

Training & Pruning

Supports should be in place prior to planting. Possible structures include natural, plastic, wire or wooden:

Wires held by vine eyes – Taut wire spaced 30–45cm/12–18in apart with the lowest wire 30cm/1ft above soil level.

Trellis – screw trellis to thick wooden battens to raise it from the wall surface. The bottom should be 30cm/1ft above soil level to prevent rotting.

Free standing screens – posts with plastic mesh, wire, or trellis panels may work in sheltered sites.

Small obelisks – these can be pushed into the soil. Larger ones may require some anchorage into concrete footings.

Large shrubs & trees – a great natural support, but ensure the climber won't overpower the host. Also be sure to plant away from the host's roots. Simply drive a stake into the edge of the planting hole and attach string, wire or plastic chain to the lower branches with a plastic strap.

Plant your climber about 45cm from the base of the wall/fence. Follow the same steps that you would for planting any normal garden shrub. Cut the plastic ties to the climber's bamboo cane and untwine it enough so that you can spread the stems but retain support. Adjust the cane(s) so that they link the plant with the support, ideally in a fan shape. Tie in the main stems and canes with garden twine or soft string (to prevent damage). Continue to tie in new growth regularly.

Things to think about...

- ◆ Aspect: it may sound obvious but sunny wall climbers aren't going to thrive on a shady wall, so think about positioning before you plant
- ◆ Size / Growth rate: consider the rate at which the climber will grow – is it a vigorous grower? Ensure you have allotted enough space
- ◆ Hardiness: with ranging hardiness, be careful not to plant more tender varieties in exposed locations
- ◆ Climbing habit: some are self-clinging while others require support and tying in. Which do you have?

Further Information

Please note that this information is only intended as a guide – put together from our knowledge and experience.

It should be noted, that on occasion, a plant can thrive in one situation but struggle under almost identical conditions. Like us, plants are living individuals – all different and unique. They should therefore be treated as such.

One of the best bits of advice we can give you however, is to have a look at your neighbour's garden and see what they are growing. You are likely to be able to enjoy the same in your own garden.

Top Tip

Plant a climber at least 45cm away from a wall or a fence. A concrete wall will absorb any available moisture like a sponge, leaving little for the roots of the climber to absorb. Walls and fences can also shelter the climber from rain, leaving it vulnerable to drying out. The climber will find its own way back up the wall or fence as it grows, just so long as its roots are given a fighting chance from the outset.

For more information get in touch with us, and we'll do our best to help and advise you.



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Climbers

For shady & sunny walls

www.trevenacross.co.uk



Chaenomeles x superba
Knap King Scarlet

Background

Climbers can provide great screening in a garden, covering up walls, fences, dead trees or unsightly features in the landscape.

They present little competition for space on the ground, as they grow differently to other plants – adding a vertical dimension to the garden. They can therefore be a great choice for smaller gardens (as well as larger ones).

In addition, fragrant climbers, as well as masking physical objects, can also help mask unpleasant smells, such as dustbins!

Climbers can be 'trained' to climb. Careful training and early pruning will ensure that they grow attractively and healthily, and that they grow where anticipated. All kinds of climber will benefit, whether they have a twining habit or are attached by aerial roots (see 'Training & Pruning').

Climbing Plants

We have split our climber examples into categories to help you identify the best ones for your garden. These categories also reflect the different climber benches (more or less!) at the garden centre...

SHADY WALL

Great for growing against a north facing wall or fence.

Chaenomeles x superba Knap King Scarlet & Chaenomeles japonica – A flowering, Japanese quince

Fatshedera lizei & Fatshedera lizei Variegata – Also known as the Ivy tree

Hedera helix Atropurpurea & Hedera helix Emerald Gem – Great for screening and brightening dark spots

Hydrangea seemannii – A woody, evergreen climber, clinging by aerial roots

Hydrangea semiola (seemannii x petiolaris) – a new slow growing, climbing hydrangea

Pyracantha Saphyr Cadrou – A hardy, evergreen spiny shrub that can be grown as a climber

SUNNY WALL

Partial to sunshine and great for growing against south/south-west facing walls and fences.

Abutilon megapotamicum & Abutilon Waltz – A semi-evergreen shrub with arching stems and pendent flowers

Akebia Silver Bells (Chocolate Vine) – A hardy semi-evergreen, vigorous climber with unusual fragrant maroon-chocolate flowers

Billardiera Cherry Berry & Billardiera Fructo-albo – An evergreen climber with flowers and berries

Celastrus orbiculatus – A vigorous, deciduous climbing vine

Clianthus Kaka King – A fast growing, hardy climbing plant from New Zealand

Sollya heterophylla – Also known as the 'Bluebell Creeper'

Different varieties of Jasminum and Trachelospermum also available.

Other Climbing Plants

CLEMATIS – These lovely flowering climbers are very versatile, growing well in containers or against walls and frames. They prefer their roots in the shade but stems and flowers in the sun. Create shade by placing stones or broken pots over roots, or by placing near a bushy shrub.

HONEYSUCKLES – This popular plant has lovely fragrant flowers, with climbing varieties making a great statement draped over pergolas and supports. Will grow well pretty much anywhere in fertile, moist well drained soil. Best left to 'scramble' and find their own way.

WISTERIA – Clusters of flowers in summer are followed by foliage. Ideal trained to a house wall or left to scramble through large trees.

CLIMBING ROSES – Ideal for growing up pillars, arches, pergolas or along fences– with large blooms for much of the summer. We have a collection of lovely David Austin roses at Trevena Cross, to cater for this popular garden addition.



Sollya heterophylla