



CLEMATIS

Clematis require a good trellis, which should be in place before planting. They prefer full sun to light shade. Plant in a location that is protected from strong winds and soggy wet spots should be avoided. They like a well worked rich soil. Plant the crown 12 cm (6 in) below the soil level. Firm the soil and keep well watered, moist but not wet. Clematis like their roots shaded from direct sunlight, provide a mulch of peat moss or bark about 5 cm (2 in) thick. Commonly clematis die back in the winter. Pruning of dead wood is best done in the spring. In more severe conditions, lay the vine down in the late fall, cover with leaves and lift back up on the trellis in the spring.

Have a planting location in mind before you plant your new clematis. Ideally it's a sunny spot. Though some clematis cultivars will bloom in partial shade (such as Nellie Moser and Henryii), to reach their full potential they need at least six hours of sun each day.

Clematis prefer moist, well-drained soil that's neutral to slightly alkaline in pH. If your soil tends to be acidic, you should sweeten it periodically with limestone or a little wood ash. Dig a good hole for your new clematis, working in lots of compost and some granular organic fertilizer.

Clematis are happiest with cool shade at their roots and warm sun on their foliage. Mulching around the roots will help keep the soil cool, as will the foliage of a low-growing perennial. Clematis are born to climb. Like other climbing plants, the growing end of a clematis vine is searching for something to grab onto, and if it can't find anything, it will stop growing. Make sure you provide it with something to climb on from day one.

GENERAL TIPS FOR PERENNIALS

"DO NOT" soak perennial roots before planting!

Separate cedar packing material from roots and discard, it should not go into planting hole. If you receive your perennials before you are ready to plant, store in refrigerator or a cool spot at approx. 1 C (34 F) until you can plant. Or pot them up right away and transplant into garden once ground is ready.

Soil should be well worked and free of weeds.

When planting, the crown should be set 1 cm (1/2 in) deep and well watered. Seedling plugs (plastic pots), should be transplanted covering plants with 1 cm (1/2 in) of soil also.

T & T Rose & Strawberry fertilizer (10-52-17) and Bone Meal are ideal for perennials.

Cover perennials with straw or leaves for extra winter protection.

As most perennial gardens are planted randomly, spacing is not rigid, but when unsure of distance between plants space them by looking at the height of that particular plant and habit. Usually you are looking at spacing plants at least 30 cm (12 in) apart for shorter plants to 90 cm (3 ft) apart for the taller.