



GREEN SPRING GARDENS

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RECOMMENDED HARDY AND TENDER VINES FOR THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Vines are climbing or trailing plants that beautify the landscape while taking up little space. Vines can be used solely for their ornamental value, such as highlighting an attractive trellis or tripod. They can be used for more utilitarian purposes, such as a screen to help provide privacy or to block undesirable views. They can provide shade on such structures as arbors.

Vines support themselves in two ways:

- Twining - the main stem or tendrils twine around supporting structures
- Clinging - aerial rootlets or adhesive disks attach to supporting structures.

Climbing roses, although not true vines, are sometimes treated as such when their long canes are tied to supports.

Twining vines can be easily grown on trellises and wire fences. Clinging vines can be grown on brick or stone walls and tree trunks. Do not grow clinging vines on houses with wooden siding because the siding will rot.

The following are useful definitions:

- Cultivar (cv.) - a cultivated variety designated by single quotes, such as 'Tangerine Beauty'.
- Full sun – six hours or more of sunlight daily
- Full Shade - the amount of light under a dense deciduous tree canopy or beneath evergreens.
- Part Shade - the amount of light in an area shaded part of the day, among deciduous trees with high branches, among deciduous trees with foliage that is not heavy, or among thinned deciduous woods.

The following is a list of woody and herbaceous vines that perform well in the Washington, D.C. area. Herbaceous plants are noted, and whether a woody plant is deciduous, semi-evergreen, or evergreen is noted. Most hardy vines prefer a moist, well-drained site. Light requirements, any special cultural requirements or tolerances, and additional information are listed in the comments column.

The listed tender vines are all herbaceous plants. Tender vines generally need full sun in a moist, rich site to perform well. Tender vines should be planted after May 1 and are killed

by hard frost in the fall, so they need to be replanted yearly unless they reseed.

Species that are native to Virginia are marked with an asterisk (*) and highlighted in red. Native plant species are suitable for **naturalistic use**: examples include informally-designed gardens that suggest a natural landscape and the restoration of native plant communities.

[Gold Medal Plant Awards are given annually by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to underused woody plants that perform especially well in gardens from New York City to Washington, D.C.]

Exotic invasive vines are a serious threat to natural areas and native plant communities and should not be grown in gardens. Exotic invasive vines still sold in the nursery trade are listed at the bottom of this document, including English ivy, fiveleaf akebia, wintercreeper euonymus, and Asian wisteria species.

A. Hardy Vines

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i> * (<i>A. durior</i>)	Pipevine, Dutchman's Pipe	Full sun to part shade; twining; deciduous. Butterfly plant – host plant for pipevine swallowtail.
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i> * (‘Atrosanguinea’, ‘Dragon Lady’ [Gold Medal Award]), & ‘Tangerine Beauty’	Crossvine	Full sun to light shade; twining; semi-evergreen to evergreen; tolerates dry sites
<i>Campsis radicans</i> * Note: <i>C. grandiflora</i> ‘Morning Calm’ won a Gold Medal Award but we have not evaluated it at Green Spring. Green Spring grows a hybrid between these species, <i>C. x tagliabuana</i> ‘Madame Galen’.	Common Trumpet creeper	Full sun to light shade; clinging (strong support needed – also suckers profusely); deciduous; tolerates dry sites
<i>Celastrus scandens</i> *	American Bittersweet	Full sun to light shade; twining; deciduous; tolerates dry sites Note: The Asian species <i>C. orbiculatus</i> (oriental bittersweet) is an exotic invasive & much more widely seen in the wild.

