



CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

Choosing climbing plants

Climbing plants can be used to introduce a strong vertical landscape presence. However, if the plant is not provided the correct support, the climber will grow in a sprawling habit. Correct support is determined by the method by which the plant ascends. Scandent flora grows vertically by clinging, twining, tendrils, and rambling.



Hydrangea) attach themselves with aerial roots that form along stems. The adventitious rootlets will dig into any rough-textured surface.



Rambling climbers use hooked thorns to loosely attach themselves to the support. Plants such as Climbing Roses should be trained by weave new shoots through the structure or tying directly to the support. Ramblers are a good for small support structures such as obelisks.

Climbing climbers attach themselves to the support structure via adhesive discs or aerial roots. *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia Creeper) and *Parthenocissus tricuspidata* (Boston Ivy) are examples of climbers that use adhesive discs to cling to the support. These plants have specialized tendrils with suction cup like appendages that allows them to adhere to virtually any vertical structure. *Campsis radicans* (Trumpet Vine), *Hedera helix* (English Ivy), and *Hydrangea anomola* var. *petiolaris* (Climbing

Twining climbers ascend by winding their way around their support. *Actinidia kolomikta* (Kiwi Vine), *Aristolochia macrophylla* (Dutchman's Pipe), *Akebia quinata* (Fiveleaf Akebia), *Lonicera japonica* (Honeysuckle), and *Wisteria* sp are twiners well suited to enhance any free standing garden structure. These plants wind themselves naturally in either a clockwise or counter clockwise direction. If plants are not trained properly, they will unravel themselves from the support.

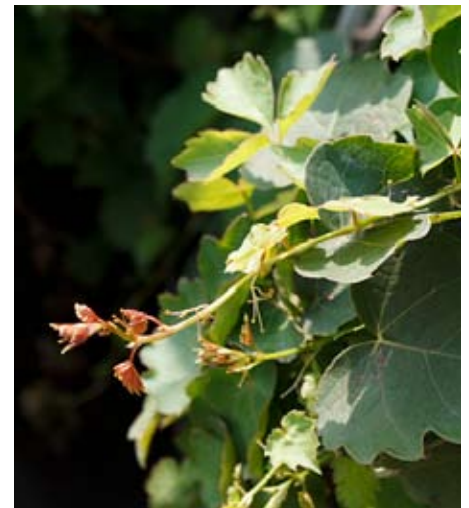
Tendrils are thin, flexible shoots that coil around anything they come in contact with. These appendages originate from either the stems, leaves, or leaf stalk. *Clematis* sp., the most common tendril climber, requires support that is thin enough to grab. This type of climber is best for climbing arbors, trellises, wires, or cyclone fences.



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When using a climbing plant in the landscape, choose the plant based on the support structure available. Climbers can provide a strong vertical presence in the landscape if the plant has the proper support. Any unsupported climber will be no more than nuisance groundcover.