



CLINGING TO LANDSCAPE

Vines are among the most valuable and versatile of plants, and an essential component of landscape architecture. They can be used as ground covers, to shade and cool a sunny patio, as a privacy screen, to add color and diversity to a blank wall of fence or to soften architectural lines. And there are all vines for all types of exposure, from full sun to complete shade.

A number of issues need to be addressed when choosing vines. Consider the area to be planted and the effect you want to achieve. Most vines will climb anything close to it, so make sure the supports are strong enough to hold the weight and size of a mature vine. The only vines that will climb a flat surface such as a wall are the kind that produce root-like projections called "holdfasts". Also consider whether the vine will be growing in full sun, part-shade or full shade.

For a sunny patio, an annual or deciduous vine will furnish cooling shade in hot summer months but allow the warming rays of the sun to come through during the winter. On the other hand, if the vine is to serve as a privacy screen, an evergreen perennial variety would be a better choice.

Carolina Jasmine: Sun to partial shade. Semi-evergreen perennial. Bright yellow flowers in early spring. Climbs by twining.

Coral Vine: Sun to part sun. Perennial. Will die back in the winter but rapidly regrow from roots in spring. Clusters of attractive pink flowers in summer. Climbs by twining.

Coral Honeysuckle: Sun to part sun. Semi-evergreen perennial with bushy growth. Blue-green foliage; coral pink flowers attract humming birds. Climbs by twining.

Cross Vine: Sun to partial shade. Semi-ever-green perennial. Yellowish orange to reddish orange, waxy blossoms in spring. Climbs by tendrils.

English Ivy: Shade to partial shade. Evergreen perennial. Tops of leaves are dark green; under sides, yellowish green. Climbs by adhering to rough surfaces with rootlets along the stems.

'Madam Galen' trumpet creeper: Sun. Deciduous perennial. Orange, trumpet-shaped blossoms. Climbs by aerial rootlets.

Sweet autumn clematis: Sun to part sun. Semi-evergreen perennial. Produces masses of white fragrant flowers in late summer and fall. Climbs twining.

Virginia creeper: Sun or shade. Deciduous perennial. Vigorous vines with dark leaves that turn red in the fall. Climbs by twining and attaching to support with disc-like pads.

Morning glory: Sun or light shade. Annual grown from seed. Fast-growing with blue, rosy red, or white trumpet-shaped flowers. Climbs by twining.

Mandevilla: Morning sun, afternoon shade. Tropical annual but can winter inside if kept in large pots. Large leaves are oval, dark-green. Blooms spring through autumn in hot pink flowers.

Grape Vines: Grown mainly for their fruit, grape make wonderful patio or arbor covers. Sun to light shade. Deciduous perennial. Climb by tendrils and wrapping.

Wisteria: Sun for best bloom. Deciduous perennial, with purple or white “clusters” resembling grapes of flowers in early spring before foliage comes on. Treat soil with added iron to keep foliage deep green. Climbs by twining.



Mint comes in all flavors. It is perhaps the largest group of herbs we grow on purpose, with literally hundreds of types, or flavors. Mint is pleasing to look at in the herb garden, or as companion plants to other perennials in larger flower beds. They are valued plants because of their foliage, both in aroma and flavor, not their flowers.

Many mint plants will quickly outgrow their space in the garden, so make such you have them in a confined area that they can thrive in. Most mints are perennial and quite hardy in our long, hot summers. They most likely prefer morning sun and afternoon shade, with ample moisture provided.

Raised beds with soils that are fairly high in organic matter (like from the compost) are a preferred medium, but mint can grow in other soil conditions given the chance.

Fresh mint leaves from the garden are most commonly used for flavor in teas (hot and cold), flavoring fresh fruit compotes, roasting and baking meats and potatoes, and as aromatherapy in humidifiers and baths. Some mints can be used as balms to sooth irritated skin. Dried, they make a wonderful addition to potpourri or stuck in dried flower arrangements for added aroma.