<p><i>Clematis</i> hybrids: 'Betty Corning' [Gold Medal Award], 'Etoile Violette', <i>C. x jackmanii</i>, 'Nelly Moser', 'Polish Spirit', 'The President', & 'Zoin' are some cultivars that have performed well locally.</p> <p>'Roguchi' ('Rooguchi') is a short climber that is very dense – one parent is a herbaceous perennial clematis.</p>	<p>Clematis</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade; twining (nice on large shrubs & small trees); deciduous</p> <p>Note: <i>C. x jouiniana</i> 'Praecox' – herbaceous but vine-like. Small flowered; tough but less showy than 'Roguchi'.</p>
<p>Native clematis: <i>Clematis crispa</i>* <i>C. glaucophylla</i>* <i>C. viorna</i>*</p> <p>Note: <i>C. pitcheri</i> (native to TN, KY, & south central U.S.)</p>	<p>Swamp Leather Flower Whiteleaf Leather Flower Vasevine Bluebill</p>	<p><i>C. crispa</i> reseeds readily. The other native species reseed far less.</p>
<p><i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>* ['Margarita' – Gold Medal Award] & 'Pride of Augusta' ('Plena')</p>	<p>Carolina Yellow Jessamine</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade; twining; evergreen; tolerates dry sites</p>
<p><i>Hydrangea anomala</i> (<i>H. anomala</i> subsp. <i>petiolaris</i>; also once <i>H. petiolaris</i>)</p>	<p>Climbing Hydrangea</p>	<p>Full sun to part shade; clinging; deciduous</p>
<p><i>Lonicera heckrottii</i></p> <p><i>L. sempervirens</i>* & cultivars: 'Cedar Lane' (red & yellow flowered like species type) & 'John Clayton'* (yellow flowered & was found in VA - longer bloom period than 'Sulphurea' or forma <i>sulphurea</i>)</p>	<p>Everblooming Honeysuckle Trumpet Honeysuckle</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade; twining; deciduous to semi-evergreen; tolerate dry sites</p>
<p><i>Mikania scandens</i>* (herbaceous)</p>	<p>Climbing Hempweed</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade in moist to wet sites for naturalistic use – may attract adult butterflies; twining</p>

<p><i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>*</p> <p><i>P. tricuspidata</i> ('Veitchii')</p>	<p>Virginia Creeper</p> <p>Boston Ivy</p>	<p>Full sun to full shade; clinging; deciduous; tolerates dry sites; best for naturalistic use due to vigor – excellent wildlife plant as well; reseeds readily</p> <p>Full sun to full shade; clinging; deciduous; tolerates dry sites.</p> <p>Note: 'Veitchii' has not reseeded at Green Spring, but the species has naturalized in MD, KY, & NC – keep away from natural areas.</p>
<p><i>Passiflora lutea</i>* (herbaceous)</p> <p>Note: <i>P. incarnata</i>* is harder to grow in our area (herbaceous)</p>	<p>Yellow Passionflower</p> <p>Purple Passionflower</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade; twining; tolerates dry sites; suckers & reseeds readily when happy – best for naturalistic use</p> <p>Full sun; twining; tolerates dry sites; suckers profusely when happy – best for naturalistic use</p>
<p><i>Rosa</i> 'Dortmund', 'New Dawn', & 'William Baffin' (denser & more shrub-like)</p> <p>Note: 'Dr. Van Fleet' performs well but flowers once a year</p>	<p>Climbing Roses</p>	<p>Full sun; these climbing roses are repeat bloomers & disease resistant; deciduous</p>
<p><i>Schizophragma hydrangeoides</i> ['Moonlight' – Gold Medal Award]</p> <p>Note: <i>S. integrifolium</i> is also a lovely vine (larger leaves)</p>	<p>Japanese Hydrangea-vine</p> <p>Chinese Hydrangea-vine</p>	<p>Light shade to part shade in a consistently moist site; clinging; deciduous</p> <p>Connoisseur plants due to higher than average moisture requirements.</p>
<p><i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>* cultivars such as 'Cowart' (most need a pollinator for fruit but 'Ison's Muscadine' is an exception – it is self-fertile).</p> <p>The highly disease resistant wine grape 'Villard Blanc'</p> <p>Other native grapes such as <i>V. vulpina</i>* are best for naturalistic use.</p>	<p>Muscadine Grape</p> <p>Villard Blanc Grape</p> <p>Frost Grape</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade best; twining; deciduous; grow on structures or large trees because of rapid growth (pruning needed for best fruit production); tolerate dry sites. Native grapes generally reseed readily.</p>

