**Virginia Creeper - Parthenocissus quinquefolia**

Virginia Creeper has the same deep red autumn colour as Boston Ivy, however its coverage is not as dense. It has tiny holdfasts that help secure it to its climbing surface. It is fairly adaptable to growing conditions including well drained to wet soils, and full shade to full sun positions. Virginia Creeper will tolerate extended dry periods but will benefit from additional watering in summer.

**Foliage:** Green palmate leaves with brilliant red autumn colour.
**Flowers:** Inconspicuous, that form into poisonous small black berries.

---

**Crimson Glory Vine - Vitis coignetiae**

Although not as widely available as Boston Ivy & Virginia Creeper, Crimson Glory Vine comes from the same family. This vigorous climber is best where it has room to grow on the support of a pergola, its dense body of foliage will providing a good source of shade. Plant in humus-rich well drained soil, part shade to full sun position. Will tolerate cold conditions and some wind. Prefers to be in moist soil.

**Foliage:** Dimpled, large heart shaped leaves that have vibrant red and dark purple autumn colour.
**Flowers:** Inconspicuous, that form into poisonous small black berries.

---

**Chinese Wisteria - Wisteria sinensis**

A magical climber covered in fragrant, long pendulous purple flowers in spring. After flowering, leaves provide shade if the climber is growing across a pergola or structure. It will need a support to climb over such as a fence, framework, or verandah. Wisterias are best in a sunny position, in well drained soil. Japanese Wisteria (Wisteria floribunda) is another form available that is more prolific in its flowering. White and pink flowering cultivars are also available. Fairly drought tolerant.

**Foliage:** Long pinnate lime-coloured leaves. Autumn colour yellow.
**Flowers:** Long purple flowers are born in spring. Highly perfumed.

---

**Travelers Joy – Clematis**

Clematis is a diverse species of climber that is cultivated for their spectacular flowers. There are deciduous, herbaceous perennial and evergreen varieties available. Its roots require a cool, moist, well-drained position in full sun. They will need a support to climb against such as a trellis or fence. When it comes to flowering, some varieties flower in spring, others in summer. They can be grown in pots too. Plant with organic matter.

**Foliage:** Variable depending on species, however they are usually compound leaves with up to 3-5 lanceolate leaflets arranged in pairs off the stem.
**Flowers:** Spectacular flowers in bright purples, magentas, whites, and pinks. Highly perfumed.
Bougainvillea - Bougainvillea glabra

A woody, decorative climber, producing loads of brightly coloured bracts in summer adding a tropical feel to gardens. Bougainvilleas have sharp thorns which are used to help the plant climb and attach to surfaces. It can grow as an informal ground cover if not given a frame or support to climb up. Plant in a warm sunny position in well-drained soil. Do best without the addition of added fertiliser and water, which will usually just encourage more leaf growth, not more flowers.

Can be sensitive to frost. Hybrids have been bred to produce bract colours in vibrant pinks, crimsons, reds, oranges, golds and white, as well as dwarf varieties.

**Foliage:** Pale green heart shaped leaves.

**Flowers:** The flowers are actually quite small and white. They are surrounded by three magenta-coloured bracts. Bougainvillea flowers almost year round in warmer, tropical climates.

Lemon-Scented Jasmine – Jasminum azoricum

A lovely creeper with fragrant white star-shaped flowers. Vigorous climber, yet drought tolerant once established. It has a long flowering season. Tolerant of a wide range of soil types including coastal sites, but prefers good drainage. Good frost tolerance. To maintain shape prune back after flowering or throughout growing season if required. Plant in full sun.

**Foliage:** Dark green glossy leaves arranged in whorls of three.

**Flowers:** Pink buds open to white star-shaped flowers in mid spring to autumn.

White Potato Creeper – Solanum jasminoides / Solanum laxum

White Potato Creeper is an evergreen climber producing cheery white star-like flowers in summer and autumn. Prefers a sunny position in moist, well-drained soil. Does not grow well in mountainous zones of Australia, and is partly deciduous in colder zones. It can produce suckers from the base. Use for screening with support from a trellis or fence.

**Foliage:** Dark green glossy leaves.

**Flowers:** White star-like flowers with bright yellow stamens. Flowers from summer to autumn.

Chinese Star Jasmine- Trachelospermum jasminoides

A popular climber producing a profusion of scented white star-shaped flowers in spring. A beautiful plant to have growing over fences or pergolas, as a ground cover, and can be effectively espaliered in formal gardens. Can be clipped to form a more formal appearance or left to grow into a natural shape where it will soften the landscape. Pruning regularly will help maintain a more dense habit. Chinese Star Jasmine will tolerate a range of soil types however prefers well drained soil. It will grow in part-shade to full sun. Drought tolerant once established, but best with additional water in hot, dry periods. Plant sap can cause irritation so wear gardening gloves when pruning. Trachelospermum Tricolour is another form of Jasmine with mottled cream and green foliage with pink new growth.

**Flowers:** White star-like flowers appear in spring, and sometimes through to autumn. Highly perfumed.

**Foliage:** Dark green leaves that can turn golden in winter.

Lady Banks Rose – Rosa banksiae 'Lutea'

A thornless, climbing rose with pale yellow blooms. Perfect for cottage or formal gardens where it can be trained against a trellis or espaliered. Drought tolerant. Trim back by one third after flowering. Prefers a full sun position.