Some of the more popular varieties include, peppermint, spearmint, lemon mint, apple mint, cinnamon mint, chocolate mint and dozens of others. Come to Mike's and shop for a new mint for your garden. We carry over 50 varieties. Come see!

Flowers evoke a powerful influence on people's moods. Giving someone flowers can get you out of the doghouse or lift someone's spirits. Perennial or annual bedding plants last at least an entire season and flowering shrubs (roses in particular) give pleasure year after year.

Rutgers University did a study that showed that test subjects responded with improved outlooks and increased happy moods to flowers. Scented candles came in close to second. Make a trip Mike's and make someone you know happy!

SPRING PLANTING GUIDE

Variety	Planting Depth	Sowing Date	Days to Germination	Soil Temp F°	Plants "	Rows "	Days to Maturity	Family of 4 (typical growing season)	Seeds per Oz.	Seeds per 100' row
Asparagus	4"	Jan-Feb	10	75	14	28	720+	40	750	1 oz
Bean Bush	1.5"	May-June	7	80	18	18		plants	100	.5 lb
Bean Vine	1.5"	May-Jun	7	80	4	30	50+	25' row	100	.5 lb
Beets	.5"	March-July	4	85	4	18	70+	25' row	1500	1 oz
Broccoli	1"	Apr-June	4	80	24	30	40+	15' row	9000	.25 oz

Cabbage	.5"	Apr-May	4	85	24	30	70+	15' row	8500	.25 oz
Carrots	.5"	Jan-Aug	6	80	3	18	100+	15	25000	.5 oz
Cauliflower	.5"	Jan-June	5	80	15	28	65+	plants	10000	.25 oz
Corn	1"	Apr-May	5	95	3	24	60+	30' row	75	.4 lb
Cucumber	1"	Apr-July	3	95	36	40	60+	15	1000	.5 oz
Eggplant	.5"	April-June	6	85	24	36	50+	plants	6000	50
Gourds	.5"	April-May	10	80	48	60	80+	75	1000	plants
Kale	.25"	May-July	4	80	18	24	100+	plants	8700	.25 oz
Leek	.25"	March-May	7	80	6	24	55+	6 plants	11000	.25 oz
Lettuce	.25"	Feb-Oct	3	75	10	20	120+	6 plants	25000	.5 oz
Melon	1"	Mar-Apr	4	80	36	36	55+	varies	1000	.25 oz
Mustard	.25"	Apr-Sept	8	75	6	12	85+	20' row	15000	.5 oz
Okra	1.5"	Apr-Sept	6	95	18	36	35+	10' row	500	.25 oz
Onions	.5"	Feb-Apr	6	75	3	15	55+	15' row	8000	2 oz
Peas	1.5"	Mar-June	6	75	5	36	90+	varies	120	1 oz
Peppers	.5"	Jan-May	8	85	24	24	60+	10' row	4500	1 lb
Pumpkins	3"	Apr-June	4	90	6	36	75+	15' row	180	50
Radish	.5"	Mar-Aug	4	85	2	20	90+	40' row	2500	plants
Spinach	.5"	Mar-July	5	70	6	16	30+	40' row	2800	.5 oz
Squash	1"	Mar-Apr	4	95	36	36	45+	10	250	1 oz
Strawberry	.125"	Dec-Feb	10	80	18	36	65+	plants	70000	1 oz
Tomatoes	.5"	Jan-May	6	85	32	32	120+	3 plants	11000	.75 oz
Turnip	1.5"	Mar-Aug	3	85	3	24	70+	4' row	15000	1
Watermelon	1"	Mar-Apr	4	95	72	72	45+	20' row	350	gram
							110+	3 plants		50
								2 plants		plants
								15		.5 oz
								plants		.75 oz
								15' row		
								6 plants		



Succulents still remain hip, with no end in sight. We carry over 50 varieties, small and large. They are the ultimate easy-care plants fitting in almost anywhere in all manner of containers, nooks and crannies.