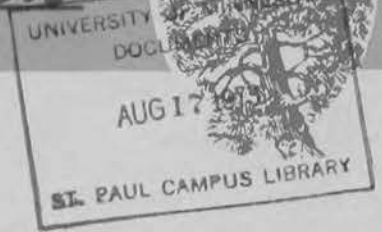


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3. *Arboretum Review*



ARBORETUM REVIEW NO. 18-1973  
JAMES R. GILBERT

**Clematis**

Each summer the clematis collection attracts Arboretum visitors. The magnificent trellis and annual flower bed is picturesque.

More and more home gardens today emphasize outdoor living areas. Much attention is given to furnishing these areas. Don't overlook clematis as "living curtains." Clematis are ideal to cover fences, arbors, trellises, pergolas, porches, and walls. They can also be used informally over rocky slopes and tree stumps and on pillars and lamp posts. Clematis vines produce flowers that are good for cutting.

Clematis grow best in rich, moist, well-drained soil. They need at least 4 to 5 hours of sunlight each day. In Minnesota, an eastern exposure is best. A southern or western exposure is too hot unless the plants receive shade during the hottest part of the day. However, shade around the roots is enough. This can be provided by planting the clematis on the north side of a small shrub. A clump of perennials or ground covers also give protection from direct sunlight.

When planting clematis, spread the roots and place the crown about 2-inches into the soil. Handle with care! Make sure the shoot is not broken. Tie the stem to a support. Spring planting gives clematis a chance to become deeply rooted before winter. Contrary to popular belief, adding lime is not necessary in most Minnesota soils. A high lime concentration can cause chlorosis. This is sometimes because of lime leaching from masonry or stucco walls. For this reason, it's best to plant some distance from a foundation.

Late in autumn, put leaf mold or compost around the base of each plant. The needed amount may range from a bushel to a wheelbarrow full. This leaf mold or compost will provide excellent winter protection. In spring, remove half. Leave the remainder for summer mulch.

Clematis are in two categories, depending on whether they bloom on the current season's growth or on year-old wood. Those blooming on old wood should not be pruned until after they flower. An exception is dead wood which can be removed in the spring. A practical approach for all varieties is to wait until spring growth starts. Then remove all dead portions. Because of Minnesota's severe winters, most clematis are killed back severely. Therefore, each summer they grow up and flower from the root stock. Varieties that bloom on old wood must have winter protection.

Sixty eight clematis species and cultivars are now growing in the Arboretum. About 25 have responded well enough in our choice of locations and through our care to receive very good or excellent overall ratings the past 5 years. Plants are rated on bloom and general vigor. They are:

- Clematis apiifolia biternata**—It produces a mass of 1-inch white flowers. The peak of bloom is the 1st week in September. This is a vigorous plant.
- C. 'Appleblossom'**—Mass of pink blooms occur the 4th of July. The plant begins blooming in late June and continues into



This clematis, 'Appleblossom,' is in full bloom. In the Arboretum, clematis are grown on poultry wire attached to wood trellises.

Some clematis have large flowers. Flowers of this 'Prins Hendrik' variety are often 10 inches in diameter.



September. The largest flowers are about 5½ inches across. Most are about 4 inches.

**C. 'Ascotiensis'**—This dark purple variety has 5-inch blooms at its peak near the end of July. The plant blooms from July through September.

**C. crispa**—This plant has 1-inch bell-shaped blooms that are dark purple. The peak of bloom comes about mid-August. However, crispa blooms from the end of July into October. Attractive large seed heads follow the bloom.

**C. 'Duchess of Albany'**—It has 2½-inch bell-shaped, reddish-purple flowers. It starts blooming the last week in June and keeps producing into October. The peak of bloom occurs the 1st week in July. It has a very vigorous vine.

**C. 'Duchess of Edinburgh'**—This plant has beautiful double white, gardenialike blooms 5 inches in diameter. Blooms are

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at their peak the first part of July. Blooms are on year-old wood, so prune the plant cautiously.

