

Introduce vines to your garden to make an instant landscape change and to add a wonderful vertical dimension. There are many beautiful and durable herbaceous vines to choose from for colorful, eye-catching additions to the garden. Woody vines along with trees and shrubs can be used as “backbone” landscape plants.

### WHY USE VINES?

Vines are an extremely adaptable and functional group of plants. There is a vine to suit just about any cultural condition. Their strong, fast growth and ease of training allows them to fit into any garden space. Because of this fast growth, they make excellent screens. Flower, fruit and foliage textures provide seasonal interest. Another plus is that many flowering vines have pleasant fragrances.

### HOW DO VINES GROW?

All vines need support as they climb and attach themselves by one of the following four methods:

1. Aerial rootlets



2. Tendrils



3. Adhesive disks



4. Twining



It is crucial to know which method of climbing is used and the mature height of the vine you are considering for your landscape since this dictates what form of support it will need. For example, the sweet pea vine has delicate tendrils that could not climb on a pillar unless it was encircled with a fine mesh fabric. The twining vines of wisteria are very heavy and need a strong lattice to support their weight.

### SUCCESSFUL GROWING TIPS

1. Annual vines need a lot of water to grow. It is important to keep an eye on newly planted perennial and woody vines for the first few years, making sure they receive adequate amounts of water.
2. Rapidly growing vines need sufficient organic matter for proper nutrients. Too much fertilizer, however, can on some vines produce a flush of foliage and few flowers.
3. Prune woody vines at regular and correct times during the first few years to ensure future years of low maintenance.
4. Cold temperatures can affect tender vines. Protect roots during the winter by mounding soil at the base of the vine, removing the soil in spring.

### TRAINING TECHNIQUES

Vines fruit and flower more when trained to climb. Training can start as soon as the vine is planted. To encourage an annual vine to climb, secure various stems to the support. Do this once every week or two during the spring. Tie stems loosely with something like garden twine or raffia. Pinch off stem buds to promote dense growth near the base. For woody vines, in the late winter or early spring after the initial planting, cut back each side

shoot to an appropriately placed bud near the main stems and tie in the pruned shoots. This will help you maintain the form and size of the vine.

## DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Vines can be used in any sized garden and for various purposes. Vines are a great way to hide eye-sores as an ugly fence. If you use your patio or deck mainly in the summer, vines can make a colorful and interesting privacy screen. Use the flower and fruits of vines to extend color through

the seasons. When you need a vertical element in a very small garden and a tree won't do, try espalier training a woody plant on wires or a trellis into a certain pattern. Although most people think vertical when the word vine is mentioned, vines can be used in other ways. Vines such as English Ivy and Vinca can be used as a ground cover, keeping in mind that if they are near a wall, they will climb. Vines can also be used in containers to soften edges.

## VINES OF INTEREST

Scientific Name	Common Name	Climbing Method	Seasonal Interest
<i>Hydrangea anomala</i> ssp. <i>petiolaris</i>	Climbing hydrangea	Adhesive disks	Perennial: Large, white, fragrant flowers, exfoliating cinnamon-hued stems in winter. Can be trained up tree trunks.
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy	Aerial root-lets	Evergreen Perennial: Vigorous spreader; good as ground cover. Avoid planting near/in woodlands.
<i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i> ( <i>A. durior</i> )	Dutchman's Pipe	Twining	Perennial: Heart-shaped leaves, yellow-green tubular flowers.
<i>Clematis</i> sp.	Clematis	Twining	Perennial: Wide range of brilliant flower colors, large & small flowers.
<i>Eccremocarpus scaber</i>	Chilean Glory Flower	Tendrils	Annual: Orange-scarlet flowers that look like goldfish, notched, pale green leaves.
<i>Cobaea scandens</i>	Cup & Saucer Vine	Tendrils	Annual: Flowers pale green to lilac to purple with white stripes.
<i>Dolichos lablab</i>	Hyacinth Bean	Twining	Annual: Large, dark green & purple veined leaves, white to purple flowers, large purple seedpods.

## References

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