

Clematis climb into a special place in the garden

As they climb up trellises and trees unfurling large, lusciously colored flowers, clematis put on a special show in the garden.

These garden favorites need a little special handling at the start but once established clematis (clem-ah-tis or cla-mat-is) grow and flower year after year.

Clematis vines have three main requirements to thrive – sunlight on their stems and leaves; cool and moist but not wet roots; and support for climbing, according to Oregon State University Extension Service experts.

To provide ample sunlight, plant the vine where it will get at least six hours of daylight. Filtered shade during the hottest part of summer will help keep dark-colored blooms from fading. For a cool root zone, use mulch or organic compost, or plant low-growing shrubs or perennials that will shade the base of the vine. For support use a fence, trellis, small tree, tall shrub or another vine, such as climbing rose or wisteria.

The diversity of clematis is stunning. There are evergreen and deciduous. Some have large purple, white or pink blossoms; others are small, creamy and fragrant; others have yellow or cerulean blue bell shaped flowers. Bloom time varies from once-bloomers in spring or summer, twice bloomers in spring and fall,



KYM POKORNY
Your Garden

or only in fall.

Deciduous clematis are hardy in all Oregon climates. Evergreen varieties like sweet-smelling, winter-blooming Clematis armandii, are more sensitive to the cold and perform best in western valleys and the coast.

When planting clematis, give roots plenty of room: Dig a large hole, 2 feet deep and nearly as wide. If the soil is very heavy or has lots of clay, add fine bark, manure, compost and/or peat moss. The more organic matter, the better. Add lime if the soil is acidic.

If your garden tends toward clay, rough up the sides of the planting hole to prevent “glazing,” which can keep the roots from growing beyond the smooth sides of the planting hole into the surrounding soil. The roughing up can also keep water from pooling in the planting hole during the wet season.

Set the plant in the hole with the crown two to three inches below the soil surface. Stake the vine until it has grown enough to reach its permanent support. A new clematis should be



<https://flic.kr/p/mJYoAn>

Once you get them going, clematis like ‘The President’ are show stoppers in the garden.

well-watered, but not overfed. Once established, it will respond well to rose or tomato food, or any fertilizer in the range of 5-10-5 or 5-10-10 or good compost or chicken manure. Feed three times a year in spring, summer and fall.

As clematis like to keep its feet cool, insulate the root zone of your clematis with a thick mulch of straw, leaves or bark. Or plant a low-growing perennial or place a rock on the south side of your clematis to help keep the root area shaded.

Pinch out the tips of new shoots once or twice during

the first growing season to encourage branching near the base of the vine.

Most clematis will perform better with an annual pruning. Those that bloom during summer on new wood need heavy pruning in winter or early spring, or they will look thin and stringy. The kinds that bloom in the spring on last year’s wood can do without pruning, but are better if cut back lightly after they have finished flowering in the later spring or summer.

If given a good start, and a little maintenance, your clematis can live for a long time.

MI TOWN

As we turned the calendar to a new page and welcomed September this week, it just doesn’t seem like many days have passed since we were all talking about plans for Memorial Day weekend. We were all looking forward to days at the beach, swimming in the river and picnics at our local wineries. Remember when we were so tired of the seemingly endless rainstorms and wished for the return of sunshine and warm weather? Right about now, a rainy day would be very welcome.

All those big yellow school buses will be sharing the roads with us in the early morning and late afternoons, carrying their precious cargo — our children and grandchildren — for the next several months and we



PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER
Columnist

all need to be extra careful while driving in our communities. It’s time to watch for students of all ages as they walk to and from school. School zone speed limits are also in effect, and since our law officers can’t be everywhere all the time, it’s necessary that we observe those speed limits and drive carefully in and around school zones.

