

VINES – WINTER HARDY

Vines can be separated into categories based upon the way they attach themselves to supports. The vines in each of these categories are considered to be self-supporting.

GROUP 1: ROOTLETS

These vines attach themselves to brick, stone or boards by means of rootlets that grow from their stems. These rootlets are like claws that grip any type of rough surface. They do not need any additional form of support. Initially, it is advisable to offer some form of support for the first and second year of development. Most of these vines are rampant growers and are an excellent choice for covering the sides of a house or a wooden fence.

- Trumpet Vine, *Campsis radicans* Full sun
The trumpet vine is native to the southeastern United States and is best suited to the milder parts of Canada. It flowers on new growth with large, trumpet shaped, yellow, orange or scarlet flowers in mid summer. Once established this vine grows rapidly and will need to be pruned. Prune back heavily every spring. Removing flowers before they go to seed will allow the plant to flower even more heavily into late summer. Fertilize in early spring with an all-purpose, 20-20-20 fertilizer to help produce the stems it needs to flower. Avoid using high nitrogen fertilizers. It makes a wonderful screen or privacy vine. Pruning is essential to keep it at bay and to maintain an eye-catching shape.
- Wintercreeper, *Euonymus fortunei* Full sun to full shade
An introduction from Japan, the Wintercreeper is an evergreen vine that prefers a shady location with a Northern or Eastern exposure. Like other evergreens, wintercreeper should have its soil soaked just before the winter. This will provide the plant with adequate supply of moisture for its root system for proper over wintering. Adding a good layer of mulch around the base of the plant ensures moisture retention. There are many varieties of wintercreeper: some are ideally suited as ground cover on banks that are too steep to mow. It can also be used as a wall covering, evergreen screen or low growing hedge. Prune to maintain shape and to encourage new growth in early spring and throughout the summer.
- English Ivy (Baltic or Thorndale), *Hedera helix Baltica/Thorndale* Full sun to full shade
Used as a great ground cover or climbing vine, this evergreen vine can tolerate heavy shade. Like Wintercreeper, it prefers to have its soil moistened prior to winter. Baltic Ivy has a larger leaf and is known to be hardier than other types of evergreen Ivy. Thorndale Ivy has smaller leaves. These forms of English Ivy are quite vigorous and tend to become woodier over time. Pruning on a regular basis allows newer and softer growth to develop, preventing the vine from becoming too unruly.
- Climbing Hydrangea, *Hydrangea anomala petiolaris* Part sun to full shade
Native to Japan and China, the Climbing Hydrangea is considered to be one of the best self-clinging vines. It attaches itself to brick, stonework, walls, arbors, trees and any other freestanding structure with a rough surface. One benefit of this vine is that it becomes quite woody over time strengthening its structure without supports. At first, this vine is very slow to establish, becoming more vigorous over time. Once its roots become fully established this vine will surprise you. It flowers in June when the vine is more mature, with 6 – 10" white blooms that are very showy. Climbing hydrangeas require very little pruning. The most likely type of pruning would eventually be done to restrict its vigour when mature. The removal of broken or old stalks should be done in the spring. Remove the dead flower heads close to the main stems to encourage a second blooming period. It prefers part shade and often does well on the northeast side of a building.

GROUP 2: VINES WITH TENDRILS

Many clinging vines attach themselves by means of a coiling, thread-like growth or tendrils that wrap around whatever support is available. This could be a chain-link fence, latticework or horizontal wires. Some tendrils grow from the stem and some grow from the base.

- Grapes, fruiting and non-fruiting varieties, *Vitaceae* Full sun to part shade
Fruiting and non-fruiting varieties of grape are some of the quickest and most vigorous growers. The fruiting varieties are self-fruiting (they can be planted alone to produce fruit) and are very easy to grow. For these varieties, an arbor or pergola work well so the hanging clusters of fruit can be viewed and enjoyed. For the wild varieties, these vines can cover just about any structure and support. There are native Ontario grape vines that have spectacular red fall colour. Pruning on both varieties should be done in early spring. Cutting back heavily to its woody stocks promotes new flushes of growth that help produce heavy yields of fruit and lush foliage. To enjoy a more bountiful fruit yield, make sure the fruiting varieties are planted in full sun.

