

Annual Sweet Pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*)

Full sun to part shade; humus-rich soil that is evenly moist; up to 6 feet; tendrils; blue, pink, mauve, white, salmon flowers may be fragrant; grow best in cool weather; mulch well and remove dead flowers



Mandevilla (*Mandevilla × amabilis*)

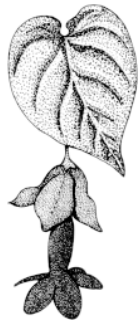
Part shade, evenly moist soil; up to 10 feet; twines; clusters of pink, trumpet-shaped flowers; glossy leaves; overwinter inside by cutting back stems and watering only enough to prevent drying out

Spanish Flag (*Mina lobata*)

Full sun; well-drained, moist soil; 10 to 20 feet; twines; small red and white flowers on one side of flower stalk; lobed, dark green leaves like *Ipomoea*

Scarlet Runner Bean (*Phaseolus coccineus*)

Full sun; moist, well-drained soil; 10 to 15 feet; twines; scarlet flowers; dark green leaves in sets of three; edible beans



Purple Bell Vine

(*Rhodochiton atrosanguineum*)

Full sun to part shade; average well-drained soil; up to 10 feet; tendrils; tubular, deep purple flowers; heart-shaped leaves; start seeds indoors; may be overwintered indoors

Black-eyed Susan Vine (*Thunbergia alata*)

Part shade to full sun; moist, well-drained soil; 3 to 6 feet; twines; creamy white, yellow, or orange flowers with black eye; tooth-edged oval to triangular leaves

Common Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*)

Full sun to part shade; infertile or dry, sandy soil; 5 to 10 feet; twines; flowers and leaves are edible with a peppery flavor; choose traditional, not dwarf cultivars

Canary Creeper

(*Tropaeolum peregrinum*)

Full sun to part shade; average soil; up to 10 feet; twines; bright yellow, fringed flowers are edible; lobed leaves



For more information

Horticultural information on selection, planting, cultural practices, and environmental quality is available from your local Iowa State University Extension office and from these Web sites.

ISU Extension Publications—
www.extension.iastate.edu/pubs

ISU Horticulture—
www.yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu

Reiman Gardens—
www.reimangardens.iastate.edu

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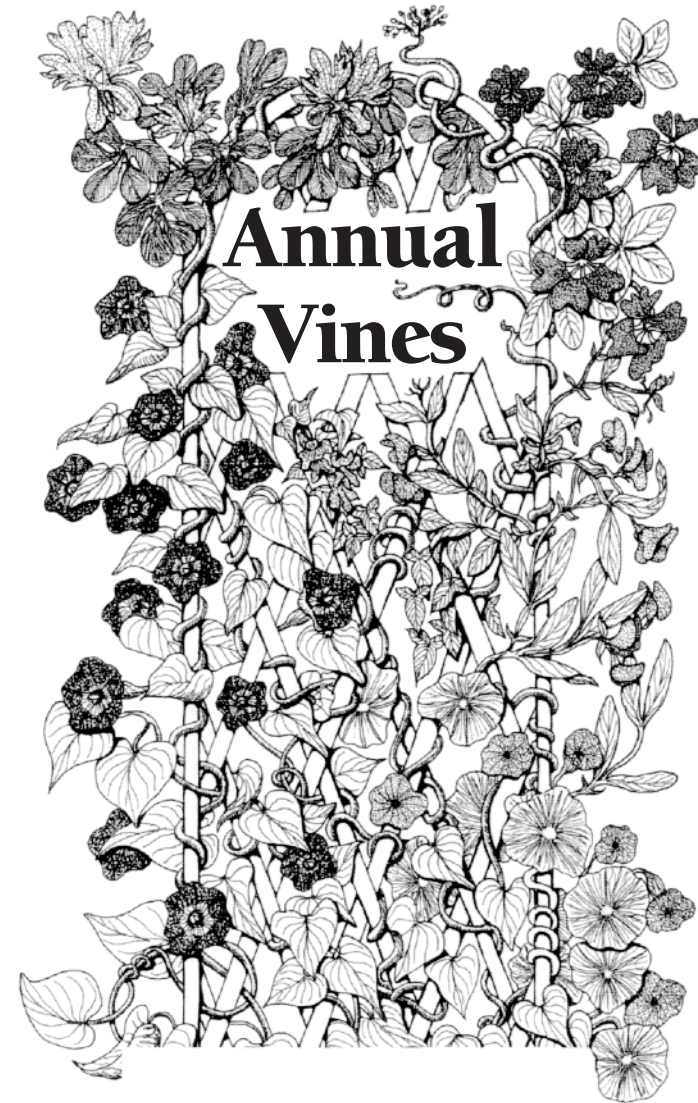
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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Stanley R. Johnson, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.

