

Clematis & Hydrangea Guide

Get the best from
your plants

Quick Tips

- Open packaging immediately on receipt and stand upright where appropriate.
- Remove bagging if present on the pots. If plants seem dry, place pots in a tray of water for half an hour.
- When growing in containers, don't fill to the brim with compost. Leave up to 2.5cm (1in) of pot on show to allow for watering – halve this for small pots and cell trays.
- If growing on the windowsill, turn plants regularly to prevent them stretching towards the light.
- Pots should always have drainage holes, but place on saucers/trays to prevent surface staining. It also helps retain extra water during summer heat.
- Always water prior to planting or potting on.
- Prepare soils ahead of planting. For the best establishment, work incredicompost® and incredibloom® fertiliser into the growing area. These will also give you the best results in containers displays too. Alternatively opt for regular liquid feeds through the season, starting at 6 weeks after planting.
- Avoid planting when soils are too wet or frozen.
- Acclimatise all indoor grown plants to outside conditions. Harden off by placing outside by day and back undercover each evening for 7-10 days.



Clematis Plugs: Pinch out growing tips to encourage side shoots and a fuller plant. Plugs supplied in spring and summer should be grown on and planted out in autumn. Autumn and winter supplied plugs should be kept frost free and planted out in spring.

7-11cm potted plants: These should be potted on into larger containers filled with incredicompost®. These are also best pinched out in the early stages of growth. Ideally grow on in containers for the first season, keeping plants frost free over winter.

1 litre pots and larger: These mature plants can be planted out or potted on into larger patio containers at any time of year, but watch out for late spring frosts and drying winter winds – choose a sheltered spot. Most clematis prefer their roots in the shade and shoots in the sun. Most of our clematis and other climbers are suited to container growing. Use large pots filled with incredicompost®, then feed each spring with incredibloom® for best results.

Clematis Group 1 including 'Winter Beauty', armandii, 'Freckles', clematis alpina cultivars, C. macropetala cultivars, C. montana cultivars and other early flowering species forms. These bear flowers on growth produced the previous year, from winter through to late spring. Forms are deciduous unless otherwise stated. All group 1 listed varieties are small flowered. They should only be pruned if too large after flowering; simply remove any dead, diseased or damaged growth. Do not over prune, a light trim will encourage production of new growth to flower the following season.

Clematis Group 2 including 'Innocent Glance', 'Guernsey Cream', 'Blue Explosion' and 'Nelly Moser' is made up of large flowered cultivars that flower through from late spring to early summer on side shoots from the previous years growth. They will also flower mid to late summer on the tips of the current years shoots. These are deciduous, and you should beware of hard frosts that may damage early top growth, however this will be replenished and should not affect the flowering season. Pruning for group 2 should be done before growth begins in early spring. Simply remove dead, diseased and damaged growth and trim all remaining stems back to the nearest strong bud. These buds then create the framework of second-year shoots that produce side shoots that will flower in late spring and early summer. The young shoots then bear further flowers later in the summer.

Clematis Group 3 is made up of late flowering cultivars, including 'New Love', 'Taiga', 'Sweet Summer Love', 'Sieboldii', 'Tranquilite', 'Sarah Elisabeth', late flowering species and herbaceous types. These form flower on new shoots produced in the same season, and flower through from summer to late autumn, and are deciduous. This group should be pruned during early spring before new growth forms. Remove nearly all the previous years growth back to strong buds, 30cm (12in) above soil level.

Hydrangea: Improve the soil prior to planting by adding plenty of well rotted manure or garden compost, ensuring that it is mixed in thoroughly and deeply. Alternatively plant in patio containers in soil based compost such as John Innes No. 3. Water regularly until plants are fully established. Leave the faded flower heads in place until the new buds swell in spring to protect the delicate buds from frost damage. Prune after flowering, reducing the stems to restrict their growth to the available space and to improve the shape of the plant. After pruning, apply a mulch of well rotted manure or compost around the base of the plant.

Caution: Contact with foliage may irritate the skin and eyes and all parts are harmful if eaten.

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