

## Vertical Gardening



Vertical gardening is often the only option for those of us who have limited available planting space. Gardens of any size, however, can benefit by making use of vertical areas that already exist. Blank walls, open and closed style fences, unsightly power poles, or an unattractive structure or view you'd like to block are obvious choices. A troublesome corner, a shady area (under a tree or the north side of a building), a terraced slope are other candidates for vertical plantings. Vertical gardening can add more privacy to your home. Arbors, towers, and trellises provide countless structural designs on which to grow berries, vegetables, vines, roses, espaliered plants and other plants which can be readily trained to

grow vertically. Planter boxes, containers, hanging baskets and raised beds are useful in this art. A pergola, (whether simple or ornate) is a spectacular addition to a larger space.

Natural choices for elevation are perennial vines, including ivy (please exclude those of the noxious variety), clematis, honeysuckle, jasmine, climbing roses (hybrid tea climbers, old garden climbers, climbing miniatures, ramblers, pillar roses) and grapes. A large number of fruits and vegetables will respond very well if encouraged to grow in your vertical garden. Tomatoes, melons, pole beans, climbing peas, squash and cucumbers are examples, as are strawberries.

Several flowering plants will grow readily into trees and attain heights from 10–30'. Rambling roses (Paul's Himalayan musk, ever blooming climbing Cecile Brunner and 16 others are available from the nursery listed below). All are hardy in the Pacific Northwest. There are 50 varieties of climbing roses offered in the same catalog which will provide long-lasting color. Climbers are usually from a minimum of 6' high and to a maximum of 16' wide and are suitable for covering walls and fences.

Installing shelves at various levels on blank walls and fences provide excellent sites for plant-filled containers and boxes. Pots of various designs and heights grouped together add vertical appeal and make maintenance easier. Deck posts and railings cry out for hanging baskets of vining annuals. Eye-level tables show off smaller potted specimens and are ideal for displaying bonsai, miniature roses, jades, crown of thorns, cacti and other house plants that do well out-of-doors in warm weather. Angel's trumpets and groupings of other large house plants add to the vertical effect.



Some preplanning is suggested when considering sizes of plants at maturity. It is critical to assess both your available time and physical limitations or you may create problems when maintenance is required. Location of planting structures is important. If your plants are sun-loving, the vertical structure should be on the north side of the plant. Locate it on the prevailing downwind side so strong winds blow the plant against the supportive structure.

Plants that grow vertically require more frequent watering. It is also recommended that you mulch the plant at least 4" deep around the base.

Vertical gardening can add significantly to almost any garden by:

- providing more privacy
- providing excellent air circulation for plants
- making plants more available to gardeners who cannot garden in a traditional way
- preventing pests who do not crawl from being a problem
- being able to grow more plants in little space

being able to use a variety of plants that can be trained to grow vertically

Vertical gardening offers many more creative ideas for all sizes of gardens, so have fun exploring.

## Catalog reference

[Heirloom Roses](#)

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