



GREEN SPRING GARDENS

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

Vines are climbing or trailing plants that beautify the landscape. 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 growing them on an arbor or a trellis to help block undesirable views and to provide shade.

Vines support themselves in two ways: -

- Twining - the main stem or tendrils twine around supporting structures. Twining vines can be easily grown on trellises and wire fences.
- Clinging - aerial rootlets or adhesive disks attach to supporting structures. Clinging vines can be grown on brick or stone walls and tree trunks. Do not grow clinging vines on structures with wooden siding because the siding will rot.

The following are useful definitions:

- Cultivar (cv.) - a cultivated variety designated by single quotes, such as 'The President'.
- Full Sun – six hours or more of sunlight daily
- 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 and any special cultural requirements or tolerances are listed in the comments column. Recommended cultivars are noted, including Gold Medal Award winners [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.].

Species that are native to Virginia are marked with an asterisk (*); most hardy vines on this information sheet are natives. Native plant species are also suitable for naturalistic use: examples include informally-designed gardens that suggest a natural landscape and the restoration of native plant communities.

Invasive non-native vines are a serious threat to natural areas and native plant communities and should not be grown in gardens. Below the tender vine section there is a list of non-native vines with invasive tendencies that are still sold in the nursery trade: the species should not be grown and should be removed whenever possible.

A. Hardy Native Vines

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<p><i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i>*</p> <p>Note: The Flora of Virginia lists under <i>Isotrema macrophyllum</i>, but not the preferred scientific name</p>	Pipevine, Dutchman's Pipe	Full sun to part shade; twining; deciduous. Butterfly plant – host plant for pipevine swallowtail. Yellow-green flowers with brownish purple coloring in the center – interesting blooms in May & early June.
<p><i>Bignonia capreolata</i>*</p> <p>(‘Atrosanguinea’, ‘Dragon Lady’ [Gold Medal Award]), & ‘Tangerine Beauty’</p>	Crossvine	Full sun to light shade. Vigorous spreading habit so best for attentive gardeners (limit spread by growing in dry sites); twining; semi-evergreen to evergreen. Orange or red flowers in April & May & light rebloom later (some forms have a yellow eye). Hummingbird plant.
<p><i>Campsis radicans</i>*</p> <p>(‘Crimson Trumpet’ – good bloomer)</p> <p>‘Madame Galen’ - hybrid between the above species & a non-native (<i>C. grandiflora</i>) – good bloomer</p>	Trumpet Creeper, Trumpet Vine	Full sun to bloom well (does not bloom in dry, shady locations at Green Spring – even in light shade); clinging (strong support needed – also suckers profusely); deciduous; tolerates dry sites. Orange or red flowers in the summer. Hummingbird plant.
<p><i>Clematis</i> hybrids: ‘Alionushka’, ‘Betty Corning’ [Gold Medal Award], ‘Etoile Violette’, <i>C. × jackmanii</i>, ‘Nelly Moser’, ‘Polish Spirit’, ‘The President’, & ‘Zoin’ are some cultivars that have performed well locally (many more likely to perform well).</p> <p>‘Rooguchi’ (‘Roguchi’) is a short climber that is very dense – one parent is a herbaceous perennial clematis.</p>	Clematis	Full sun to light shade; twining (nice on structures & on large shrubs & small trees); deciduous. Grown for beautiful flowers in May through October (some bloom longer than others) – many colors and sizes available.