- Porcelain Ivy, Ampelopsis Full sun
 This is a less dense vine with foliage very similar to grape vines. Some varieties of porcelain berry have variegated leaves with white – light green highlights. The most attractive part of this flowering vine is its fruit. Berries develop throughout the late summer months, maturing to extraordinary colours, from yellow, to pink, to an amethyst purple and finally, bright blue. Their iridescence and pearl-like qualities are unique from any other fruiting vines. Pruning should take place in early spring so as not to remove flower and fruiting potential. Cut back any straggly, rough foliage towards the base of the stem. This vine flowers on new growth of the season, cutting back heavily in the spring will not impede its flowering. Porcelain Ivy is a self-supporting vine that clings on just about every structure. They are also known for attracting butterflies and bees.
- Virginia Creeper/Engleman's Ivy, Parthenocissus Full sun to full shade
 A very hardy and vigorous growing vine or ground cover composed of five leaflets that make up one main leaf. Both of these varieties are known for their tolerance to shade and poor conditions. The main difference between these two Ivy's is that Engleman's Ivy has smaller leaves and is known to be more tolerant of windier locations. They are both useful for covering steep banks, retaining walls or any structure it can attach its tendrils to. The fall foliage colour for these plants is brilliant red - burgundy. Pruning can be done in any manner and at any time. Star Showers Virginia Creeper is another variety within the Parthenocissus quinquefolia family. It has variegated leaves, green with irregular splashes of white. It needs a sunnier location to keep its variegation. In the fall the leaves turn a pink - red shade.
- Boston Ivy, Parthenocissus tricuspidata Full sun to full shade
 Very similar to Virginia Creeper, Boston Ivy is famous for its quick coverage on the side of a house, wall or fence. Its rich green leaves have a lustrous texture that resemble maple leaves, and the vines growing pattern is clinging and uniform. Pruning can be done early in the spring or throughout the summer months to control its vigorous growth. Cutting this vine back hard will minimize its spread year to year. Its fall colour ranges from deep red to purple. Late in the season, September – October, dark purple – burgundy fruit, a favourite with birds, adorn the vine and remain on the plant into the winter.

GROUP 3: TWINING VINES

This group of vines will twine themselves around lampposts, wires, chain link and wooden fences or arbors. They will not stick to walls or brick buildings unless they have something to climb up. They do make ideal screens on porches and fences. Most twining vines climb counterclockwise, except honeysuckle, hops, and Japanese wisteria.

- Hardy Kiwi, Actinidia kolomikta Full sun
 A fruiting vine, whose fruit is known to make wonderful preserves, baked goods, wines and more. Kiwi vines are either male or female. The female produces fruit only if there is a male pollinator. The 'Issai' hardy variety is the exception and does not need a pollinator. Proper pollination is important for large and heavier fruit yields. Male and female plants should be within 100 feet of each other, preferably closer, with no obstructions, or other flowering plants to interrupt bee's flight. One male can pollinate up to eight females. It is the male Kiwi vine that has the interesting foliage colour when the leaves are young. The new leaves have a white - pink blotch on their tips giving it a distinctive quality from afar. Kiwi vines take some care in pruning and support, but are otherwise easy to grow. Prune back 1/3 to 1/2 of the vine every year in the spring towards the main stem. The Hardy Kiwi develops its flowers and fruit on new growth put on every year. They grow best onto trellises and arbors.
- Akebia Vine or Five-Leaf Akebia, Akebia quinata Full sun to part shade
 A vigorous grower, this vine can twine itself around any structure. Be sure when planting to give it a lot of room. Also known also as the Chocolate Vine because of its coloured fruit, which ranges in colour from chocolate brown to dark purple. Another attractive feature is its very unique and attractive flowers that are unlike any other vine. The flowers bloom in early April and range in colour from purple to dark red-brown. This vine is known for its adaptability. It can grow in either sun or shade and it tolerates many types of soil. It is necessary to prune back this vine heavily in the spring and throughout the summer to keep it in check and prevent it from choking off other plants in the garden. Prune 1/3 back to main stems. Be sure to remove broken, damaged and older branches after flowering.
- Dutchman's Pipe, Aristolochia macrophylla Full sun to part shade
 This vine is the vine you want to choose when looking to create a screen. Its large heart shaped, green leaves produce a solid screen in one season. Slow growing when first planted, once established it will provide a shaded sitting area for hot summer days. Prune readily if the vine gets out of control in early spring. This vine can be pruned back to its main stock year to year and will regenerate itself quickly to cover any structure. Remove older stems to encourage younger growth every spring.

