

**Garden Patch**  
**Grow Up; Grow Vines**  
**By Phyllis Webster**

They cling, twine and ramble. Some are tame; others are rambunctious. Annuals grow from seed to great heights in a season while perennials take time to reach maturity. Obviously, not all vines are alike!

While vines are sometimes an afterthought in the landscape, they should not be ignored. These plants have many uses, which include providing shade, visually softening walls and blocking wind. Many provide flowers and colorful seasonal foliage.

Vine selection should be based on site conditions, such as sun or shade; and landscaping needs, such as sound abatement or floral display. Space in which to spread and method of support are also important considerations.

The flowering vine that you fell in love with on vacation may not thrive in North Central Texas. Vines from the tropics are more likely to grow at home as annuals or frost-tender perennials, which means that a freeze could kill them. Perennial tropical vines might be saved for another season if grown in containers and overwintered indoors. One example is bougainvillea, which sports showy fuchsia blooms. Another is frost-tender mandevilla vine, which is beloved for its large bright pink flowers.



Annual vines are temporary, but provide quick satisfaction. They rapidly grow from seed to 4-10 ft. Sweet pea adds fragrance in early spring, while night-blooming, white flowering moonflower glows in summer. Cypress vine has fine textured foliage with small scarlet flowers. Morning glory offers large bright blue, pink or white blooms. Annual hyacinth bean is showiest in fall with its maroon leaves, flowers and pods.

Woody perennial vines are more permanent landscaping solutions. These types of vines reliably cover fences, walls and other structures year-after-year. The exception was frigid February 2021 when some vines were killed to the ground. While perennials such as English ivy are grown for their foliage, many vines produce beautiful flowers, such as native crossvine with its tubular flowers of coral, rose or yellow. Another hardy vine with tubular flowers is trumpet creeper, which has red, orange or yellow flowers.

Native coral honeysuckle twines around supports growing to 10 ft. tall. In late spring and summer, it boasts clumps of narrow, tubular pink flowers with yellow centers. This vine is not to be confused with the fall favorite coral vine, with its heart-shaped foliage and pink flowering panicles. And don't forget climbing roses, which can grow up to 20 ft. with support. Lady Bank's rose grows 20 ft. canes and is an early-flowering, fragrant, yellow or white bloomer.

**For answers to your horticulture questions, please call the Texas AgriLife Extension, Hood County at 817-579-3280 or go online to visit [lakegranburymastergardeners.org](http://lakegranburymastergardeners.org).**

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