<p>Native clematis: <i>Clematis crispa</i>*</p> <p><i>C. glaucophylla</i>* (not in the <i>Flora of Virginia</i> - native to TN & other southeastern states; thought to have been wiped out in Virginia)</p> <p><i>C. pitcheri</i> (native to TN, KY, & south central U.S.)</p> <p><i>C. viorna</i>*</p>	<p>Swamp Leatherflower</p> <p>Whiteleaf Leatherflower</p> <p>Bluebill Clematis</p> <p>Vasevine, Northern Leatherflower</p>	<p><i>C. crispa</i> reseeds readily & hybridizes with other species. Other native species seem to reseed less readily. <i>C. virginiana</i> (Virgin's Bower) has been slow to bloom at Green Spring & white flowers so not as showy.</p> <p>Bloom late May through October, depending on the species, the location, & the year.</p>
<p><i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>* ['Margarita' – Gold Medal Award]</p>	<p>Yellow Jessamine, Carolina Jessamine</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade; twining; evergreen; tolerates dry sites. Grown for evergreen foliage & golden flowers with a subtle fragrance March - May. Can attract hummingbirds.</p>
<p><i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>* - cultivars include 'Cedar Lane' (red & yellow flowers like species type). Yellow-flowered cultivars also available (not as showy).</p> <p>Note: 'Dropmore Scarlet' - hybrid of <i>L. sempervirens</i> & <i>L. hirsuta</i> (native to PA & other northern states) – long period of light rebloom at Green Spring & the hardiest form up north (blooms even in warm periods of winter above wall in Vista Garden)</p> <p><i>L. heckrottii</i> (one of parents is <i>L. sempervirens</i> - grown for yellow & pink flowers in spring)</p>	<p>Trumpet Honeysuckle</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade; twining; deciduous to semi-evergreen; tolerate dry sites. Grown for flowers March – May with light rebloom. Attract hummingbirds.</p>
<p><i>Passiflora lutea</i>* (herbaceous)</p> <p>Note: <i>P. incarnata</i>* (Purple Passionflower; herbaceous) - not nearly as hardy (winter kills in some sites in colder winters) & likes sandier soil. Emerges late. It can become rather weedy – best trained on trees or structures like fences. Bumble bees love it (summer & fall bloom).</p>	<p>Yellow Passionflower</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade; twining; tolerates dry sites; suckers & reseeds readily when happy – best for naturalistic use. Grown for small yellow flowers in late June into fall. Attractive foliage. Emerges late.</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 disease resistant wine grape 'Villard Blanc'</p> <p>Other native grapes such as <i>V. vulpina</i>* are best for naturalistic use (species tougher than cultivars in unusually cold winters).</p>	<p>Muscadine Grape</p> <p>Villard Blanc Grape</p> <p>Frost Grape</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade best (wild grapes can grow in shade); 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. Grown for attractive foliage & fruit – native species are especially valuable to wildlife.</p>
<p><i>Wisteria frutescens</i>* [Amethyst Falls' – Gold Medal Award]</p>	<p>American Wisteria, Atlantic Wisteria</p>	<p>Full sun; vigorous; twining; deciduous. Grown for attractive foliage & mildly fragrant flowers – blooms in May (lilac flowers for species type & some cultivars are white).</p> <p>Note: Asian species, hybrids, & cultivars are invasive in Virginia.</p>

Native Vines Mostly for Naturalistic Use:

*Celastrus scandens** (American Bittersweet) - orange & red fruit on plants with female flowers if pollinated by a plant with male flowers (some plants have both sexes). Our plants at Green Spring never fruited & were removed (probably did not have had both sexes). In contrast, the Asian species *C. orbiculatus* (oriental bittersweet) is an invasive & is widely seen in this region – hybrids of the two species have occurred at Green Spring (the *Flora of Virginia* says the native species is infrequent to rare in the Piedmont & Coastal Plain). -

*Ipomoea pandurata** (Wild Potato Vine; herbaceous)- beautiful hardy herbaceous vine but - unavailable commercially. White flowers with a red eye from August into the fall. Survives in - dry sites but blooms better in sites with more moisture. Emerges late. -

*Mikania scandens** (Climbing Hempweed; herbaceous) - Full sun to light shade in moist to wet sites for naturalistic use – twining. Spring bloom. -

*Parthenocissus quinquefolia** (Virginia Creeper) - Full sun to full shade; clinging; deciduous; - tolerates dry sites; mostly for naturalistic use due to vigor – grown for excellent wildlife value - (fruit), attractive foliage, & red or purple fall color. Reseeds readily. -

Note about Rose Rosette Disease and Climbing Roses (*Rosa*):

