Willy Clematis

Clematis alpina 'Willy'

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 3

Other Names: Alpine Clematis

Description:

One of the most dainty and elegant flowering climbers, this variety features an abundance of nodding, bell-shaped, creamy white flowers with butter centers and hot pink flares; brings great interest to trellises and fences



Willy Clematis flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Willy Clematis features bold nodding semi-double creamy white bell-shaped flowers with buttery yellow eyes and hot pink centers at the ends of the branches from mid spring to late summer. It has green deciduous foliage. The serrated compound leaves do not develop any appreciable fall colour.



Willy Clematis in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Willy Clematis is a multi-stemmed deciduous woody vine with a twining and trailing habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance woody vine. It is a Type 1 clematis, meaning that it flowers on old wood of the previous season; other than trimming off obvious dieback in spring, it should only be pruned where necessary immediately after flowering. It is a good choice for attracting hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Willy Clematis is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Willy Clematis will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. As a climbing vine, it tends to be leggy near the base and should be underplanted with low-growing facer plants. It should be planted near a fence, trellis or other landscape structure where it can be trained to grow upwards on it, or allowed to trail off a retaining wall or slope. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This woody vine should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Willy Clematis makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.