Vines are amazing plants. In nature they scramble over rocks, climb tree trunks, and sprawl through meadows and shrubs. In the garden they're a great way to add showy color in a limited space. Allow them to twine around supports such as trellises and arbors. Or let them cling to walls, sprawl on fences, or dress up latticework. Make certain that supports are substantial—full-grown vines can be quite heavy.

Vines can screen unsightly views or create welcome shade. Perfume outdoor living areas with the fragrance of blooming vines such as sweet autumn clematis, wisteria, or climbing roses. Attract hummingbirds with trumpet honeysuckle or trumpet vine.

There are both annual and perennial species of vines. Annual vines live for only one season, but their quick growth provides instant color that easily can be changed from year to year. Perennials live longer and can become permanent fixtures in your landscape. Some vines, such as mandevilla and bougainvillea, are perennial in the tropics, but usually are grown as annuals in cold climates. Another option is to grow them in containers and bring them indoors during freezing weather.

Bougainvillea is a spectacular sprawling subtropical vine that grows up to 20 feet tall in a year. It's hardy to Zone 9, but in colder areas can be grown in containers or as an annual. It produces small white flowers surrounded by colorful red, pink, magenta, lavender, or purple bracts that remain attractive for a month or more.

Photographer: Ed Gehlich

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Easy-to-Grow Flowering Vines

Trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*), a vigorous perennial vine hardy in Zones 4–9, needs lots of space and a strong support. It bears red-orange clusters of trumpet-shape blooms, which attract hummingbirds from July to September. This native vine spreads by suckers and seeds, so it can become weedy.

Photographer: Andrew Drake

This pink climbing rose (*Rosa* spp.) brings color and fragrance to an outdoor seating area. Rose canes sprawl rather than climb. Loosely tie them to posts to keep the canes upright. In Zones 5 and colder, climbing roses require winter protection. Lay the canes on the ground and cover them with soil or mulch.

Photographer: Andrew Drake

Jackman clematis (*Clematis × jackmanii*) is covered with purple flowers in early summer and reblooms sporadically the rest of the summer. A perennial hardy in Zones 4–8, it contrasts beautifully with this white pergola. Clematis grows best where it receives morning sun and afternoon shade.

Photographer: Kritsada

Sun Parasol Crimson mandevilla (*Mandevilla ‘Sunmandecrim’*) is a shrubby tropical vine that can grow up to 15 feet tall as it twines around supports. In cold climates it can be grown as an annual. Grow it in full sun and keep it uniformly moist. The trumpet-shape blooms are a favorite of hummingbirds.

Photographer: Ed Geblich

Black-eyed Susan vine (*Thunbergia alata*) is a tropical perennial that is usually grown as an annual. It bears bright yellow, orange, or white flowers with chocolate-color centers on vines 6 to 8 feet long. Grow it in full sun and provide slender posts or a wire frame for the vines to twine around.

Photographer: Marly Baldwin

Hyacinth bean (*Dolichos lablab*) is an annual vine that can grow up to 20 feet long. The most popular varieties have medium green leaves with purple undersides and produce fragrant purple flowers which are reminiscent of spring-blooming hyacinths. The blooms develop into attractive maroon pods.

Photographer: Dean Schoepner