



Vines for Utah Landscapes

USING VINES

Vines are great problem solvers in the landscape. When used correctly, they can cover very small to extremely large areas. Vines also hide bare spots or block unpleasant views when grown on trellises.

Use vines to soften stark sides of bare fences or houses. Grow them along walls, fences or other areas where there is insufficient ground space for shrubs or trees.

Vines add color and fragrance to the landscape and are excellent accents on posts or fences. Use them in containers, as ground covers, or as filler plants. They offer privacy screening, shade over arbors or pergolas, or grow them as specimens by themselves.

Many vines are dual-purpose plants and produce fruits as well as offering excellent ornamental characteristics. These include grapes and annual vegetable including squash, melons, peas and beans.

CLIMBING SYSTEMS

Vines are divided into five groups based on how they climb or attach themselves to their structural supports.

Aerial Roots. English ivy and some other vines adhere to rough surfaces with tiny roots that grow from the stems. These adhere tightly to the surface and may cause permanent disfigurement of desirable surfaces. Plant these vines in areas where you plan to leave them permanently as the aerial roots attach to and often dissolve or distort the masonry or other construction materials.

Disc-like Suction Cups. Boston Ivy and Virginia Creeper cling to rough or smooth-textured surfaces with disc-like suction cups. These vines are aggressive, and surfaces may be permanently marked with these tiny suction cups. Do not use these kinds of vines unless you plan to leave them in place permanently.

Twining Vines. Non-clinging vines such as morning glory twine through the materials that they climb. They do not attach themselves to walls or trellises, but the twining will interweave them into the trellis or other support. Even these vines will grow under siding or other materials so use them with caution to avoid damage.

Tendrill Forming Vines. Grapes and some other vines climb by grasping onto wires or latticework with coiling tendrils. These are less damaging to siding because they do not dissolve or glue themselves to construction materials permanently. Use them on fences, trellises, or arbors.

Vine-like Plants. Climbing roses and some other shrubs produce long stems or canes that are not going to attach themselves to a trellis or other structure. These grow like vines but are tied to the support to show them off to best advantage.

Vines can be extremely heavy, so trellises or other supports must be sturdy enough to hold the vines. Some vines can curl tightly around trunks and strangle trees. Large vines may overgrow shrubs and even large trees and eventually shade them out. Many can damage shingles or siding searching for structural support.

In many cases, they fill drainpipes and gutters with leaves and stems. Grow vines in areas away from sensitive building materials where they will not present a risk if they become too robust.

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Name of Plant	How it Climbs	Flowers	Tolerates Shade
Annual Vines			
Beans, pole beans, scarlet runner beans, hyacinth beans	Tendrils	Red, white, purple	
Climbing snapdragon, Chickabidi (<i>Asarium</i>)	Twining	Many colors	
Cucurbits: melons, squashes, gourds, pumpkins	Tendrils	White or yellow	
Cup and saucer vine (<i>Cobaea scandens</i>)	Tendrils	White, violet or purple	
Hops (<i>Humulus lupulus</i>)	Twining	White flowers	
Crimson starglory (<i>Mina lobata</i>)	Twining	Red shades and lavender	
Love-in-a-Puff (balloon vine), <i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i>	Tendrils	White bloom-like seed capsules	
Morning glory (<i>Ipomoea</i>)	Twining	Blue, white or magenta	
Peas, snow peas, snap peas	Tendrils	White, purple	
Sweet pea (<i>Lathyrus</i>)	Tendrils	Many colors	
Woody Vines			
Akebia (<i>trifoliata quinata</i>)	Twining	Very small purple flowers	
American Bittersweet (<i>Celastrus scandens</i>)	Twining	Yellow to orange fruit	
Boston ivy (<i>Parthenocissus tricuspidata</i>)	Aerial rootlets	Not showy	X
Clematis (<i>Clematis jackmani</i> and others)	Twining	Pink, violet, rose, white	
Clematis, Sweet Autumn (<i>Clematis paniculata</i>)	Twining	White	
Dutchman's pipe (<i>Aristolochia durior</i>)	Twining	Yellow-green	X
English ivy (<i>Hedra helix</i>)	Aerial rootlets	Not usually present	X
Grape (<i>Vitis vinifera</i>)	Tendrils	Not showy	
Honeysuckle, Halls Japanese (<i>Lonicera japonica</i>)	Twining	White flowers	X
Honeysuckle, Trumpet (<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>)	Twining	Orange flowers	
Roses (<i>Rosa</i>)	Must be tied	Many kinds and colors	
Silverlace vine (<i>Polygonum auberti</i>)	Twining	White flowers	
Trumpet creeper (<i>Bignonia radicans</i>)	Twining	Orange flowers	
Virginia creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>)	Aerial rootlets	Not showy	X
Winter creeper (<i>Euonymus radicans vegetus</i>)	Creeping	Small white	X
Chinese wisteria (<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>)	Twining	Lavender or white flowers	X
Japanese wisteria (<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>)	Twining	Purple, white and pink	X