## Plants can add beauty, privacy, shade, mystery

ines that trail, climb and cascade add a new dimension to gardens. They can be grown on structures to add height, sprawl along fences for vertical interest, or cascade from hanging containers.

Vines also provide privacy by decorating a lattice screen, or cover unsightly walls. When grown over a trellis, they add a bit of mystery as one enters a garden. Vines also provide shade and when grown over a roof-like structure create an outdoor bower. They are also most adaptable as groundcover.

Vines climb in several ways. Some twine their stems to a nearby support, others grab hold with tendrils, some cling by small disks or rootlets, others hook thorns into another nearby plant, and some just lean on their supports. Others don't climb at all but trail from hanging baskets, or trail across the ground.

Before you decide which vine to grow, find out how it 'works,' Many are quite heavy, others are massive and need solid support. A good book can guide in this respect, and this time of year is perfect for research.





vines and other inter-esting flow-ers and shares these o b s e r v a-tions. Her moon-flowers were

flowers were grown from seeds. This year the plants were caten to the ground four times by rabbits, but that didn't seem to deter them. When the rabbits ended their feast, the plant s grew rapidly.

onded their feast, the plant's grew rapidly.

They like their partially shady spot and climb over an archway. Jan says, "It grows fast, and when I walk through, it's like walking through a door." The plants die down in the winter. The leaves are quite large and heart-shaped and the white trumpet-shaped Rowers glow in the evening.

Two trumpet vines climb up tall cottonwood trees that grow near the center of the yard. The orange-red flowers bloom from

mid-summer through fall and one lavender, which assures are a favorite of ruby-throated bloom throughout the season. No special care is given to them.

ers on current season's growth and should be pruned in the spring.

The annual hyacinth bean vine, also called lablab, has pur-ple to deep lavender pealike flowers followed by 4-inch pur-also red!s

ple to deep lavender penlike flowers followed by 4-inch purple pods.

The interesting leaves are deep purple-green eval to triangular, in groups of three. Jan's plant is on a support that completely covers a flower-filled banket. Quite a show Plants can be started indoors or sown directly in the ground.

A beautiful only climbing hydrangon grows near the deck on the east side of the house. It is ports large flat clusters of small white flowers and likes an acid soil. She feeds it ten to satisfy this need. The foliage on this plant, which is finely toothed, shiny and oval in shape, is outstanding.

In the fall, it turns pale gold. After the leaves have dropped, the stems turn a reddish color. Three clematis elamber on an arch leading to the back garden.

Two interesting plants also are worth mentioning. Angel trumpet has a double white

bloom.

She says, "This year it began blooming in July and has bloomed continuously since." Another plant, called the "Purple Horn of Plenty," sometimes ple Horn of Plenty, sometimes called angels trumpet, according to Jan, grew 2 - to 3-feet tall with a 3-foot spread. Sweet potato vines grow in containers that sit on the deck.

They cascade rather than climb and add a nice light yellow-green color and texture to the show.

A favorite vine le the according

A favorite vine is the passion Nower. Two of them grow up trellises at the south side of the

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house and are quite beautiful with their unusual flowers. The Harrowemith Gardeners guide Vines (Gamden House) describes these intricate flowers: 'Like lotus flowers hung in midair, the blooms reach a inches in diameter, each boasting a colorful reproductive stalk arising from a crown of filaments against a backdrop of five broad petals and five broad five broad petals and five broad

five broad petals and five broad sepals."

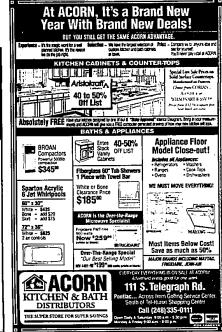
Available in several colors, Jan's are a light pink/purple. The name comes from the unusual flower structure, thought by early discoverers to

a smooth lightweight oval fruit, that resembles a lime. The vines are cut to the ground in the fall after bloom and start coming up around the first of May. They really love hot weather.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham.

You can leave her a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. Her fax number is (248) 644-1914. a smooth lightweight oval fruit,

her is (248) 644-1314.



## Michigan Design Center opens doors for floor sample sale

The Michigan Design Center will hold its Semi-Annual Floor Sample and Clearance Sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 26, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 27. This is the only time of year that the public is invited to shop the show-rooms of MDC, where they will find semi-annual sale savings of 60 to 70 percent off list prices on hundreds of floor sample items, including furniture, oriental rugs, lighting, original art, ceramic title and acceasories. There is a \$6 admission charge, with a portion of the proceeds going to benefit COTS, the Coalition on Temporary Shelter. COTS is the largest shelter for homeless men, women and children in Michigan.

Merchandise will be sold AS IS and all sales are final. Payment may be made by cash or check and some showrooms will be accepting Visa or Mastercard. A delivery service will be available and arrangements can be made at the customer's expense. Delivery must be accepted within 10 days of purchase.

New this year, MDC has added design seminars at 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. each day. A complete listing of seminar titles and content is attached. There is no additional charge for sample sale participants to attend these seminars. During the sale, MDCS be signer on Call interior designers will also be available to answer questions. Designer On Call is an exclusive MDC design program that enables consumers to work one-on-one with a professional interior designer and gain access to the very finest interior furnishings from premier manufacturers across the globe, all under one roof at MDC.

Michigan Design Center is located at 1700 Stutz Drive in Troy, which is north off Maple, between Crooks and Coolidge, MDC showrooms serve the interior design professional. Consumers interested in products from MDC showrooms may contact Designer On Call by phoning toll-free 1-888-DIAL MDC. Or, visit MDCs website at www.michigandesign.com.

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