- American Bittersweet Vine, *Celastrus scandens* Full sun to part shade
 Bittersweet is a fast growing vine renowned for its colourful fruit in late summer - early fall that split open in late fall exposing red and orange coated seeds. When grown on the side of a building it needs pruning and tied support. It also makes an excellent cover for low stonewalls. Bittersweet vines have separate sexes; some plants are male others are female. Although all vines will produce foliage and flowers, only pollinated females will produce berries, therefore it is essential to have male and females planted in close pollinating proximity (a few yards). Pruning is necessary to keep it under control, and it is best to prune it in early spring when the vine is dormant. It blooms and fruits on new growth, pruning it back to its main stem will not impede its flowering and fruiting. A special feature about this vine is its use for dried cuttings. Its berries are very attractive and hold on to the vine for long periods. NOTE: the berries of the Bittersweet vine are POISONOUS.
- Hop Vine, *Humulus lupulus* Full sun to part shade
 One of the most vigorous twining vines, used as a fast growing ground cover or for a screen or for a fence. Its fruit is known for its use in brewing beer. This is an herbaceous vine, which dies back to the ground in the fall and grows back in the spring. If planted in a confined space pruning must be done on a constant basis throughout the summer because it grows rampantly. Leave the vine to wilt overwinter. Its foliage and growth habit will provide winter protection for its roots and a hint of winter interest in your garden. In the spring remove unwanted material and clean up the area by the roots to expose its buds on the ground. In approximately a month the vine will rapidly regenerate.
- Honeysuckle, *Lonicera* Full sun to part shade
 There are several varieties of Honeysuckle vines with various flower and leaf colours. Colours range from white to bright red. Their fragrant flowers bloom in early spring to late summer depending on the variety. They are long and tubular and are favourites among humming birds. There are honeysuckle's that are right for any location. Some prefer full sun others can tolerate a fair amount of shade. These vines can cover fences, arbors, stumps and many freestanding structures. Prune heavily after they have flowered, primarily during the summer months to keep the vine from growing wild and to encourage a possible extended flowering period.
- Silver Lace Vine, *Polygonum aubertii* Full sun to part shade
 This is one of the fastest growing vines, known for its delicate, lacy white flowers and adaptability. It will cover trellises, arbors, fences and other freestanding structures within a season. It tolerates full sun to partial shade and does well in any soil. Fertilizing every spring will encourage this vine to cover structures more aggressively. This vine is used where few other vines will grow. Prune back heavily in spring to encourage more flowers and softer, fuller growth. Cut back several branches and stems to its main stock. It grows back rather aggressively in a short period of time.
- Wisteria, *floribunda* and *sinensis* Full sun
 Wisteria is considered to be one of the most beautiful twining vines when in full flower. There are two main varieties of Wisteria, Japanese and Chinese. The main difference between the two species is the way they twine up a support. Chinese twines counterclockwise, where as Japanese twines clockwise. It flowers in late April early May in long grape like pedicels. Their colours range from white to dark purple and are slightly fragrant. It can be grown against walls, over fences, pergolas, over arches or patios. They have a tendency not to flower unless judicious pruning is done on a yearly basis.
 Look for our Plant World Care Sheet on Wisteria, on our website, for further information on pruning and fertilizing.
- Clematis Full sun to part shade, variety dependant
 Clematis fall under their own category for their unique method of attaching themselves to freestanding structures. Their leaves have what is known as twining petioles (a stem that is attached to the leaf) that coils around anything it can attach itself to. They climb best on chain link fences, on other shrubs, trellises, arbours and anything its leaves can twine around. Clematis are some of the most beautiful flowering vines, with flowers ranging in size from a 1" to 10" in diameter. There are several varieties that need special pruning techniques and practices.
 Look for our Plant World Care Sheet on Clematis, on our website, for further information on flowering groups, and pruning practices.