**C. 'Etoile Violette'**—This plant's prolific bloom is comparable to that of *jackmanii*. It has medium-sized, very dark purple blooms. These are 3 to 5 inches in diameter. The bloom peaks the first part of July, but this clematis blooms from late June into September.

**C. 'Hagley Hybrid'**—The 5½-inch lavender-pink flowers are at their peak the 1st week in July. The plant blooms from about June 20 through August.

**C. heracleaefolia (davidiana)**—This is a shrublike clematis 3 feet tall. It does not climb, so it can be used in a perennial border. The fragrant blue-purple blooms are about ¾ inch in diameter. These are in clusters at the leaf nodes. The plant blooms from mid-August into September. The common name, fragrant tube clematis, describes the bloom well.

**C. 'Huldine'**—This is the most profusely blooming and most vigorous of all single whites. The flowers, 3 to 4 inches in diameter, are actually light purple. However, they look white at a short distance. Huldine begins blooming in late June. It repeats its bloom until fall. Its peak is the 1st week in July.

**C. x jackmanii**—Its abundant blooms of velvety dark purple begin in late June and may continue into October. The 5-inch blooms are at their peak the 2nd week in July.

**C. x jackmanii 'Alba'**—The plant's 5-inch single white flowers have light blue edges. The flowers begin opening in late June and continue into August. Peak of bloom is about July 7th.

**C. 'Lady Northcliff'**—Its dark purple, single blooms are 5½ inches in diameter. The blooms peak by the 2nd week in July. The plant blooms from late June. Some years recurrent blooming continues into October.

**C. 'Lady Veda Stewart'**—It's maroon-colored, single blooms are 4½ inches in diameter. The blooms cover the whole vine in early July. Blooming begins in late June and recurs at least slightly until September.

**C. 'Mme. Baron Veillard'**—The plant's lilac-rose, 5½-inch single blooms are on this clematis from late June into October. Peak bloom occurs in early July.

**C. 'Mme. Cholmondeley'**—The plant has beautiful flowers 6 inches in diameter. These are light or wisteria blue. The clematis is usually at its peak for about 2 weeks at the end of June and the first of July. A few blossoms are still present in late September.

**C. 'Mme. Edward Andre'**—This is a massive flowering maroon introduction from France. It's at its peak the end of June. However, the 5-inch single flowers occur from mid-June until September.

**C. orientalis**—The blooms are bell-shaped, yellow, and 1½ inch in diameter. They occur on this clematis from early August through September. The plant has a vigorous vine with showy seed heads.

**C. paniculata**—This vine blooms in October. The plant comes from Japan and is known as Sweet Autumn Clematis. It provides excellent foliage for arbors, fences, and retaining walls. The Starry white blossoms are about 1 inch in diameter.

**C. 'President'**—Dark purple blooms 6½ inches in diameter cover this clematis from late June to early July. The plant is especially nice on a white trellis. It blooms with at least a few flowers from the 1st week in June until mid-October. This makes it one of the finest clematis in the Arboretum.

**C. recta**—This plant is shrublike and can be used in a perennial border. The dense plant is about 5 feet tall. It's covered with 1-inch white, fragrant flowers in mid-June. A few blossoms occur the rest of the summer.

**C. 'Red Jackman'**—Its 5-inch dark reddish maroon flowers occur from early July to late September. The bloom peaks near the end of July.

**C. texensis**—In bud, the blossoms are like fat, pointed rosebuds. They have a fiery red color. When open, they are bell-shaped, about 1 inch in diameter, and with turned back points showing a pinkish lining. Like most clematis in the Arboretum, this vine is herbaceous; it dies down in the fall and sends up new growth in spring. This Texas native blooms from mid-June into October. Its seed pods are outstandingly decorative.

**C. 'Victoria'**—Its single purple flowers open in late June. The peak comes the 1st week of July. A few 5-inch blossoms occur in September.

**C. 'Ville De Lyon'**—The 4½ inch carmine-red flowers are profuse in late June and early July. After the peak, a few scattered blossoms occur until frost.

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