

Suburban Gardener

Trumpet, Clematis Vines At Their Blooming Best

By BETTY FRANKEL
Special Writer

Vines add a third dimension to the garden and create a spectacle that can't be matched by

other plants. Only a tiny bit of space is needed for the roots, but they clamber high and spread their foliage and bright flowers over a wide area. One of the most spectacular

vines is the trumpet vine (Campsis radicans) which is blazing now with clusters of large scarlet and orange flowers. These are tube shaped with a flaring end and the individual blossoms

are often three inches in length. Flowering begins in early August and will continue through

September. The leaves on the trumpet vine are pinnately divided into numerous small leaflets that form graceful fronds of rich deep green that are a perfect foil for the bright flowers clustered at the tips of the lateral branches. The stems, which are woody, cling by means of aerial roots.

In addition to the orange form, there are hybrids with yellow flowers and with red and apricot tints. ANOTHER beautiful autumn blooming vine is the small-flowered clematis (Clematis paniculata). This is one of the choicest climbers and is laden in August and September with a profusion of sweet-scented white flowers. Earlier in the season the vine is densely covered with small bright green leaves. The flowers are followed by attractive plumed seed heads. This vine grows best if the roots are shaded but with full sun for the top. Also, an alkaline soil is preferred so it is beneficial to add lime or bone meal to the soil around the roots. The vine can be pruned to control the size, but if left uncontrolled it will grow up to 12 feet. It is charming grown on a trellis or entrance porch and can be used to cover a wall, fence, or post.

Grasses Endure Winter

Homeowners aware of the tenderness of trees and ornamentals in northerly areas, sometimes worry about their lawngresses, too. Once in a while you even receive "cautious" advice, -- use this or that special product for winter protection, lest your lawn suffer. Well, don't worry about the traditional fine lawn grasses such as the Kentucky bluegrass, the fescues and bent grasses suffering from cold.

Cold may "do in" certain coarse grasses such as tall fescue, or temporary cover such as annual ryegrass, neither of which belong in a first-class lawn in any event. The new fine-leaved perennial ryegrasses, however, are hardy. Under extreme cold a lawn could perhaps suffer some loss if heavily fertilized with nitrogen going into winter. Fertility balance -- adequate amounts of all essential nutrients -- contributes to lawngress health, and therefore its ability to withstand traval of any sort. But university tests show that it takes a very low temperature to kill the proven lawngresses under lawn conditions. In the first place the soil almost never gets so cold as the air, and its temperature change is gradual; grass has chance to harden off. The soil itself acts as insulation over the crowns, rhizomes and roots.

DO NOT SELL your bluegrass-fescue lawn short, even in bleak, open areas where the soil freezes many inches deep. More harmful in winter than cold, is drying by air laying low humidity. With roots in frozen soil, unable to garner moisture, a dry winter wind kills green tissue, scorching the lawn brown.

Pruning can be done in fall or early spring. The best time is in the fall just after the leaves have fallen. To encourage flowering cut back the lateral branches to two or three buds. This vine has no special requirements for soil or situation, but it does not flower well if

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