We enjoyed the Concerts in the Park series during July and August — and we will miss those special Wednesday evenings gathering with

friends and neighbors, while listening to good entertainers and enjoying picnic suppers or snacks available from our local merchants. These events don’t just happen by themselves, and a hearty thank-you to those who worked so hard to provide special evenings for all of us. We can all remember to patronize our local businesses and merchants who do so many good things for all of us in MI Town.

Mark your calendars for September 22, when everyone is welcome to the Monmouth Public Library at 6:30 pm, for Family Fun Night. Singer-songwriter Okaidja Afroso will be visiting from Ghana, West Africa to share lively music and activities. All ages are encouraged to attend for an evening of good fun.

For everyone who has been waiting for those wonderful apples — it’s that time of year. Whether you choose from the varieties available from local supermarkets, booths at farmers’ markets, or picking from your own backyard trees to make your very special cider, pies or applesauce, it’s definitely the season. Our Willamette Valley apples provide all the goodness of the seasons in one crisp bite.

These beautiful mornings and cooler evenings remind us of the transition in seasons, and can also remind us of what pleasure there can be in a good walk around the neighborhood or through our downtown areas, to visit with friends along the way and welcome new folks to our community.

PEDEE NEWS

Eric Schwanke is back from his mission trip to Mozambique with Iris Global Ministries, which was quite an experience for him as they do things differently there, like having three-hour sermons. Eric will be getting married to Rebekah Kamerman, of Bozeman, Mont., here at Pedee Church this month. They met in Montana and reconnected in Mozambique. They will be going to South Sudan with Setfree Ministries for three or four weeks to help get a farm



ARLENE KOVASH
Columnist

started and equipment running to do their part in alleviating hunger in that area. If you’d like to contribute to their mission, call the church for details.

Nic and Cassandra Heller are expecting a new

baby, due in March. Older sister Mercy will be delighted, even if she doesn’t know it yet.

I got home last week from several days visiting my sister Vicki Massey and her family in Mesa, Ariz. I’d gone with daughter Lorraine Odell, mainly to participate in the area quilt shop hops (don’t ask). While there we harvested prickly pear fruit and made jelly and syrup out of the resulting juice, which was beautiful if not flavorful.

We also kayaked down the Salt River with my 28-year-old nephews Sterling Massey and Owen Allen. They were such good sports to offer to take us, but we didn’t even get dumped while shooting the rapids. Kayaking helped make the 111-degree temperature seem cooler.

The Pedee women’s Bible study will start up again Sept. 15 at Pam Burbank’s house just south of the covered bridge. They will be studying Isaiah.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

These Polk County groups would welcome individuals who have time or expertise to volunteer. Organizations that would like to be added to this list should call 503-623-2373 or email 10news@polkio.com.

