



Pruning Clematis

Depending on the cultivar, Clematis bloom from various types of growth each year. Proper pruning of Clematis will promote flowering. When Clematis are not pruned properly, the flowers will be delayed or they might not flower until the next growing season.

Clematis can be separated into groups based on their flowering characteristics and pruning preferences. We recommend pruning all Clematis to about 12 inches within the first year of planting. This encourages them to form a strong root system and promotes new shoots to develop, which leads to more flowers. Below are the three groups of pruning. To identify the pruning group of your clematis, refer to the list on the reverse side.

Group 1: Spring Bloomers

Clematis cultivars in this group flower on the previous season's growth. Generally, they can be left unpruned. If pruning is necessary, wait until the flowering is completed and remove only the weak or dead stems.



Group 2: Repeat Bloomers

These cultivars produce early season bloom on the previous season's growth and late season flowers on new growth. Generally, these cultivars are only pruned to shape. In the early spring (February or March), prune them lightly above the first pair of new swollen leaf buds, removing about 12 inches from each shoot. Also remove any dead or weak stems at this time

Group 3: Summer or Fall Bloomers

Varieties within this group flower on the new season's growth; they are often the most vigorous cultivars. Prune all of the main stems back to about 3 feet above the ground in February or March, leaving at least one pair of strong looking buds on each stem. Also remove any dead or weak stems at this time.



Hinsdale Nurseries Tip: If you are unsure of what type of Clematis you have, just let it grow freely for a year or two and watch how it flowers. You will then be able to assign it to a group.

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Group 2: Repeat Bloomers	
Chantilly	Gillian Blades
Cherokee	Kilian Donahue
Crystal Fountain	Multi Blue
Diamantina	Nelly Moser
Empress	Niobe
Henry	Sugar Candy

Group 3: Summer or Fall Bloomers	
Cassis	Mrs. Robert Brydon
Jackman	Rouge Cardinal
Comtesse de Bouchard	Sweet Autumn
Huldine	Ville de Lyon