

Clematis Cottage Nursery

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Planting Guide

Your clematis can be planted immediately, provided the site you have chosen is not waterlogged or frozen, otherwise it may be potted into an 8" 200mm pot for a further 12 months.

Much of the ultimate success of growing a clematis can be attributed to the care with which the site is chosen and the way in which it is planted.

After a few years of growing in ideal conditions and being tended with loving care, most varieties will be so well established that they will withstand all but the most determined efforts to kill them. A nursery man can only advise and hope that the advice is followed, but if the plants they sell are not transferred to the appropriate conditions they will not thrive.

Plants offered for sale are between 15 to 18 months old and are the result of careful nurturing, so that careful preparation on the part of the gardener in choosing the site and preparing the hole for planting should produce excellent results. The reward being a most spectacular flowering display over a long period.

1. Digging the Hole

a: Dig a hole no smaller than 45cm wide and 45cm deep, keeping the top soil separate from the subsoil. If the subsoil is heavy clay, the walls of the hole will need to be broken up to allow for better drainage and to allow for penetration of the young clematis roots.

b: Place 2 shovels of well rotted cow manure or garden compost in the base of the hole and mix in well so that it will not come in direct contact with the clematis roots.

2. Placing the Plant in the Hole.

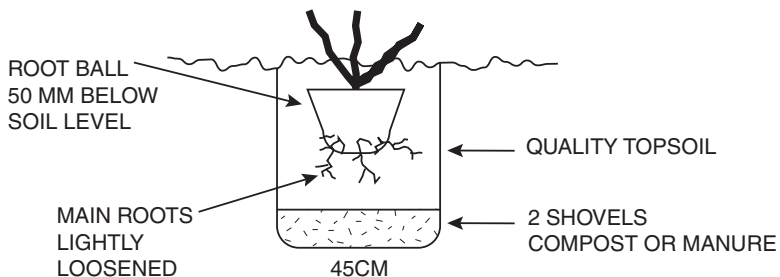
Cut the lower leaves off the plant using a sharp knife or scissors. Then place the plant in the hole so that the lower two nodes or buds will be covered with soil. This is an insurance policy. If the top half of the plant is damaged, it will reshoot from the buds below ground level.

3. Replacing topsoil around the plant.

Before replacing topsoil mix it with a handful of blood and bone and a handful of potash to aid flower development. If the topsoil is of poor quality. Mix in some quality potting mix or organic matter. Lightly firm in this mixture around your plant and water thoroughly.

4. Keeping the Roots Cool.

This can be done by placing a layer of broken concrete, rock or mulch around the plant base



WATERING:

During extreme hot dry conditions, your clematis will require constant monitoring, it must never dry out. During very hot dry conditions it may be necessary to water twice a day with 5 litres of water. Under normal summer conditions give a good deep soaking 2 or 3 times a week.

FEEDING:

Late winter/early spring - well rotted animal manure, garden compost (keeping 100-150mm away from stem), or blood and bone or dynamic lifter mixed with potash. Liquid fertilisers are another option, particularly for those growing in pots, use as per directions. A good soaking once a fortnight will produce excellent results. **IMPORTANT:** Once flower buds have reached the size of a pea, cease all liquid fertiliser, as it can cause the flower to mature quicker than normal, thus shortening the flowering period. Resume fertilising after flowering.

***After the description of each Clematis listed in the catalogue P.G.1, P.G.2, or P.G.3 will be written. This refers to the Pruning Groups on this page.**

GROUP ONE PRUNING INSTRUCTIONS (P.G.1)



First August/September cut back stems to 30 cm above the ground.

Second August/September cut back stems to 1m above ground. During subsequent years cut out dead or weak stems after flowering.

GROUP TWO PRUNING INSTRUCTIONS (P.G.2)

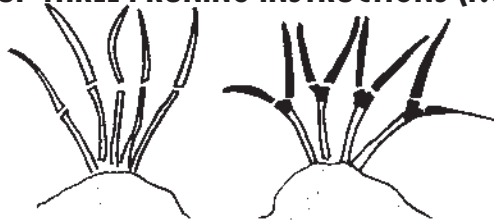


First August/September cut back stems to 30cm above the ground level

Second August/September cut back stems to 1m above ground level

Third August/September and subsequent years cut back all stems to a pair of buds

GROUP THREE PRUNING INSTRUCTIONS (P.G.3)



First August/September cut back stems to 30cm above ground level

Second August/September and subsequent years reduce all stems to just above base of the previous season's growth within 75cm of soil level.

See us at the:
MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

Stand B12 April 5th to the 9th 2006

Most plants listed in this catalogue will be available for purchase. There will also be a large number of display pots flowering. We will be able to answer all your questions and offer expert advice.