

# CARE GUIDE:

## Vines and Vining Plants



### The Basics

Vines add vertical interest and color to a landscape.

Choose by light requirements, and by the type of structure required for support. Some vines are light enough to scramble in, over, and around other plants. Others need strong support from sturdy arbors and trellises. Some considerations are how a vine climbs, how it affects structures (such as building siding), and whether or not it needs securing.

### VINE HABITS:

#### #1: TWINING STEMS

wrap around vertical objects

#### #2: MODIFIED STEMS

(tendrils) wrap around objects, and sometimes have adhesive disks at their tips

#### #3: CLINGING ROOTLETS

grow along vine stems and attach to a support or wall (ivy or climbing hydrangea). Don't plant on wood, stucco, or hardboard siding; only on brick, masonry, or stone in good condition.

#4: SPRAWLING vines don't climb or have mechanisms to stay attached; must be tied to a supporting structure



### Deciduous Vines

**BOSTON IVY** (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*) Rootlet vine, adhesive disks. Vigorous and dense when established. Stems grow tightly against structures. Beautiful scarlet fall color. Sun or shade. 30-50'.

**CLEMATIS** (certain cvs. and spp.) Twining. Large, colorful blooms. Lightweight vine; can be grown on small trellises, mailboxes, and even other plants. Full to part sun. Mulch over root zone. 6-15'.

**CLIMBING HYDRANGEA** (*Hydrangea anomala* subsp. *petiolaris*) Extremely handsome, elegant. Shiny, heart-shaped leaves, white lacecap flowers. Part shade. Moist, fertile soil.

**CLIMBING ROSES** Many varieties and colors. Sun. Rich, well-drained soil. 10-25', depending on cultivar.

### CHOOSING

## Vining Plants

### FOR YOUR SPACE

**DUTCHMAN'S PIPE** (*Aristolochia macrophylla* [durior]) Twining. Trouble free. Large, rounded leaves, dense cover; cream-colored flowers, flecked with brown-purple, resembling Sherlock Holmes' pipe. Sun or shade. Regular water. 15-20'.

**EUROPEAN HOP** (*Humulus lupulus*) Twining; rapid grower. Deeply lobed, maple-like leaves provide attractive cover; soft, green cones with a piney fragrance. Sun to part shade. Well-drained soil. 15-25'.

**FALSE CLIMBING HYDRANGEA** (*Schizophragma* spp.) - Climbs by rootlets. Toothed, heart-shaped leaves; loose white lacecap-style flowers, large outer bracts. Part shade. Well-drained soil. To 30'. (continued)



European Hop



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## Deciduous Vines (continued)

### TRUMPET HONEYSUCKLE

(*Lonicera sempervirens*) Twining. The only good honeysuckle (won't take over like the Japanese form). Bright, coral flowers late spring to summer; visited by hummingbirds. Slow to moderate growth 10-15'.

### TRUMPET VINE (*Campsis radicans*)

Twining and clinging rootlets. Boisterous. Flared, cherry-pink and orange summer flowers. Sun to part shade; needs plenty of room to sprawl. Try growing it up an unattractive tree. 40'+

### VIRGINIA CREEPER (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

Twining and adhesive disks. A trouble-free native with great fall color that contrasts nicely with ivy. Excellent for covering almost anything, including slopes. Sun or shade. Vigorous growth, 30-50'.

### AMERICAN WISTERIA (*Wisteria frutescens*)

Twining. Grow on a sturdy structure (arbor or well-anchored metal pole). Grape-

like clusters of purple flowers; sweet, perfumed scent. American wisteria, (*Wisteria frutescens*) is less rampant. Sun to part shade. 20-30'.



*Wisteria*

## Evergreen and Semi-Evergreen Vines

### AKEBIA, CHOCOLATE VINE

(*Akebia quinata*) Twining. Semi-evergreen to evergreen. Vigorous. Requires fairly strong support. Lovely, refined dark bluish-green foliage, and dusky purple flowers. Sun or shade. 15-20'.

