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clematis



Photo: Roseville Farms

BOTANICAL NAME

Clematis spp.

(KLEM-uh-tis, kluh-MAT-us)

COMMON NAMES

Virgin's bower, Traveler's joy, Leather flower, Vase vine

DESCRIPTION

Most *Clematis* blooms range from about 3 to 8 inches in diameter, but there are also smaller cluster-flowered types, which are about 1 inch to 2 inches in diameter.

Single-flowered varieties usually have four to eight petal-like sepals and open flat. Double and semidouble varieties can have as many as 18 or more sepals and, while still flat, are a bit "fluffier."

The stamens in the centers are typically spiny and sea-urchinlike and span the color spectrum from white to creamy white to greenish-tinged white, pale yellow to golden yellow and red to dark maroon.

Clematis stems, which are cut at about 30 inches in length, are thin, green and pliant yet hardy when young and turn woody as they mature.

COLORS

Hues include blue, navy blue, indigo blue, blue-violet, lavender, lilac, purple, red-violet, mauve, pale pink, deep pink, red, yellow-orange, cream, white and bicolors (which generally have striped petals).

VASE LIFE

With proper care from farm to florist, cut *Clematis*s can last from seven to 10 days at the consumer level. Recutting the stems and changing the flower-food solution every two or three days can increase the vase life up to two weeks. Note, however, that vase life varies among cultivars; some varieties last longer than others.

AVAILABILITY

Cut *Clematis*s currently are available from February through September, with peak months being April, May, June and July.

vase-life extenders

IMMEDIATE ATTENTION Unpack *Clematis*s immediately upon arrival in your store; getting these flowers into water quickly is one key to a long vase life. Remove any stem bindings as well as any foliage that

would be under water in storage containers. Rinse stems under cool to lukewarm running water.

Some cut *Clematis* growers suggest leaving these flowers in their packing sleeves until they are arranged or sold to avoid bruising the buds and blooms. If you do this, however, don't crowd bunches in storage containers or crowd storage containers in the cooler so that air can circulate among the bunches.

STEM CUTTING Recut the stems at an angle with a sharp blade, removing at least 1 inch of stem. Do not crush, burn or boil stems.

HYDRATION AND NUTRITION Immediately dip or place them into a hydration solution, then into storage containers partially filled with properly proportioned flower-food solution prepared with cold water.

REFRIGERATION After processing, place *Clematis*s into a floral cooler at 36 F to 40 F, and allow them to hydrate for at least two hours before using or selling them.

CARE EXTRA To maximize vase life of these cut flowers, change the flower-food solution and recut stem ends every other day or so. This will limit microbial growth in containers, reducing the possibility of bacteria clogging stems and restricting solution uptake.

purchasing tips

- Cut *Clematis*s typically have one bloom per stem, but they also can yield one or two buds. The main flower bud on each stem should be mature but unopened at the time of purchase.
- These flowers are commonly sold in 10-stem bunches.

design tip

Most growers of cut *Clematis*s report that these flowers fare best when arranged in vases, without the aid of floral foam.

fun facts

WHAT'S IN A NAME The genus name "*Clematis*" is from the Greek word *klematis*, for vine or climbing plant.

FAMILY MATTERS *Clematis* is a member of the *Ranunculaceae* (buttercup/crowfoot) family. Close relatives include buttercup (*Ranunculus*), *Anemone*, columbine (*Aquilegia*), *Helleborus*, love-in-a-mist (*Nigella*), *Delphinium*, larkspur (*Consolida*) and monkshood (*Aconitum*).

HOME SWEET HOME *Clematis*s are originally native to China and Japan.

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Do you need a quick and easy reference for information about other cut flowers?



Designed to fit on your countertop, desk or design bench, **Flower Flip — A Guide to 50 Favorite Flowers** provides information on care, vase life, availability, pronunciation and more in a handy 5.5" x 6.5" flip-chart format.

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cut flower of the month

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'Alabast'
Chalk Hill Clematis



'Arctic Queen'
Chalk Hill Clematis



'Snow Queen'
Roseville Farms



'Candida'
Roseville Farms



'Fuyu-No-Tabi'
Roseville Farms



'Henryi' (C. Henryi)
Roseville Farms



'Ice Blue'
Chalk Hill Clematis



'Claire de Lune'
Chalk Hill Clematis



'Gillian Blades'
Chalk Hill Clematis



'Louise Rowe'
Chalk Hill Clematis



'Silver Moon'
Chalk Hill Clematis



'Sizaia Ptitsa'
Chalk Hill Clematis



'Petit Faucon'
Chalk Hill Clematis



'Haku Ookan'
Chalk Hill Clematis



'The President'
Chalk Hill Clematis



'Reiman'
Roseville Farms



'Marie Louise Jensen'
Roseville Farms



'Climador'
Roseville Farms



'Blue Pirouette'
Chalk Hill Clematis



C. x durandii
Chalk Hill Clematis



'Elsa Spaeth' /
'Elsa Späth'
Chalk Hill Clematis



'H.F. Young'
Roseville Farms



'Multi Blue'
Chalk Hill Clematis



'Shikou'
Roseville Farms



'Fireworks'
Roseville Farms



'Nelly Moser'
Roseville Farms



'Proteus'
Roseville Farms



'Little Duckling' / 'Piilu'
Roseville Farms



'Carnaby'
Roseville Farms



'Asao'
Roseville Farms



'Inspiration'
Chalk Hill Clematis



'Pink Champagne' /
'Kakio'
Chalk Hill Clematis



'Ville de Lyon'
Chalk Hill Clematis



'Ruutel'
Roseville Farms



'Huvi'
Roseville Farms



'Niobe'
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