- AARP Foundation Tax-Aide — 503-930-7636
- After DARC — 503-623-9501
- American Cancer Society Road to Recovery — 1-800-227-2345
- Arc of Polk County — 541-223-3261
- Ash Creek Arts Center — 971-599-3301
- Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Polk County Inc. — 503-623-8473
- Central School District — 503-838-0030
- City of Dallas — 503-831-3502
- City of Independence — 503-838-1212
- City of Monmouth — 503-751-0145
- Crime Victims Assistance Program — 503-623-9268
- Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce — 503-623-2564
- Dallas Fire Department — 503-831-3532
- Dallas Food Bank — 503-623-3578
- Dallas Kids, Inc. — 503-623-6419
- Dallas Police Department — 503-831-3582
- Dallas Public Library — 503-623-2633
- Dallas Retirement Village — 503-623-5581
- Dallas School District — 503-623-5594
- Delbert Hunter Arboretum — 503-623-7359
- Ella Curran Food Bank — 503-838-1276
- Falls City Arts Center — 503-559-6291
- Falls City School District — 503-787-3531
- Family Building Blocks — 503-566-2132, ext. 308.
- Friends of the Dallas Library — 503-559-3830
- Gentle House Gardens, Monmouth — 503-838-2995
- Girl Scouts of Southwest Washington and Oregon — 1-800-338-5248
- H-2-O — 503-831-4736
- HART (Horses Adaptive Riding and Therapy) — 971-301-4278
- HandsOn Mid-Willamette Valley — 503-363-1651
- Heron Pointe Assisted Living — 503-838-6850
- Independence Health and Rehabilitation — 503-838-0001
- Independence Public Library — 503-838-1811
- Kings Valley Charter School — 541-929-2134
- Luckiamute Watershed Council — 503-837-0237
- Luckiamute Valley Charter School — 503-623-4837
- Meals on Wheels — 503-838-2084
- Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce — 503-838-4268
- Monmouth-Independence YMCA — 503-838-4042
- Monmouth Public Library — 503-838-1932
- Northwest Human Services — 503-588-5828
- Oregon Child Development Coalition — 503-838-2745
- OSU Extension Service - Polk County — 503-623-8395
- Perrydale School District — 503-623-2040
- Polk Community Development Corporation — 503-831-3173
- Polk County Community Emergency Response Team — 503-623-9396
- Polk County Museum — 503-623-6251
- Polk County Public Health — 503-623-8175
- Polk County Resource Center — 503-623-8429
- Polk Soil and Water Conservation District — 503-623-9680
- Relief Nursery Classroom — 503-566-2132
- SABLE House — 503-623-6703
- SALT (Sheriff’s Auxiliary & Law Enforcement Together) — 503-851-9366
- Salvation Army — 503-798-4783
- SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) — 503-391-8423
- Salem Health West Valley Hospital — 503-623-8301
- Victim Assistance Program-Polk Co. District Attorney’s Office — 503-623-9268 x1444
- Willamette Valley Hospice — 503-588-3600
- WIMPEG Community Access Television — 503-837-0163

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Continued from page 9A

TUESDAY, SEPT. 12

• **Independence Riverview Market** — 2 to 7 p.m., Riverview Park, 50 C St., Independence. 503-910-8193.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13

- **Polk County Republican Women** — 11:30 a.m., Murphy’s Restaurant, 288 E. Ellendale Ave., Dallas. No-host lunch available; everyone welcome. 503-623-5759.
- **Respite care** — 1 to 3 p.m., 182 SW Academy St., Suite 216, Dallas. Free child care for parents who need time to run errands, pay bills, etc. Free. Open for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. 503-877-8473 to reserve space. Diapers are provided.
- **Willamette Valley Food Assistance Program Food Bank** — 1:30 to 6:30 p.m., 888 Monmouth Cutoff Road, Building E, Dallas. Weekly distribution for eligible community members. 503-831-5634.
- **Free Blood Pressure Check Clinic** — 2 to 3 p.m., Salem Health West Valley (surgery admitting area), 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. 503-623-7323.
- **Monmouth Senior Center Music Jam** — 6:30 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St., Monmouth. Open to the public; musicians of all types welcome. 503-838-5678.
- **Dallas American Legion Post No. 20** — 7 p.m., Academy Building, Room 108, 182 SW Academy St., Dallas. 503-831-3971.
- **Pickleball** — 9 a.m. to noon, Roger Jordan Community Park. Meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon. Karen Freeman, 503-871-4172.

Independence RIVERVIEW MARKET

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Independence Riverview Park
Tuesdays 2-7pm
Saturday 9am -2pm

GRIEF SHARE

Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend.

Please join us for a 13 week seminar and support group that meets weekly to help you face the challenges of grief. Each session focuses on a specific topic and offers a DVD presentation and small group discussion time. A personal workbook is included for taking notes on the presented material and On Your Own sections. \$35 registration includes workbook. Scholarships available.

First session, “Is This Normal?” begins Tuesday, Sept. 12 • 6:30 pm
Weekday Bible Building, 1156 SE Holman Ave.

For more information or to register please call Kate or visit our website.

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