

## **VERTICAL GARDENING CONTINUED:**

### **Herbaceous Perennial vines.**



Hops (*Humulus lupulus*), shown here, is an herbaceous perennial vine and the fruits (hops) are used to make beer. It is useful for covering large areas and is helped upwards with strings or wire etc. It dies back each year and can be tidied away for winter, as it will emerge from the ground come spring. It can sucker out from the base. The hops can make attractive contributions to floral arrangements.

Some Clematis species are herbaceous perennials too, growing from 2 to 5 feet and scrambling through other plants in the border. They die back in the fall and can be cut back to grow again in the spring.

### Woody Vines



These include Clematis, Wisteria, Chocolate Vine, Climbing Hydrangea, Honeysuckle, Bittersweet, roses, Virginia and Boston creeper and trumpet vine are a few.

Some of these need careful monitoring as they can be enthusiastic. For example not selecting a **trumpet vine** (*Campsis radicans*) unless its root zone is securely enclosed! It can sucker out from below and appear several feet away and generally behave like a thug!

*Clematis* 'Polish Spirit' blooms from summer to fall. A pruning group 3 Clematis it is easily taken care of with regard to pruning, just cut back to 6 to 12 inches from the ground each year, or to the lowest pair of strong buds. It reshoots from below the ground.

**Wisteria**, seen below can also be very strong, so needs a strong structure to grow on. To encourage those lovely blooms it is best to carefully prune twice a year to encourage fruiting spurs. Both fragrant and the pollinators love it.



### Vines in the kitchen garden



Both annual and woody vines can be grown here. **For annuals**, indeterminate tomatoes (vining as opposed to bush plants), pole and scarlet runner beans (in the writer's opinion scarlet are the best tasting and hummingbirds love the bright red flowers), squashes, cucumbers, cucamelons, and vining nasturtiums can all be trained up trellises. Nasturtium flowers look and taste great in salads, the leaves are great with plain cheese in a sandwich giving a mustard-like tang and the seeds can be pickled and used like capers. It is also the first plant that flea beetles will go to and so is a good indicator plant that you need to get the diatomaceous earth out!

**Tromboncino squash**, this one vine could feed a village, easily covering an 8' x 20' trellis, but needs very strong string or wires to support it. Rarely seen, the very young fruits develop early behind the flowers and can be harvested with the flowers and roasted, the green larger fruits can be used like zucchini and make better veggie noodles as it has a firmer texture, and the mature fruits seen here can be used and stored like butternut squash.

**Perennial vines** include grapevines and kiwi fruit, and although not vines, apples, pears, peaches, cherries, figs and red currants are among the fruits that can be trained up to wires to form espaliers. This is another space saving technique which helps in exposing plants to more sunlight and better air circulation as well as ease in picking the fruit too! Raspberries and blackberries can be tied in too.

So in summary, think vertically to expand your garden and to open interesting design possibilities.