RG 317 Revised April 2004



Using annual vines

Annual vines grow quickly and bloom profusely in one summer. They can camouflage unsightly fences or walls, accent pleasing architecture, or soften harsh structural lines—and at the same time add color, texture, and height. Vines are ideal for creating a temporary, natural screen for privacy or against sun, wind, or unattractive views. They also can create a welcoming habitat for birds, bees, and butterflies.

Supporting annual vines

Trellises, arbors, and other support structures can be made from netting, twine, metal, PVC pipe, decay-resistant wood, and rustproof wire, such as plastic-coated or copper electrical wire. Structures should be placed far enough away from buildings to allow air circulation and should be positioned before vines are planted.

Vines tend to flower mostly along the top growth, leaving an area of leggy stem exposed at the plant's base. For better bloom distribution and to prevent the plant from sagging, fasten young shoots horizontally along support structures. This encourages plants to form low, lateral shoots that will flower. Fasten the vines using strong, stretchy materials in a figure-eight pattern, with the crossed portion sitting between the stem and the support.

Most annual vines climb by using tendrils or by twining. **Tendrils** are slim, flexible stems or leaf modifications that can quickly wrap themselves around anything they come in contact with to support the vine for further growth. Tendrils curl because cells on one side of the stem grow faster—how much faster determines the tightness of the curl. Vines that have tendrils appreciate narrow horizontal supports. They also do well on netting or grids.



Twining vines wind their stems around any available support—usually in a clockwise direction. They need predominantly vertical supports as well as horizontal supports every 8 to 12 inches for their side branches. Twining vines tend to have more vigorous growth habits than tendrilled vines and may need pruning.



Suggested annual vines

Climbing Snapdragon (*Asarina antirrhinifolia* and *A. scandens*)

Full sun; prefers well-drained soil and tolerates sandy soil; up to 8 feet; twines; purple, white, or rose-pink flowers late in season; ivy-like leaves; start seeds indoors

Balloon Vine (*Cardiospermum halicacabum*)

Also called love-in-a-puff; full sun; average garden soil; up to 10 feet; tendrils; tiny white flowers followed by balloon-like seedpods; seeds have a white, heart-shaped mark; three-part leaves

Cup-and-Saucer Vine

(*Cobaea scandens*)

Full sun or part shade; moist, well-drained soil; up to 25 feet; tendrils; purple flowers; start indoors by setting flat seeds on edge in moist planting medium



Hyacinth Bean (*Lablab purpureus*)

Full sun to part shade; well-drained soil; up to 10 feet; twines; purple-green leaves with fragrant purple flowers followed by shiny pods; edible beans; grows best in hot weather

Japanese Hops Vine (*Humulus japonicus*)

Full sun to part shade; average garden soil; up to 25 feet; twines; dark green, deeply lobed,

Ipomoea Hints

All members of the morning glory family are twiners that may grow vigorously in good conditions and are inclined to self sow. They prefer warm weather and do not tolerate frost. For earliest flowers, start seeds indoors in peat pots after first nicking the seeds and soaking them overnight. Use peat pots to reduce transplant shock.

prickly leaves (to which some people are sensitive); cone-like greenish flowers; variegated form available; readily self sows

Moonflower (*Ipomoea alba*)

Full sun; fertile, well-drained soil; up to 10 feet; large, white flowers open at night; wide, heart-shaped leaves

Scarlet Starglory (*Ipomoea coccinea*)

Also called red or crimson morning glory; full sun; fertile, well-drained to sandy soil; up to 10 feet; small, red, funnel-shaped flowers with yellow throats; large heart-shaped leaves

Cardinal Vine, Climber (*Ipomoea × sloteri*)

Full sun; porous, fertile to sandy soil; up to 10 feet; small, bright red flowers attract hummingbirds; fern-like leaves

Morning Glory (*Ipomoea nil*, *I. purpurea*, *I. tricolor*)

Full sun; well-drained to sandy soil; 8 to 10 feet; purple, blue, pink, or white flowers open in morning and close in afternoon; large, heart-shaped leaves

Cypress Vine

(*Ipomoea quamoclit*)

Full sun; light fertile soil that is moist but well-drained; up to 20 feet; star-shaped, bright red flowers; feathery, fern-like leaves