### CAROLINA JESSAMINE

(*Gelsemium sempervirens*, also *G. rankinii*) Twining. Bright yellow trumpet flowers in spring. Plant in sun or shade (best flowering in sun). Plant with *G. rankinii* for bonus fall flower show. Fast growing, to 20'.

### CHINA BLUE SAUSAGE VINE

(*Holboellia coriacea*) Twining. Vigorous akebia cousin; dark, leathery leaves; silver-white, bell-shaped flowers; blue, sausage shaped fruit. Shade. 20-30'.

### CROSS VINE (*Bignonia capreolata*)

Tendrils and adhesive disks. Native, semi-evergreen. Tubular, orange-red, spring flowers attract hummingbirds. Purple winter foliage. Moderately moist, rich soil. Sun to part shade. Fast-growing, to 30'.

### EVERGREEN CLEMATIS

(*C. armandii*, *C. armandii* 'Appleblossom', *C. x cartmanii* Avalanche™) Climbs by twining leaves. Abundant, fragrant white or pink spring

flowers; shiny green leaves. Plant so top receives sun and roots are cool (mulch helps). Avoid afternoon sun. Excellent on fences or roof gables. 20'.

### IVY (*Hedera helix*)

Climbs by rootlets. Variegated forms available. Grow on walls and fences, slopes. Drought tolerant. Shade. Fast-growing. Spreads up to 20'. Miniature forms spread less.

### KADSURA VINE (*Kadsura japonica*)

Twining. Evergreen; Dark green or variegated leaves; fragrant, creamy flowers; red berry clusters. Shaded, moist soil. 12-15'.

### PASSION VINE (*Passiflora caerulea*,

*P. incarnata*) Climb by tendrils. Semi-evergreen; hardy varieties. 'Constance Elliot' does well here. Unique flowers, similar to water lilies, but with more prominent stamens, as well as edible fruit. Sun to part shade; well-drained, moist soil. 20-30'.

### STAR/CONFEDERATE JASMINE

(*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) Twining. Profuse, fragrant, star-shaped flowers May-June (some in summer). Good groundcover. Part to full shade. 10-12'+

### WINTERCREEPER (*Euonymus*

*fortunei*) Climbs by rootlets. Leaves in dark green and variegated forms. Does well on supports, including other plants. Good groundcover. Sun to part sun. Slow grower, 4-6'.

## Annual and Tropical Vines

*Typically fast-growing, with a fantastic array of flowers, and live only one season. Many can be easily grown from seed. Tropical vines are not cold hardy here, and will usually be killed at first frost. Some can be grown in pots and over-wintered indoors in bright sun.*

**ALLAMANDA** (*A. cathartica*) Tropical sprawler. Tie or weave on supports. Showy, yellow summer flowers; glossy green foliage. Sun. Moist, well-drained soil. To 10'.

**BLACK-EYED SUSAN VINE** (*Thunbergia alata*) Tropical. Climbs by twining. Bright, orange flowers with dark centers, midsummer to fall. Sun-part shade. Moderately moist soil. 6-8'.

**BLUE PEA** (*Clitoria ternatea*) Sprawling annual here. Tie or weave on supports. Purple, pea-like flowers with from midsummer to fall. Sun. Moist, well-drained soil. 10-15'.

**BOTTLE GOURD** (*Lagenaria siceraria*) Annual. Climbs by tendrils. Fantastic fruits in many shapes, such as dipper, birdhouse, dumbbell, and bottle. Full sun. Moderately moist soil. 10-15'.

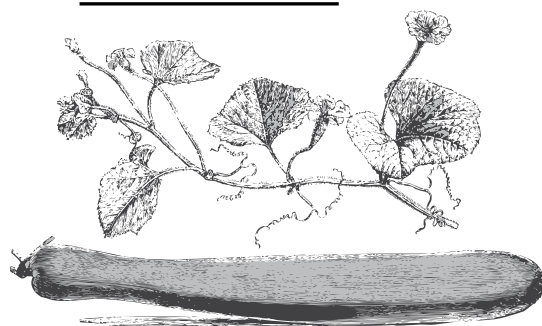
**CARDINAL CLIMBER** (*Ipomoea x sloteri*) Annual. Climbs by twining. Bright red flowers with yellow centers all summer; deeply toothed leaves. Plant by seed. Full sun; soil of average moisture. 10-15'.