**Flowers:** Semi-double-double pale yellow flowers in spring.

**Foliage:** Alternate pinnate glossy green leaves.
Maidenhair Creeper - *Muellenbeckia complexa*

A vigorous twining climber that has been used to grow as a hedge. It has very small round leaves on red stems. Will grow in a range of soil types as long as the soil is well-drained. Plant in light shade to full sun. Tolerant of coastal conditions. Suitable for topiary, if grown over a shape or structure, and as a ground cover. Prune to maintain shape.

**Flowers:** Inconspicuous greenish-white flowers in late spring, that turn into white berries.

**Foliage:** Tiny round leaves.

Creeping Fig - *Ficus pumila*

A wonderful creeper that forms a decorative pattern as it crawls across walls. It is used often in formal gardens to create a wall of dense green foliage to resemble a hedge. It climbs by aerials roots that do leave marks upon walls they climb across. Prune a few times throughout the year to keep a manicured appearance. Will grow in shade to full sun. Drought tolerant once established.

**Foliage:** The juvenile leaves are often golden or pink in colour. Mature leaves are larger, green and more leathery in thickness. Branches will grow laterally away from the climbing surface with age.

**Flowers:** Insignificant, however inedible green fruit will form after flowering.

Orange Trumpet Creeper – *Pyrostegia venusta*

A vigorous climber that forms a dense curtain of coverage lit up by bright orange flame-like flowers. It normally grows in tropical and subtropical areas. It will grow around Adelaide and the east coast of Australia only within a microclimate that is warm and frost free. Will grow in part shade to full sun. It is drought tolerant once established, however needs additional water in hot, dry periods. Orange Trumpet Creeper is fairly low maintenance, simply needing a tidy up trim in early spring. Great for screening large areas, however it will need protecting from cold, windy spots. A great plant for tropical gardens. In NSW & QLD it is regarded as an environmental weed.

**Foliage:** Compound leaves with 2-3 ovate green leaves.

**Flowers:** Tubular bright orange flowers are borne in clusters of about 20 in late autumn to early winter, and sporadically throughout the year in warmer climates.

Wax Flower - *Hoya*

An evergreen perennial that climbs by adventitious roots. In this way it is epiphytic, however not all plants in the genus grow this way. They normally grow in tropical areas but can be grown in frost-protected areas, as an indoor plant or in greenhouses in colder areas of Australia. If growing indoors, plant in a spot with bright but filtered light. When growing outdoors plant in a partly shaded spot, in moist but well drained soil.

**Foliage:** Varying characteristics depending on the variety, however they appear in an opposite pattern and are succulent-like.

**Flowers:** Scented flowers appear in clusters and look like many stars condensed together. They are hard and waxy to touch. Flower colour is usually in white, pale pink and red, and each flower often has a centre corona in a contrasting colour.

Gold Flame Honeysuckle – *Lonicera x heckrottii* ‘Firecracker’

A hardy semi-evergreen climber with unique attractive flowers. It has a compact growing habit which is easy to maintain. Prefers soil enriched with organic matter that is kept moist. Plant in part-shade or full sun. Best in cooler climates where it is not humid. Good for containers, informal gardens, & looks spectacular grown over a trellis or arbour. Prune in late autumn to maintain a compact habit. Can irritate the skin and eyes.

**Foliage:** The leaves resemble those of Eucalyptus gunnii. They are arranged in pairs up the stem and are pale green/blue in colour.

**Flowers:** Panicles of slender tubular pink flowers with a cream centre appear throughout summer.
**Mandevilla**

Known also as Dipladenia, this elegant evergreen climber is a rewarding plant due to its long flowering season and attractive foliage. Popular forms available include Alice Du Pont, Aloha and the Sun Parasol series. Mandevillas will grow as shrubs if not given a support frame to climb. Fast growing, and can be tip pruned to control growth. Great for pots on balconies and patios, trailing from a basket or against a trellis or arbour where it can climb. They like humus-rich, well-drained soil, as they are susceptible to root rot. Mandevillas love a bright spot with indirect light or filtered sunlight, as they can get burnt in direct full sun. Suitable for a variety of garden styles including formal, cottage and contemporary gardens. Protect from frost. Plant sap can irritate skin.

**Flowers:** Trumpet-shaped flowers in warmer months in whites, crimsons, pinks, and creams.

**Foliage:** Large glossy deep green leaves with a strong venetian.

**Mexican Blood Vine - Distictis buccinatoria**

Mexican Blood Vine is a fast growing climber that grows by tendrils. It can be used for screening and has the potential to grow quite extensively, so it needs a very sturdy support. Prefers a sunny position in well-drained soil and will need weekly watering in hot, dry periods. A great background plant for tropical gardens or to soften or accent architecture. Prune after flowering to maintain size. Not suited to humid conditions or cold/dry inland areas. Tolerant of light frosts only.

**Foliage:** Compound leathery leaves.

**Flowers:** Dropping racemes of bright red trumpet-shaped flowers with a yellow throat appear in abundance from spring through to autumn.

**Common English Ivy – Hedera helix**

A compact creeper that is often used in formal gardens due to its flat surface and dark green dense coverage. It has been used to great effect as a ground cover, for instance planted underneath Silver Birches for a simple yet charming woodland look. It can also be used in hanging baskets or vertical gardens. Tip prune to prevent it from getting bushy. Will grow in a wide variety of soil types and is drought tolerant, however it will enjoy a drink in hot periods. Plant in part shade to full sun. Hardy to frost. Ivy is classified a weed by some states. Variegated forms are also available.

**Foliage:** Palmate-lobed juvenile leaves, cordate adult leaves. Dark green in colour.

**Flowers:** Tiny yellow-green flowers that turn into blue berries.