

Growing & Caring for Clematis

Q. How much sun do clematis need?

A. Most clematis grow and bloom well with four hours or more of sun.

However, there are some exceptions.

Pearl D'Azur and Ernest Markham need full sun all day to bloom well.

Texensis varieties also prefer all day sun.

Silver Moon bloom very well for us with only two hours of sun a day.

Q. It is May and my clematis isn't up. Should I replace it?

NO!! NO!! NO!! Ahem. Excuse us. That's, "No." Wait patiently. Clematis, especially young plants, can often take a long time to show up in the spring. Clematis teach us patience!

Q. What should I feed my clematis?

A. For feeding instructions for new clematis, see our [Planting Instructions](#).

For second year and older clematis, we lightly scratch a cup of Rose Tone (a rose food by Espoma) into the surface of the soil around the clematis. In addition, we recommend spreading a couple of shovels of compost around the base of the plant. Make sure to stay away from the vines themselves! The best time to feed clematis is in early spring just as the vines begin to grow. However, if life gets in the way, it is OK to fertilize anytime up to August 1st. Do NOT add fertilizer in the fall!

Compliments of Cindy & Brian Tibbets, Hummingbird Farm, Turner, ME. www.hummingbirdfarm.net