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CLEMATIS GROWING INFORMATION

UPON ARRIVAL

Unpack immediately and water. Replace any soil that may have been shaken loose during shipping.

PLANTING

Use a well drained soil mix. Commercially produced mixes that work well are Fafard 3-B, Stronglite Universal, Premier Pro Mix or Ball II. Pot clematis liners into 4.5" 1 gal. or 1.5 gal. containers at a depth so that 1 set of nodes is below the surface leaving one or more sets of nodes above the soil surface. If using containers larger than 1.5 gal. liners should be stepped up to 3.5" or 4" container for 6 to 8 weeks, then potted into the larger container. Water Clematis thoroughly, as soon as possible after planting, with clear water.

IRRIGATION AND NUTRITION

Watering practices can be the determining factor on whether your Clematis crop is a success or failure.

Keys to Watering:

- 1) Water early in the day so that foliage has time to dry before evening
- 2) Let soil begin to dry out before watering, but not to the point of wilting
- 3) Water thoroughly so that 15% of the water applied drains out the bottom of the pot

If using a slow release fertilizer, apply as a top dressing at $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ the rate normally applied. Supplement with a water soluble fertilizer as needed. Problems can be avoided by maintaining vigorous growth by pruning often during the early growing period. Be sure to watch plants closely after pruning. If the new shoots don't push out in 7 to 10 days you could have high soluble salt levels. A thorough clear water leaching will reduce salt levels and new shoots will usually push out within several days.

It is best to use a general purpose water soluble fertilizer on Clematis, such as 20-20-20 or 20-10-20 at a rate of 150 ppm constant liquid feed. During periods of very fast growth this level may need to be increased to 200 ppm. A clear water irrigation is a good idea every 3rd or 4th watering. Maintain a pH from 5.8 to 6.5. If pH rises above 6.5 uptake of minor elements will be reduced, which can result in yellowing of the leaves. This yellowing will usually show itself first in certain indicator varieties. Varieties that can be called indicators are Nelly Moser, Arctic Queen, Pink Champagne, Sugar Candy, and Henryi.

If you notice yellowing of the foliage on any of your Clematis plants, you should do a soil test to determine the pH of your soil mix and the EC levels. It is a good idea to do periodic soil tests to monitor both pH and soluble salt levels. Maintaining optimum pH and fertility levels is very important to avoid nutritional problems and to maintain vigorous growth. Clematis that are growing vigorously are much less likely to be affected by disease and insects.

TEMPERATURES

Growing Period: Maintain a minimum night temperature of 55 to 63 degrees F and vent during the day at 70 to 76 degrees F.

Dormant Period: It is very important for Clematis to go through a dormant period. A Combination of 2 factors will force Clematis into dormancy. They are short days and cool temperatures. Start the dormant period during November by lowering temperatures gradually over a 7 to 10 day period. Temperatures should be lowered to 36 to 42 degrees F and vent at 46 to 52 degrees F during the day. Clematis should be dormant for at least 6 weeks, but can be dormant for many months. Clematis that you receive after December have gone through a dormant period.

For sanitation reasons Clematis should be cut back to 8 to 12" and defoliated during the first week or 2 of the dormant period.

INSECT & DISEASE

Aphids, Whiteflies, Spider Mites and Thrips can be problems. Clematis do well in a greenhouse or nursery with a sound pest management program. Chemicals that work well to control these insects and are safe to use on Clematis are Pylon, Ovation, Endeavor, Marathon, Orthene, Avid, Thiodan, Azatin, and Conserve.

Botrytis, Fusarium, Ascochyta are the most common disease problems with Clematis. These can be controlled by humidity management, good watering practices, and by maintaining vigorous growth. We recommend a monthly drench of Clearys 3336 at a rate of 12 to 16 oz. per 100 gallons of water. This drench will help in controlling disease development. Pithium and Phytophthora Typically are not a problem but if you see a root rot problem Subdue Maxx can be used safely on Clematis to control these diseases at a rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per 100 gallons of water. Root Shield (Plant Shield) can also be used as a drench or incorporated into the soil mix.

FLOWERING / PRUNING

If your plants were grown through the Summer and Fall and adequate root development is present, plants can be held dormant until late February or Early March. At this time bring temperatures up to a minimum of 60 degrees F nights and vent during the days at 70 degrees F. DO NOT PINCH! Let them grow out and they will bloom in 6 to 9 weeks depending on the variety.

If you are starting the plants in January, do a pinch around January 20th leaving 2 sets of nodes and again around March 1st leaving 1 or 2 sets of nodes. Do not pinch after this time if you want plants to bloom in early May. Watch the plants close after both pinches to be sure new shoots push out. If they don't come out within 7 days, do a clear water leaching to lower soluble salt levels in the soil. Shoots should push out within a few days. If you are receiving plants after February 15th and you want your Clematis to bloom in early May, do not pinch.

DO NOT USE BANROT OR TRUBAN OR ANY PRODUCTS CONTAINING ETRIDIAZOLE.

Clearys 3336, Domain, Fungo, Daconil, Chipco 26019, Heritage, Medallion, Decree, or Root Shield (Plant Shield) can be used safely on Clematis.

If you have further questions --

Please Call, Fax or Email us with any questions.

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