**CUP-AND-SAUCER VINE** (*Cobaea scandens*) Annual here. Fast-growing; purple, cup-shaped blooms. Sun. Moderately moist, well-drained soil. To 20'.

**CYPRESS VINE** (*Ipomoea quamoclit*) Annual. Climbs by twining. Fast growing; fine-textured, feathery leaves; small, bright red flowers. Plant by seed. Full sun. Well-drained soil, average moisture. 10-15'.

**FIRECRACKER VINE/  
SPANISH FLAG** (*Mina lobata*) Tropical. Climbs by twining. Fast-growing, long-blooming vine; flower spikes start yellow at base and turn deep scarlet at tip; attractive, lobed leaves. Sun. Plant by seed. Well-drained, moderately moist soil. 10-16'.

Bottle Gourd



Hyacinth Bean

### HYACINTH BEAN VINE

(*Dolichos lablab*) Annual here. Climbs by twining. Showy, pea-like pink flowers; shiny, purple seed pods. Full sun. Moderately moist soil. To 10'.

### LUFFA/SPONGE VINE

(*Luffa cylindrica*) Annual. Climbs by tendrils. Needs strong support. Showy yellow flowers; large, dense leaves can provide a temporary screen. Fruit, similar to a cucumber, can be dried and used as a bath sponge. Plant by seed. Full sun. Moderately moist soil.

**MANDEVILLA** (*Mandevilla x amabilis*) Tropical. Twining. Large, trumpet-shaped beautiful, pink flowers. Full sun. Moderately moist soil or container planting. Grows 10'.

### MOONFLOWER

(*Ipomoea alba*)

Annual here.

Climbs by twining.

Fast grower. Showy white, blooms in the evening,

Moonflower

with a lovely fragrance. Plant by seed. Full sun. Soil of average moisture. Grows 10-15'.

**MORNING GLORY** (*Ipomoea tricolor*) Annual. Twining. Fast-growing. Gorgeous, funnel-shaped flowers in bright blue, pink, purple, and more. Plant by seed. Full sun. Soil of average moisture. Grows 10'-30+.

(continued)

## Annual and Tropical Vines *(continued)*

### ORNAMENTAL GOURD

(*Curcubita pepo ovifera*) Annual.

Climbs by tendrils. A fast-growing vine, bold, textured leaves; ornamental fruit in many shapes and colors (from yellow to orange to green, in a single color or striped). Sun. Moderately moist, well-drained soil. 10-15'.

### SCARLET RUNNER BEAN

(*Phaseolus coccineus*) Annual. Climbs by twining. A fast-grower; attractive, scarlet, salmon, and white pea-like

flowers. Sun; Plant by seed. Well-drained soil with average moisture.

Bean pods are edible, and can be eaten whole while small, or harvested when mature for shelling. To 15'.

### SWEET PEA (*Lathyrus odoratus*)

Annual. Climbs by tendrils. A spring bloomer with beautiful, wonderfully fragrant flowers in a range of colors.

Plant a heat-resistant strain by seed in fall. Good for cutting.

### SWEET POTATO VINE

(*Ipomoea batatas*) Annual here.

Sprawler. Excellent, small-scale groundcover. Dwarf 'Sweet Caroline' series is a great container spiller.

## SUGGESTED *Vining Plants* FOR CONTAINERS

### DECIDUOUS

Clematis  
(large-flowered  
hybrid cultivars)

Climbing Roses

### EVERGREEN

English Ivy

Star / Confederate  
Jasmine

Winter Creeper

Vinca

Creeping Jenny

Wintercreeper

### ANNUAL and TROPICAL

Allamanda

Black-Eyed Susan Vine

Bougainvillea

Cardinal Climber

Cypress Vine

Hyacinth Bean Vine

Mandevilla

Passionflower

Sweet Potato Vine



*Passionflower*