

## Consider flowering vines

By Audrey Alessi\*

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Are you looking to cover a fence or garden gate with an heirloom vine? Consider Firecracker Vine for its showy foliage and blooms. The blooms start out as orange-red buds and turn shades of crimson to soft coral and lemon yellow as they open. Hummingbirds will be frequent visitors to these colorful blossoms.

Or you might want to try Purple Hyacinth Bean, which will easily vine its way up a trellis or garden arbor. This vine has dark green, heart-shaped leaves and boasts beautiful sprays of lavender-pink blossoms borne on striking deep purple stems. The richly hued flowers mature into showy deep purple seedpods. Hyacinth Bean is a vigorous re-seeding annual vine for full sun and attracts hummingbirds.

No romantic garden would be complete without the luminous white trumpet flowers of Moon Flower Vine. This Southern beauty is a sure delight at sundown. The opalescent buds open as if in slow motion releasing their sultry perfume. Watch for hummingbird moths, which come to drink nectar from the iridescent blooms.

The following vines are also easily grown and sure to be hits:

- Scarlet Runner Bean - annual vine; full sun; super easy and fast; great hummingbird vine for kids to grow
- Black-eyed Susan Vine - tender perennial for full sun; eye-catching yellow/orange tubular flowers with black throats; old-timey plant
- Blue Glory Vine - vigorous perennial vine for full sun; beautiful sky blue blooms; hummingbird attractant
- Sweet Autumn Clematis - masses of tiny white flowers in late summer and fall; fragrant and not fussy; partial sun

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