

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

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Handyman half-bath makeover ... read on Page OH4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Social Climbers

By Cynthia Brian



Purple wisteria covers a sturdy pergola.

“Nature teaches us that even the most delicate vines can reach great heights with the right support.” Oprah Winfrey

Getting out of my car, the perfume emanating from my garden smells more like being inside the cosmetic department at a store. Flowing over my front gate and arbor, the jasmine is thick in its wondrous white wardrobe. Bees are buzzing as the intoxicating fragrance fills the air. A robust climber, the blooms from this gregarious vine are one of the most sought-after scents to make expensive perfumes and flavored teas. But jasmine has a dark side: it can be invasive. It grows so vigorously that it can strangle trees, shrubs, and flower beds. Whenever a stem touches the ground, a new vine will root. Jasmine thrives in sunlight and the blossoms prefer to face the sun. Keep it pruned and under control, or you may find that it will take

Photos Cynthia Brian

over your landscape.

Climbers, vines, or plants that climb have specialized structures that allow them to ascend and cling to surfaces for support. I love many of them and you may also.

What are a few of the most popular climbing plants besides jasmine?

- Clematis
- Wisteria
- Passionflower
- Trumpet Vine
- Grapevine
- Climbing Roses
- Nasturtium

Clematis is renowned for its beautiful blooms, long-flowering with a plethora of colors, shapes, and climate exposure. There are over 300 species and hundreds of hybrids.

Wisteria vines produce romantic cascades



Clematis climbs and twines on any structure, going dormant in winter.

of fragrant pendulous blossoms in lavender, pink, and white that resemble bunches of grapes. Their vigorous vining capabilities require a very sturdy structure.

Passionflower is delicate and exotic-looking, climbing with tendrils on trellises, encompassing more than 400 species. Heady-perfumed flowers appear on new growth as pollinators flock to the garden.

Trumpet vine, native to Eastern North America, boasts trumpet-shaped flowers that attract hummingbirds in glorious shades of red, pink, scarlet, purple, and yellow.

Grapevines are perennial plants producing delicious fruit for eating, wine, jams, and juices. They are a climbing vine requiring a support system to allow the fruit to hang.

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