





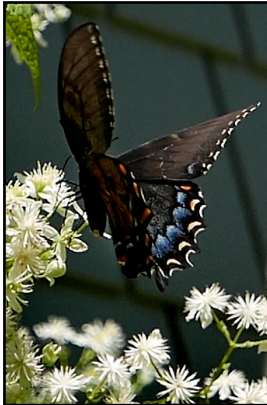
Clematis virginiana

virgin's-bower

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

In eastern North American* lowlands, this vigorous native vine quickly climbs by twining or trails along the ground in twisted fashion. A prolific bloomer, its white flowers attract pollinators late summer into fall followed by showy seed heads reminiscent of an “old man’s beard,” another of its common names.



Vine	Flowers en Masse, Leaves, Pollinators**
Height: 6–20 feet	    
Spread: 3–12 feet	
Bloom Color: White	
Characteristics	
Climbing, woody, deciduous to semi- evergreen vine	
Sometimes dioecious : each plant with either staminate (male) or pistillate (female) flowers	
Opposite , mostly trifoliate, toothed, bright green leaves; climbs by twining leaf petioles	
Axillary panicles of fragrant, ~1-inch white flowers with four petaloid sepals from July to September	
Achenes (not on male vines) w/ persistent , plumose , green styles that become brownish; winter interest	
Unremarkable yellow-green to purplish fall foliage	
Spreads rapidly by self-seeding and root suckers	
Attributes	
Tolerates full sun, shade, black walnut; no serious pests or diseases; deer seldom severely damage	
Plant parts are poisonous; leaves may irritate skin	
Attracts bees, wasps, Lepidoptera , and birds	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements: Average, well-drained	Akebia quinata - Chocolate Vine
Light Requirements: Partial Shade	Celastrus orbiculatus - Oriental Bittersweet
Water Requirements: Dry, Moist, Wet	Clematis terniflora - Sweet Autumn Clematis***
Prune after flowering late fall to early spring; leave lowest 2–3 buds; may prune down to 1 foot	Lonicera japonica - Japanese Honeysuckle
Use as a climber on arbors, walls, and fences, in woodland gardens, or as a tangled ground cover	<p>*It is native to DC and to areas in Maryland. In DE, it is common in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain. It is native to all but one county in PA. In VA, it is common in the mountains, frequent in the Piedmont, and infrequent in the Coastal Plain.</p> <p>**Pollinators on male flowers include four-toothed mason wasp, ailanthus webworm moth, European honey bee, and eastern tiger swallowtail butterfly (dark form female).</p> <p>***Unlike <i>C. virginiana</i>, this invasive has smooth leaf margins.</p>
Hardiness: USDA Zones 3–8	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Mary Free and Elaine Mills (leaves), private garden, Arlington, Virginia



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