

Climbing Hydrangea



First it sleeps, then it creeps, then it leaps. This old gardener's saying perfectly describes this flowering vine. Climbing hydrangea is an elegant vine with glossy green leaves and lacy white flowers in June. Useful for adding interest to walls, trees, and chimneys.

Hydrangea anomala subsp. petiolaris

- **Use:** A vigorous climbing vine that clings to surfaces by aerial rootlets. It has a slow growing, shrubby habit until established, then becomes quite vigorous, producing long, fast growing stems. Lush green foliage is blanketed with magnificent, white lacecap blooms in summer.
- **Exposure/Soil:** In hot climates, choose a location where the plant will get some partial shade. In the cooler regions of the South, the vine will usually do well in more sunny areas, if adequately watered. Climbing *hydrangeas that do get more sun tend to bloom better, but can get leaf burn.*
- **Growth:** The vines become large and heavy over time so be sure that the host structure can support the weight of the vines and the structure is not something (like the side of a clapboard house) that may rot or need replacing or repainting. The plants can also be pruned to maintain a shrub-like form.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 5-8; Vine
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Medium green heart shaped foliage. Being deciduous, it shades walls in summer and lets the sun warm them during winter, thus helping to conserve energy.
- **Flower:** Long, trailing stems draped in white lace, with a bouquet of florets at every leaf node, yields a dramatic display from late spring to fall.

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