

Flowering Vines
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On a bleak winter day, do your thoughts lead you to look at that blank wall or fence outside your window and wonder what you can do to add color, fragrance, and make the pollinators happy come summer? Here are some flowering vines that will do well in our area and will add character to that blank wall or fence.

Starting with evergreens there is Star Jasmine, *Trachelospermum jasminoides*, a twining vine that is attractive to bees. Highly fragrant white flowers that bloom in the spring.

Another white blooming evergreen is the Potato Vine, *Solanum laxum*, previously known as *Solanum jasminoides*. Clusters of dainty white flowers with yellow centers bloom year-round, but most profusely in spring. It will thrive in full sun or partial shade. It is a member of the Nightshade family and the fruit and flowers can be harmful if eaten, especially in dogs and cats.



1 *Clematis 'Jackmanii'*

Jasmine, *Jasminum polyanthum* has highly fragrant pink flowers that bloom in winter and spring. It can grow to 20 feet. Primrose Jasmine, *Jasminum mesnyi*, features lemon yellow unscented flowers in winter and spring. Its branches can grow from six to 10 feet and can be tied at a desired height, allowing the plant to spill over in waterfall fashion. It is a good choice for covering a pergola, bank, or large wall.

Do not forget the evergreen twining *Gelsemium sempervirens*, Carolina jessamine, which produces fragrant yellow flowers in late winter through spring. Prune it back so it does not get top heavy. It will grow well in full sun or partial shade, but blooms most profusely in full sun. All parts of this vine are poisonous if ingested.

The evergreen Bower Vine, *Pandorea jasminoides*, prefers afternoon shade and produces tubular white flowers with pink throats all year long. It can grow to 30 feet and needs regular irrigation.

Winter Jasmine, *Jasminum nudiflorum*, is a vining deciduous shrub that spreads by woody trailing stems rooting themselves in the soil. It can spread seven feet wide and four feet tall and features bright yellow unscented flowers.

Chinese Wisteria, *Wisteria sinensis*, is a deciduous, vigorous grower from 20 to 30 feet, that only needs occasional water and no fertilizer once established. Following winter dormancy, it produces white or purple flowers in spring. It is best to train a wisteria as either a multi-branched vine or as

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a single trunk vine during winter dormancy. Prune back the undesired trunks and long shoots and tie the branches to a support to guide the shape of the plant.

The Trumpet Vine, *Campsis radicans*, is a strong, woody, fast climber to 40 feet that features three-inch trumpet-shaped flowers in orange with scarlet tubes. Plants spread by suckering roots and aerial rootlets that will cling to wood, brick, stucco, and other surfaces. Trim the plant and pull out the suckering growth to maintain control of the shape and size. It is happy in sun or part shade.

Japanese Honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica*, likes the sun and heat and can grow to 30 feet. While still available in nurseries, the California Invasive Plant Council recommends not planting *Lonicera japonica* as it is an invasive plant. Instead, try another Honeysuckle variety, such as Woodbine, *Lonicera periclymenum*. It is less aggressive than the Japanese honeysuckle and grows pink–yellow blooms in summer and fall which attract bees. There are also lovely native honeysuckle options that you might find at a California Native Plant Sale or specialty nursery.

All varieties of Clematis like their feet in the shade and their head in the sun. Provide a cool area for roots with mulch or groundcovers and allow the top of the plant to reach for the sun. With over 200 species of Clematis, and other beautiful vining plants, there is sure to be one that will transform that blank spot into an eye-catching area.

Due to the pandemic; Master Gardener events will for the foreseeable future, continue to be limited. We realize our public classes are valued by county residents and we are doing our best to provide virtual learning opportunities. You can our new online class schedule at: http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Public_Education_Classes/, and recorded classes on many gardening topics here: http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Public_Education_Classes/Handouts_-_Presentations/.

Due to the California stay-at-home order, The Sherwood Demonstration Garden will be closed until further notice. Check http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Demonstration_Garden/.

Have a gardening question? Master Gardeners are working hard remotely and can still answer your questions. Leave a message on our office telephone: 530-621-5512, or use the “Ask a Master Gardener” option on our website: <http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu>. We’ll get back to you! Master Gardeners are also on Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest.

For more information on the UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County, see our website at: <http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/>. To sign up for notices and newsletters, see: http://ucanr.edu/master_gardener_e-news.