Although non-native climbing roses are not true vines, they are sometimes treated as such when their long canes are tied to supports. Disease resistant cultivars of roses that are grown as climbers include 'Dortmund', 'Dr. Van Fleet', 'New Dawn', 'Sombreuil', & 'William Baffin'. However, **rose rosette disease** is caused by a virus that is very destructive to roses & infected plants need to be removed – **sterilize the blade of any tools used to cut down these plants with rubbing alcohol to avoid spreading the virus to other roses**. This disease is spread by a tiny mite that was introduced to provide biological control of multiflora rose, an invasive species. Green Spring has had several rose cultivars get this disease, and it eventually spreads to the entire plant (for further details see the Virginia Cooperative Extension website at <http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/450/450-620/450-620.html>).

B. NON-NATIVE TENDER VINES

The listed tender vines are herbaceous plants that bloom in the summer and fall. Tender vines generally need full sun in moist sites to perform well. Tender vines should usually be planted after May 1 and are killed by hard frost in the fall. There is little or no reseeding of the listed plants.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Asarina scandens</i>	Twining Snapdragon	Full sun; twining
<i>Ipomoea quamoclit</i> (red flowers for species type)	Cypress Vine	Full sun; none of these species are invasive; twining. The most reseeding for <i>I. quamoclit</i> 'Alba' (harder to get rid of & doesn't attract hummingbirds)
<i>I. multifida</i> (<i>I. × multifida</i> ; one parent is the above; red flowers)	Cardinal Climber	The red-flowered species type of <i>I. quamoclit</i> is the most attractive to hummingbirds.
Note: <i>I. alba</i> (Moonflower) has beautiful white flowers when well grown but needs consistently moist soil to perform well.		
<i>Thunbergia alata</i> & cultivars	Black-Eyed Susan Vine	Full sun; reseeds in some sites; twining

Invasive Non-Native Vines Available in the Nursery Trade (Heavy Reseeding And/ Or Aggressive Spreading In Our Region)

Marked with (VA List) if on the Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia list - (http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/documents/invlist.pdf). If not on the official list then - other information is given. Best to remove & do not purchase: -

Akebia quinata (Fiveleaf Akebia) (VA List)

Ampelopsis brevipedunculata (Porcelain Berry; 'Variegata' is sometimes sold) (VA List)

Clematis terniflora (Sweet Autumn Clematis) – naturalized throughout VA (described as being frequent in the *Flora of Virginia* & serious problem in MD also; high reseeding rate in moist to wet areas) -

Euonymus fortunei (Wintercreeper Euonymus) – a vine & a groundcover (VA List)

Hedera helix (English Ivy) – a vine & a groundcover (VA List)

Ipomoea coccinea (Red Morning Glory) & *I. purpurea* (Purple Morning Glory; cultivars are just as invasive as the species)(VA List)

Lonicera japonica & 'Halliana' (Japanese Honeysuckle – 'Halliana' is sometimes sold) – a vine & a groundcover (VA List)

Wisteria sinensis (Chinese Wisteria), *W. floribunda* (Japanese Wisteria), & hybrids (VA List)

Scientific Names Of Plants - current names are from:

- **Encyclopedia of Life** (<http://eol.org/>) – institutional partners include Harvard University, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Smithsonian Institution, and The Field Museum.
- **Tropicos** from the Missouri Botanical Garden (<http://tropicos.org/>)

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. However, sometimes the above databases do not agree on names.

Other References:

Flora of Virginia. Alan Weakley, J. Christopher Ludwig, and John Townsend. 2012. BRIT Press. Botanical Research Institute of Texas. In addition to natives, it lists invasives and their

distribution in Virginia.

The **Kemper Center for Home Gardening Plantfinder** at the Missouri Botanical Garden is an excellent reference for plant names, gardening information, and photographs (<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>). It features plants in their Kemper Center display gardens and is an excellent website about ornamental plants.

The Lady Bird Wildflower Center at the University of Texas in Austin has developed the **Native Plant Information Network** for native plants (www.wildflower.org/explore/).

USDA PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov/>) - this database focuses on plants native to the U.S. and to U.S. Territories and Protectorates, as well as naturalized non-natives and invasives. It is also used to determine distribution within Virginia by county.

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