

leaves. But I want to note two or three important points in their culture, whereby increased and prolonged pleasure may be derived from their peculiar beauty. Clematises, as a rule, grow thick and low, when compared with other climbers. They should, therefore, be trained either to coarse wire netting, set against wall or house, or on a pole or dead tree with parts of the branches left unlopped. Thus managed, clematises display effectively their rich colors and delicate grace. Single wires or strings fastened vertically are frequently used as supports for clematis vines, but such a system of training fails to display satisfactorily the peculiar beauty of the leaves.

But some one may say that clematises, with all their surprising beauty, are very unsatisfactory because they last so short a time. The answer to this is—cut off your clematises just below the flowers, as soon as they have faded, and you will find to your delight that in August and September all kinds in any way related to those mentioned above will bloom freely a second time. Do not forget, furthermore, the species *C. virginica*, small, white and sweet-scented. It is not related to the above list, but is induced to bloom in a like manner a second time by similar pruning. People are becoming very enthusiastic about clematises now-a-days, but they have yet to learn half the attractive ways by which their charms may be displayed. For instance, they may be trained into a thick carpet, sprinkled with flowers, or in the form of a border. They may be made to cluster deliciously in the upper curves of a gothic doorway or window, or they may be allowed to wander in wild graceful abandon over heaps of rocks or roots; indeed, I can never fancy the distinctly formal mounds, columns and what-not of clematis that the books recommend in their latest devised systems of training. Very useful clematises for creeping over rocks and roots are the species *C. apafolia* and *C. grahamii*, one yellow, the other white, and both possessed of the habit—almost peculiar to themselves—of blooming in August in the most profuse fashion, and therefore needing no summer pruning. These clematises grow very rapidly and thickly, and are in every way unsurpassed for covering rock-work with foliage and flowers.

A rare and most curious clematis has come recently into the hands of the planter under the name of *Clematis coccinea*. The flower is unlike the ordinary form of clematis, and it is not only curious, but very beautiful. It consists of a solid, fleshy mass less than two inches long, moulded into the similitude of a diminutive antique vase with a very small mouth. The color is deep scarlet, which flushes the entire surface of the flower, while the foliage is much like that of an ordinary clematis. It blooms commonly in July. Altogether it is one of the most interesting plants I have seen in a long time, even setting aside its unquestionable rarity. Surely I am doing no plant injustice when I express regret that such gems of hardy nature receive so little attention compared with that bestowed on the different forms of coleus and geranium. Furthermore, in thus speaking of clematis coccinea, I would offer the same plea for all clematises. They are in many instances difficult to propagate, but always choice and lovely, and very frequently rare.—S. PARSONS, Jr., in *Country Gentleman*.