



Pruning Vines

Vines usually need pruning to limit growth, to thin stems and branches, and to remove dead or damaged wood. Some vines, such as honeysuckle, grow so fast and become so thick that considerable pruning may be necessary, but other vines need little pruning. Prune most vines in the dormant season, including the summer-flowering clematis (Jackmani type). The Florida and Patens types, including *Clematis montana*, blossom on 1-year-old wood and should be pruned by thinning out in spring before growth. Prune dead, diseased, and damaged vines back to healthy wood. Interfering branches of woody vines, such as wisteria, should be cut back below the point of interference or all the way back to the junction with the main stem.

In general, prune out the top third of overgrown woody vines and prune by a third or more old, mature stems that are declining in vigor. Each year, prune stems of wisteria to promote new growth and flowers. Prune back plant tops to force out new branches. Pruning wisteria extensively during the dormant season may encourage rampant vegetative growth the next spring. Instead, prune out long, straggly growth in July, except branches needed for climbing. This technique is more likely to induce flowering. Shoots should be cut back to one-third to one-half of their length, which will induce production of short spurs on which next season's flower clusters will be borne.

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