

# Wisteria

## PLANT CARE SERIES

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A beautiful climbing vine with beautiful clusters of hanging fragrant flowers. Wisteria has twisted, gnarled stems, over arching leaves with pendant blossoms. Wisteria can be grown as a vine or as a tree. Do not underestimate the power of the wisteria. Wisteria is a rampantly growing vine that needs strong support.

## EXPOSURE

At least 6 plus hours a sun a day.

## PLANTING

We recommend **Gardner & Bloome Soil Building Compost**, **Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer** and **Bonide Root n Grow**. See our **Planting Guide** for more information. Japanese and Chinese Wisteria are the showiest and most fragrant of the wisterias, but they are also the largest and most powerful of the wisterias. They can become heavy with age, and have been known to damage structures, even houses.

### Chinese Wisteria

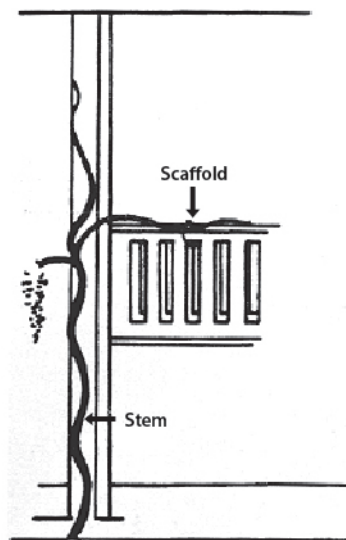
Multitude of very fragrant violet, blue, white or pink flowers that open in one big splash in the spring. The flower clusters appear before the foliage emerges. The individual flowers along the length of the clusters open all at once. Their flower clusters can be 6 to 12 inches long. Chinese Wisteria can grow 25 feet or more. Chinese Wisteria often bloom again in the summer.

### Japanese Wisteria

Grows 25 feet or more. The flower colors range from blue, purple, white & pink, and some are very fragrant. They bloom as their foliage expands. Individual flowers open gradually from the base of the cluster to the tip. The flower clusters can be 12 to 18 inches in length. Blooms in late May.

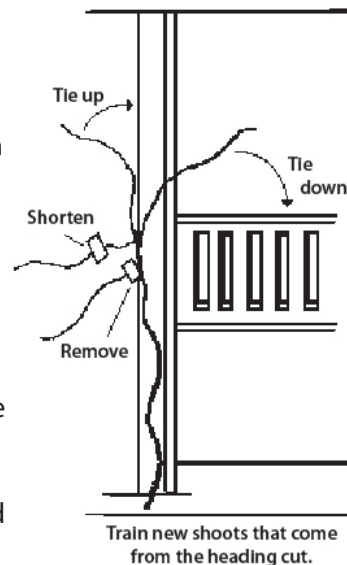
## TRAINING

The main trunk is a combination of twisted, coiled stems, resembling an unruly rope. Let the main trunk grow to desired height. If you want to force side branching at a particular point you head back (cut off) the main stem at that point. Two of the new shoots are then tied into position to become the scaffolds. The third shoot is allowed to continue up to become the main trunk. Any other shoots are cut off completely.



Major scaffolds on a wall or lattice should be spaced at least 18 inches apart to allow room for the blossoms to dangle down with out running into each other. All other shoots (runners) are either cut off completely (and there are lots and lots of these) or shortened to 6 or inches (4 to 5 buds) if they are wanted for flower production.

Further shortening in the winter means that you cut back the chosen lateral to 3 or 4 buds to force vegetative shoots to become spur (flower) producing. Flowering is more prolific on horizontal branches.



Please turn the page for more information. ➡

## PRUNING

Wisteria needs hard pruning to keep plant from overwhelming everything in the neighborhood and to promote good blossoming. Prune wisteria when it is done blooming. New buds form over the summer for the following spring show.

### Summer Pruning

Prune the long shoots of the current year's growth back to 6 inches long in the early summer after the vines have flowered. Also, remove any shoots not needed for main framework, and prune away any root suckers. You may have to prune more than once.

### Late Winter Pruning

Prune long shoots that have grown since the summer. Pruning down to 3 to 5 buds. Also remove any of last season's unwanted shoots.

## GROWING ON AN ARBOR OR TRELIS

Wisteria vine is allowed to run to the top of the arbor or trellis and spread out as desired. Later it can be trained annually by cutting 50% of the canes back to a few major scaffolds to keep it from getting too piled up upon itself.

## GROWING AS A STANDARD OR TREE

With the help of a sturdy stake or two a wisteria can be trained into a small free standing tree. Once the wisteria gets to the desired height cut off the top. Let the side shoots develop on the upper part, but remove any side shoots from lower part of the wisteria tree. The side shoots on the canopy are pruned each winter to 6 inches to a foot in length until the top is as large as desired. Future pruning consists of cutting summer shoots to the 6 or 7 leaf as soon as it expands.

## WON'T BLOOM / LITTLE BLOOM?

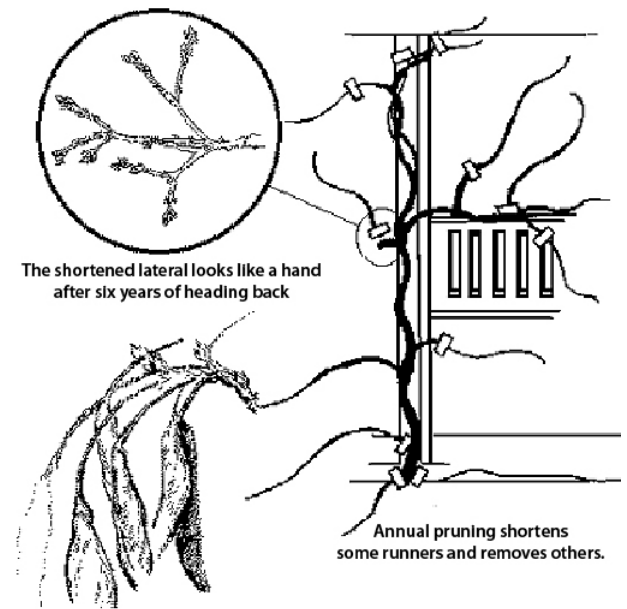
- Wisteria may have been raised from seed and won't flower for many, many years. It is better to purchase a wisteria that has all ready bloomed or a named variety of known quality.
- Too little sun: wisteria needs at least 6 hours of sun a day
- Don't over fertilize (too much nitrogen or even too much balanced fertilizer) can give you lots of foliage but no flowers
- Unpruned: may have scant blooms so high you can't see them
- Late frosts and high winds may damage flower buds
- Pruning at wrong time
- On an older wisteria , try root pruning

## MULCHING

Apply 2 to 3 inches of **Gardner & Bloome Soil Building Compost** in the spring and again in the fall. This will help with weed control and moisture control.

## FERTILIZING

Each year while your wisteria is filling out it allotted space, you may want to feed it **Dr. Earth All Purpose Fertilizer** this will encourage vegetative growth. Once its desired space has been filled, DO NOT fertilize.



## CHECK LIST

- Wisteria(s)
- Soil Building Compost
- Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer
- Bonide Root n Grow
- Dr. Earth All Purpose Fertilizer (use only if you need vegetative growth)
- Super Phosphate (use only if you are having problems getting wisteria to bloom)