



Fact Sheet

Climbing Plants

One of the most effective methods used to change the look and feel of a garden is to grow climbing plants. Climbers can be used to cover unsightly walls, fences or tree stumps, they are very effective trained over archways and pergolas and are useful trained upon fences by driveways where space precludes the planting of trees. They are even useful as groundcover plants on embankments where without any support they will trail effectively.

Climbers can be classified horticulturally in many ways according to their method of attachment to supports (i.e. their growth habit), the basic types of which are:

1. Twining stems - most climbers fall into this category, soft young shoots simply curl as they come into contact with supports.
2. Aerial roots - plants such as ivies, virginia creepers, creeping figs employ aerial roots which adhere to the surface of the support, these do not spiral in growth habit and are referred to as 'self clinging' plants.
3. Hooked climbers - plants that support themselves upon other plants or structures by hooks, thorns or prickles such as blackberries.
4. Tendrils - twisted thread like segments developed by the plant either on leaves or stems used only for climbing, such as in grapevines.

There are other plants with similar habits such as *Jasminum mesnyi* which have long shoots that can be trained along a support but these are not regarded as true climbers. Ramblers and trailers are often included in this group as are groundcovers however as their natural habit is more prostrate these should not be confused with climbers.

There are many different climbers available to suit all conditions and gardens. Whether you want a fast growing vigorous climber, an evergreen or deciduous climber or simply want to enjoy the flowers there is a variety available to accommodate your needs. Often it is desirable to plant several climbers to cover one area, in this case you can enjoy different flowering times and autumn foliage thereby extending the gardens' horizons.

Most climbers respond to well drained manured soil, mulch during warmer months, fertilise regularly and water well. Pruning is not generally a major consideration unless they start taking over trees.

We would of course be happy to assist you to select a suitable climber.
For your convenience, listed below are brief descriptions of our most popular climbers.

1. ***Rosa banksiae 'Lutea'*** - Yellow flowering evergreen banksia roses are thornless and will climb to 5-6m or more. Sunny position. White form available. Flowers late spring.
2. ***Climbing roses*** - Deciduous spectacular climbers prefer a sunny well drained position. Available in many colours, usually scented and flower forms. Wonderful over archways, pergolas, on fences or pillars. Choose varieties to flower spring to late autumn.
3. ***Jasminum polyanthum*** - Strong growing evergreen will grow 3-6m. Sweetly scented star shaped white flowers. Unforgettable sight, will thrive in sunny position.
4. ***Hardenbergia violacea*** - Most common variety known as 'Happy Wanderer'. Fast growing leafy twiner that will do well in a sunny/semi shaded position. Grows 3-4 metres and has small violet-blue pea flowers. White flowering variety available.
5. ***Solanum jasminoides*** - Potato vine, strong grower 3-5m with starry white flowers with yellow stamens. Evergreen though may lose leaves in colder climates. Will respond to pruning. Flowers throughout year on new season's growth.
6. ***Sollya heterophylla*** - Bluebell creeper. Lovely twining vine will grow 2-3 metres in sun or part shade. Flowers in spring-summer, blue bell like flowers, also makes an effective ground cover. Evergreen.
7. ***Clematis*** - Deciduous attractive climbers that will brighten any spring garden. Prefer sun but will tolerate semi-shade. Includes smaller flowering montanas in pinks or whites or the large flowering hybrids, all of which grow 3-6m and are seen at their best twining through trees. Clematis have more specific requirements than some other climbers but once established will thrive.
8. ***Pandoreas*** - Fast growing native evergreen climbers, grow in sun or part shade, available in whites, pinks, creams and golds. Depending on variety they will flower throughout growing season, grow 3-4metres.



9. Loniceras

- Honeysuckles. Evergreen climbers that produce deliciously scented flowers in spring and summer. Quite vigorous hence supports are vital. Will grow 4-8m dependant upon varieties grown.

10 Lathyrus

- Sweet Pea. No garden is complete without sweet peas and their delicious fragrance somewhere to entice. Fast growing annuals available in many colours, they make lovely cut flowers. Trained up trellis, tripods or pillars in a sunny position. Grow from seed or punnet.

11. Passiflora

- Passionfruit. Available in either fruiting or ornamental form. All are spectacular evergreens for a sheltered position. Further information available in our Passionfruit fact sheet.

12. Bougainvilleas

- Only species to consider in Hobart is the variety glabra 'Magnifica', with it's spectacular purple bracts and shiny foliage. Will grow to 5m in a sunny sheltered position. Thrives on neglect. Other varieties are too frost tender to consider.

There are of course many other varieties to consider, ivies, gelsemium, kiwi fruit, ivy geraniums or mandevilla to name but a few, all of which are worth growing.

FACT: In the Northern hemisphere all twining plants wind their stems anti-clockwise, while in the Southern hemisphere they will twine clockwise.