<i>Wisteria frutescens</i> * [Amethyst Falls' – Gold Medal Award]	American Wisteria, Atlantic Wisteria	Full sun; twining; deciduous; Note: Asian species are exotic invasives in VA
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B. TENDER VINES (ALL HERBACEOUS)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Asarina scandens</i>	Twining Snapdragon	Full sun; twining
<i>Dolichos lablab</i> (<i>Lablab purpureus</i>)	Hyacinth Bean	Full sun & prefers moist sites (doesn't bloom well in some locations in some years); not edible – toxic in large amounts; twining
<i>Ipomoea lobata</i> (<i>Mina lobata</i>) <i>I. quamoclit</i> <i>I. x multifida</i>	Crimson Starglory Vine Cypress Vine Cardinal Climber Moonflower	Full sun; none of these species are invasive; twining. Some reseeding for <i>I. quamoclit</i> (especially 'Alba', the white flowered cultivar).
<i>Ipomoea pandurata</i> * is a beautiful hardy vine (herbaceous) but unavailable commercially.	Wild Potato Vine	
<i>Thunbergia alata</i>	Black-eyed Susan Vine	Full sun; reseeds in some sites; twining

Exotic Invasive Species Available in the Nursery Trade (Heavy Reseeding In Our Region):

***Akebia quinata* (Fiveleaf Akebia)** – VA exotic invasive list

***Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* (Porcelain Berry – 'Variegata')** is available from mail order nurseries) – VA exotic invasive list

***Cardiospermum halicacabum* (Balloon Vine)** – VA exotic invasive list

***Clematis terniflora* (Sweet Autumn Clematis)** – naturalized throughout VA & hard to kill once you have it

***Euonymus fortunei* (Wintercreeper Euonymus)** – VA exotic invasive list. Both a vine & a groundcover.

***Hedera helix* (English ivy)** – VA exotic invasive list. Both a vine & a groundcover.

***Ipomoea coccinea* (Red Morning Glory)** – VA exotic invasive list

***Ipomoea purpurea* (Tall Morning Glory; cultivars are just as invasive as the species) -**
VA exotic invasive list

***Lonicera japonica* 'Halliana' (Hall's Honeysuckle – a cultivar of Japanese Honeysuckle;**
still available from mail order nurseries) – VA exotic invasive list. Both a vine & a
groundcover.

***Wisteria sinensis* (Chinese wisteria) & *W. floribunda* (Japanese wisteria) – VA exotic**
invasive list

A Note About Naturalized Plants and Exotic Invasive Plants:

Naturalized plants are non-native plants which have succeeded in reproducing and
spreading to a limited extent on their own. Most naturalized plants are not a serious
threat to native species or to native plant communities. Naturalized non-native plant
species in our region are noted in the **USDA PLANTS Database**
(<http://plants.usda.gov/>).

A small percentage of naturalized plants become invasive. Exotic invasive plants
reproduce quickly, displace native plant species, and are difficult to eradicate. The
Division of Natural Heritage in the Virginia Department of Conservation and
Recreation lists exotic invasive plant species in Virginia on their website
(http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/documents/invlist.pdf).

A Note about Scientific Names:

Current names are from the **International Plant Names Index** (IPNI;
www.ipni.org/index.html) and/or the **USDA PLANTS Database** (<http://plants.usda.gov/>; this
website also has many photographs of native plants). If a second scientific name is given, it
is usually an old name that is still seen in some references or used by some nurseries. The
Missouri Botanical Garden is also an excellent reference for plant names, gardening
information, and photographs: the **Kemper Center for Home Gardening Plantfinder**
features plants in their Kemper Center display gardens and is one of my favorite websites
about ornamental plants
(www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/alpha.asp). Another resource is their plant
name database for plants throughout the world at **w³TROPICOS**
(<http://mobot.mobot.org/W3T/Search/vast.html>).

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