

Submitted By: Spotswood Garden Club

Clematis 'Guernsey Cream' (Early Large-Flowered Clematis)

Large-Flowered Clematis 'Guernsey Cream'



Most clematis cultivars are from China and Japan.
'Guernsey Cream' Hybridized by Evison, 1989.

A magnificent large-flowered variety, Clematis 'Guernsey Cream' produces such an abundance of luminous flowers, 5-6 in. across (12-15 cm), that they cover the foliage entirely. Opening pale yellow, the rounded, overlapping petals are adorned with pale chartreuse central bars. As the blooms mature, they fade to creamy white and contrast pleasantly with the prominent yellow anthers. The flowers are followed by large, showy silver seedheads, which add further interest to the plant. Flowering comes in two waves: first in late spring and early summer, then in late summer and early fall. Reliable and vigorous, this clematis is ideal for arbors, trellises, pergolas and other garden structures. Pair it with your favorite climbing roses and it will quickly cover their bare legs.

- ★ Easy to grow and to cultivate, it thrives in **moist, well-drained soils**, in **part shade**. Tolerates **full sun**. Ideally, Clematis prefer having their 'heads in the sun and their feet in the shade'. Keep the roots cool and shaded by other plants or add a layer of pebbles or flat stones at the base. Afternoon shade is appreciated in hot summer areas.
- ★ Hardy, this clematis can quickly grow up to 6-8 ft. long (180-240 cm).
- ★ Deadhead after the first wave of blooms to promote new blooms.
- ★ This Clematis belongs to the **second group of Clematis** - a group including Clematis which flower in early summer on short shoots developing from the last year's growth. Some flower again in late summer on new growth. These Clematis vines should be pruned in late winter or early spring before new growth starts and after the first flush of flowers in early summer.
- ★ Prune in late winter or early spring: Remove dead or weak stems before growth begins. Check individual stems from the top down until you reach a pair of healthy buds, and prune just above them, removing the spindly or damaged growth above. Avoid heavy pruning or flowers will be lost
- ★ Then prune again after the first flush of flowers: To encourage a second flush of flowers later in the season prune back some stems by cutting to large buds or a strong side shoot immediately below the blooms. Top-heavy or overgrown plants can be gradually reduced over two to three seasons by pruning back harder after the first flush of flowers. They are unlikely to produce a second flush of flowers, but should flower again the following year, in late spring or early summer
- ★ Alternatively, leave clematis in this group unpruned, and then hard prune them to 30-90cm (1-3ft) from the base every three or four years in late winter (as for pruning group three). In the first year after renovation, they will only flower once.

Submitted By: Spotswood Garden Club