





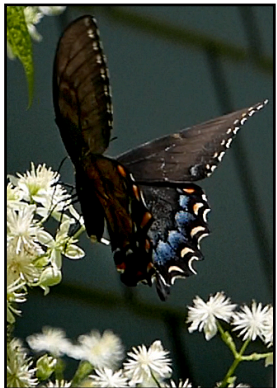
# Clematis virginiana

## 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, <a href="#">deciduous</a> to <a href="#">semi-evergreen</a> vine	
Predominantly <a href="#">dioecious</a> : each plant with either <a href="#">staminate</a> (male) or <a href="#">pistillate</a> (female) flowers	
<a href="#">Opposite</a> , mostly trifoliate, toothed, bright green leaves; climbs by <a href="#">twining</a> leaf <a href="#">petioles</a>	
Axillary <a href="#">panicles</a> of fragrant, ~1-inch white flowers with four petaloid <a href="#">sepals</a> from July to September	
<a href="#">Achenes</a> (not on male vines) w/ <a href="#">persistent</a> , <a href="#">plumose</a> , green styles that become brownish; winter interest	
Unremarkable yellow-green to purplish fall foliage	
Spreads rapidly by self-seeding and root <a href="#">suckers</a>	
Attributes	   
Tolerates full sun, shade, black walnut; no serious pests or diseases; <a href="#">deer</a> seldom severely damage	
Plant parts are poisonous; leaves may irritate skin	
Attracts bees, wasps, butterflies, moths and birds; <a href="#">larval</a> host to ~10 <a href="#">lepidopterans</a>	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	
<a href="#">Soil Requirements</a> : Average, well-drained	<a href="#">Excellent Replacement for</a> <a href="#">Akebia quinata</a> - Chocolate Vine
<a href="#">Light Requirements</a> : Partial Shade	<a href="#">Celastrus orbiculatus</a> - Oriental Bittersweet
<a href="#">Water Requirements</a> : Dry, Moist, Wet	<a href="#">Clematis terniflora</a> - Sweet Autumn Clematis***
Prune after flowering late fall to early spring; leave lowest 2–3 buds; may prune down to 1 foot	<a href="#">Lonicera japonica</a> - Japanese Honeysuckle
Use as a climber on arbors, walls, and fences, in woodland gardens, or as a tangled ground cover	<p>*It is <a href="#">native</a> to DC, common in DE, and present throughout MD and 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 and 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>
<a href="#">Hardiness</a> : 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