

# How to care for climbing plants

Part of the Pacific Nurseries  
'How to...' series

Every garden has a need and place for a climbing plant. Whether it is to cover a wall or fence, to screen an unsightly part of the garden, or to grow up through an obelisk to add height to a border. When planting climbing plants we recommend using Westland's Rose, Tree & Shrub compost along with some bonemeal and rootgrow to give it the best possible start. This will get the roots established much faster and allow for quicker growth in the first year. Try to plant your climber at least 30cm away from the wall/trellis to allow rainwater to reach the roots.

## Climbing Plants Guide

**Ceanothus - (Californian Lilac).** Evergreen. Best grown in full sun. Masses of purple/blue flowers during the spring. Will quickly grow to around 2m in height but will want to spread out as well as up.

**Clematis - The queen of climbers!** A very popular choice with a wide variety of types. Some are evergreen, flowering in early spring and the majority are deciduous and flower in the summer. Great for growing through trees and other climbing plants.

**Fremontodendron** - A great choice for a slightly sheltered position in sun or part shade. Evergreen. Large bright yellow flowers during the summer. Will quickly grow to around 3m in height but will need to be pruned to prevent it spreading outwards. Can cause skin irritation.

**Garrya elliptica - Tassel Bush.** An upright shrub with glossy, evergreen green leaves. Grey-green catkins in mid-winter. Height 3m. Spread 1.5m. Frost hardy. Ideal for planting in a border or trained against a wall. Sun or partial shade.

**Lonicera - Honeysuckle.** A fast growing twining climber that will need annual hard pruning to keep tidy. There are some evergreen varieties and all produce wonderfully scented flowers during the summer months. Can grow in sun or shade.

**Hydrangea petiolaris - Climbing Hydrangea.** A self-clinging climber with dark green leaves turning yellow in autumn and domed clusters of white flowers in summer. Height 5m. Spread 3m. Flowers from July to August. Shelter from cold drying winds. An excellent choice for a wall in sun or shade, including a north wall.

**Hederas - Ivy.** A very effective self clinging climbing plant that should not be overlooked. After a couple of years it will romp away and need regular pruning. Evergreen, with many attractive leaf colours and shapes.



Whatever your choices,  
climbing plants will reward  
your care with attractive,  
statement displays, often all  
year round.

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**Jasmine** - A popular choice with its sweetly scented flowers during early summer. Will quickly cover an arch or trellis. Grows best in a sunny position. *Jasminum nudiflorum* is a winter flowering variety with bright yellow flowers and can grow happily in sun or shade.

**Lathyrus - Perennial Sweet Pea**. A climbing perennial with winged stems and blue-green leaves. Pretty white, pink or red flowers from summer to early autumn. Height 2m. Herbaceous. Great for growing against a trellis or through an obelisk.

**Parthenocissus - Virginia Creeper**. A wonderfully fast growing climber renowned for its brilliant red autumn colours. Deciduous. Sun/shade.

**Passiflora - Passionflower**. A vigorous climber with rich green leaves and very unusual exotic flowers in summer followed by orange-yellow fruit. Height 5m. Flowers from June to August. Evergreen if grown on a sheltered wall. Prefers a sunny position.

**Pyracantha - Firethorn**. A very popular shrub with glossy evergreen foliage. Sharp thorns make it a popular deterrent. Masses of white summer flowers are followed by bright yellow, orange or red berries. Slow to grow but well worth the wait. Can be grown in sun or shade.

**Rhynchospermum jasminoides - Evergreen Jasmine**. A twining climber with glossy dark green leaves, turning bronze-red in winter. Highly scented, pure white flowers from mid to late summer. Height 5m. Evergreen. Prefers a sheltered position in sun or partial shade. A definite favourite!

**Roses** - There is a rose for every position in the garden. From patio climbers for growing through an obelisk to large climbing and rambling roses for arches and trellises. Many colours and shapes to choose from, some with a lovely perfume. See our separate rose section for plants and information.

**Solanum Glasnevin - Chilean Potato Tree**. An erect shrub or climber with dark green leaves. Fragrant clusters of deep purple-blue flowers from summer to autumn, followed by yellowish white fruits. Height 4m. Semi-evergreen. A great choice for a sunny position with very long-lasting colour.



The team at Pacific Nurseries is highly experienced. As plant growers and the supplier of thousands of plants to over 100 garden centres in the region, we are well placed to advise you on any of your gardening questions. Please ask us for any help you need.

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