

# Vines in Your Landscape

Woody vines serve important purposes in our landscapes. They can be used effectively to soften walls, absorb sound, camouflage fences, serve as privacy screens, as well as add color and interest to your garden. They also add form and a vertical element to a landscape to create more interest.

When selecting a vine, keep in mind its intended use, location, soil adaptability, and type of support. Choose a vine that is appropriate for the space available. For the most part, woody vines can be treated similarly to deciduous shrubs. They are planted in the same manner and will benefit from mulch over the roots. They require supplemental watering when first planted as well as fertilizer based on soil conditions.

**Types of vines:** Vines cling by tendrils, by twining, or by clinging. These three types of climbing methods determine the kind of support the vine will need.

- \* **Tendrils** are slim, flexible, leafless stems that wrap themselves around anything they contact. Vines that use tendrils to climb will need supports such as wire or thin wood stakes.
- \* **Twining** vines wind their stems around any available support. Twining vines climb best on trellises, pergolas, and arbors. Vine supports should be constructed with sturdy, durable materials.
- \* **Clinging** vines climb by attaching small root-like holdfasts to walls, trees, or other rough surfaces. They can be used on either brick or masonry walls, but should never be used on frame buildings as they may damage the wood.

**Pruning Woody Vines:** Most woody vines require little or no pruning, although many benefit from annual pruning of older woods to encourage new leaf and flower-bearing growth. If not maintained, some woody vines will develop thick trunk-like stems that will not produce foliage, flowers, or fruit. The best time to prune depends on when the vine flowers. Spring-flowering vines are usually pruned after they finish flowering, while most other vines are pruned during the dormant season.

A sampling of the vines that Johnson's carries include:

- Wisteria (*Wisteria spp.*) – twining, deciduous – lilac or white flowers – full sun
- Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) – twining, evergreen – yellow flowers – sun to light shade
- Climbing Hydrangea (*Hydrangea anomala*) – clinging, deciduous – white flowers – part shade
- Cross Vine (*Bignonia capreolata*) – clinging, evergreen – Orange Flowers – Sun or Shade
- English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) – clinging, evergreen – no flowers – sun or shade
- Fiveleaf Akebia (*Akebia quinata*) – twining, evergreen – white flowers - sun or shade
- Honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*) – twining, deciduous – yellow, orange or red flowers – full to part sun
- Trumpet Vine (*Campsis radicans*) – clinging, deciduous – orange flowers – full sun
- Winter Creeper (*Euonymus fortunei*) - clinging, evergreen – no flowers – sun or shade

WASHINGTON, DC  
4200 Wisconsin Ave, NW  
at Van Ness St

www.johnsonsfloorists.com  
KENSINGTON, MD  
10313 Kensington Pkwy  
next to the Post Office

OLNEY, MD  
5011 Olney-Laytonsville Rd  
Rt 108 and Zion Rd

