Alpine Clematis

Clematis alpina



Alpine Clematis flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3b

Description:

One of the most dainty and elegant flowering climbers, this variety features an abundance of nodding, bell-shaped, blue flowers with butter centers; brings great interest to trellises and fences

Ornamental Features

Alpine Clematis features bold nodding blue bell-shaped flowers with buttery yellow eyes at the ends of the branches from mid spring to early summer, which emerge from distinctive plum purple flower buds. It has green deciduous foliage. The pointy compound leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Alpine Clematis is a multi-stemmed deciduous woody vine with a twining and trailing habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance woody vine. It is a Type 1 clematis, meaning that it flowers on old wood of the previous season; other than trimming off obvious dieback in spring, it should only be pruned where necessary immediately after flowering. It is a good choice for attracting hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Alpine Clematis is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

170 S River Rd (US 45)
Des Plaines IL 60016

phone: 847-299-1300
web: www.pesches.com

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Planting & Growing

Alpine Clematis will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. As a climbing vine, it tends to be leggy near the base and should be underplanted with low-growing facer plants. It should be planted near a fence, trellis or other landscape structure where it can be trained to grow upwards on it, or allowed to trail off a retaining wall or slope. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This woody vine does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.

Alpine Clematis makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.