



## All About Clematis

### LIGHT EXPOSURE

The rule of thumb is that Clematis perform best with a cool root area and their heads in the sun. Most Clematis enjoy being exposed to at least 5 to 6 hours of sunlight daily. Planting a shorter shrub or ground cover to keep roots cool as well as several inches of mulch are advised.

### THE PLANTING SITE

This is a critical step to insuring the longevity of your Clematis. In heavy or clay soil dig a big hole, preferably 24"x 24". In lighter or sandy soil, a hole 18"x18" will do the trick. Save only the best of your topsoil. Amend the soil with composted organic matter.

Always cut the container before planting your Clematis. This minimizes the risk of damaging your plant when removing it from the container. Gently remove the Clematis rootball from the container and plant it in the hole so that the base of the plant is sunk 3" to 5" below soil level. Leave the original stake on the Clematis for the first year to act as a support as well as a protection against accidental breakage.

### MULCHING

Mulching is essential because it keeps the plant's "feet" cool while at the same time improving the make-up of the soil. Place a 3" to 4" layer of soil aid, peat moss or bark over the root zone. Keep the mulch away from the stem to avoid stem rot.

### FEEDING

Clematis is a heavy feeder. In spring, once the Clematis buds are about 2 inches long, start feeding them. Feed every 4 to 6 weeks thereafter. Continue this alternate feeding until August.

### WATERING

Clematis need regular watering. Always water thoroughly and deeply during the hot summer months. Remember, if the soil under your Clematis is shaded it will not dry out as quickly as a sunny area. Don't keep them too wet.

### SUPPORT

Clematis need support to grow. This can be achieved in many ways. From growing them on an arbor to up a trellis, onto other shrubs, on a fence, or an obelisk, the possibilities are only limited by your imagination.

### PLANTING IN A CONTAINER

In our area, this can only be achieved if you insure the container will not freeze or completely dry out over the winter months. If the pot freezes, you will lose your Clematis. Just as in growing Clematis in the ground, the following steps for planting in a container are crucial. Select a container that is at least 18"x 18". Fill your container with potting mix leaving an adequate amount of space for a good watering basin. Always cut the container to remove the plant. Gently lift the Clematis rootball from the nursery container and plant it so that it is sunk 3" to 5" below soil level. Feed and water as if it were planted in the ground.