis viorna</b>	<b>tangutica vitalba</b>
Some common varieties within these groups*	Lansdowne Gem Wisley Cream Freckles napaulensis	Blue Dancer Pamela Jackman Willy Broughton Bride Apple Blossom	Broughton Star Rubens Elizabeth Grandiflora Mayleen	Nelly Moser Miss Bateman Niobe Rebecca Piilu	Hagley Hybrid Bagatelle Jackmanii Nubia Tie Dye	Betty Corning Minuet Little Nell Etoile Violette Mme. Julia Correvon	Durandii New love Arabella Roguchi recta	Princes Diana Princess Kate Kaiu Odoriba Sonnette	rehderiana Helios Bill Mackenzie Paul Farges
Flowering season	The line below shows flowering months for each group. Each variety of clematis will flower for a few weeks during these months. Some flower before others, so flowering periods overlap. By planting different varieties gardeners can achieve a real succession of colour. Flowering begins earlier in the South than in the North.								
Flowering months	November / February	March / April	April / May	June / July	July / August	July / September		June / October	August / September
Soil	Well drained gritty soil			Ordinary garden soil which is damp but not waterlogged when roots go deep					
Planting depth	Same as in pot to keep the crown (junction between root and upper stem) from rotting off. These clematis do not produce new growth from stems planted below the soil surface			Up to 10cms (2-4 inches) below pot level to promote new root and stem growth. This will also help the roots to find moisture. These clematis do produce new growth from stems planted below soil level					
Feeding	All clematis roots benefit from feeding when planted. Use Garden compost plus an organic feed such as blood fish and bone. Water in generously								
Preferred position	Sunny	Semi shade but will tolerate full sun if not too strong	Sun or semi shade	In general, pale coloured flowers require some shade, but darker flowers will enjoy full sun					
Supports	Obelisks, trellises and fences	Obelisks, trellises and fences	Larger, robust structures	Obelisks, trees, shrubs, trellises and fences			some taller varieties may need support	Obelisks, trees, shrubs, trellises and fences	
Hardiness	Very resistant to cold and winds except armandii which needs some shelter		Can lose buds in heavy frost	Very suited to the climate of the British Isles					

Features	Most will remain evergreen, but some will go brown in the summer but will rejuvenate for the winter	May produce a second flush of flowers in summer	Some varieties flower slightly later than others. Select different varieties to extend flowering period	Some flower twice if pruned and fed after first flush. Some may also carry double flowers	They have a wide range of flower colour	Virtually trouble free and reliable	These are herbaceous clematis that don't climb unaided but look good in an herbaceous border. Some, such as heracleifolia, are bushy in habit	In their natural habitat in the USA, both grow near riverbanks, so they will enjoy a damp situation in the garden	Depending on the weather these may go on flowering up to the first frosts
When to prune	Immediately after flowering if the plant has become too large			Springtime. March in the North but earlier (or even Autumn) in the South					
How to prune	Reduce the size and spread of the plant back into its allocated space. Cut off branches just above their leaf joints			Cut out weak and broken stems. Dead head / cut back after flowering to lower buds for a second flush of flowers.	Prune hard, down to lowest swelling buds between leaf joints		They should all be cut down to 6 inches. Growth reappears from below ground	Prune hard down to lowest buds between leaf joints	
Pests	Rabbits, mice and moles can disturb roots. Strong winds will damage stems if not tied in securely. Young shoots are very attractive to slugs, snails, earwigs, white fly and greenfly. Clematis in containers can also be attacked at the roots by Vine Weevil larvae.								
Diseases	Largely disease free although montanas can be attacked by slime flux if they have sustained frost damage in Spring.			Mildew can be a problem in mild dry weather if plants receive insufficient water. They can also be subject to stem rot (clematis wilt)	Largely disease free but can suffer from mildew				
Notes	Avoid very wet or waterlogged soil. The crown must not be planted deeply otherwise it may rot			Can be overplanted with shallow rooted plants such as geraniums. The base can also be mulched. Avoid covering with gravel or small stones that will provide cover for pests.					

\*For more information about these, and many other varieties, go to [clematisontheweb.org](http://clematisontheweb.org)

Note: I have not included clematis from the forsteri group, which are sometimes referred to as rockery clematis. Although they are spectacular Spring flowering plants, many of which come from New Zealand, I do not consider them hardy enough in many parts of the UK to be regarded as garden plants, and they are often better grown in a greenhouse or cool conservatory.