

Dawson's Wisteria Fact Sheet

Growing Wisterias

Wisterias are hardy, fast growing deciduous climbers. Wisterias are much loved for their spectacular, springtime flowering. Wisterias are very versatile and can be used to grow on walls and fences, or over pergolas or arches, or to grow along verandas. They can also be maintained as standards or bonsai. One of the best ways to grow Wisteria is on a pergola, where the hanging flowers(racemes) can be admired from below.

Wisterias are woody vines and require a strong, sturdy support.

Wisterias prefer full sun conditions and require about six hours sunlight per day.

Vines can take 3-5 years to begin regular flowering, but once they start like a good red wine, they get better with age!

Availability-

Our main Wisteria crop is usually released during late November to early December each year. We usually have sufficient numbers of Wisteria sinensis to last all year. The other listed varieties are grown in limited numbers and once sold out aren't available again until the next season.

Description of varieties

Chinese Wisteria- Stems twine in an anti-clockwise direction.

Wisteria sinensis- (Chinese Wisteria)- Surely one of the most loved garden plants of all time. Produces unforgettable displays of fragrant, lavender blue-violet coloured flowers.

Wisteria sinensis alba- (White Chinese Wisteria)- White flowering, faintly scented with good autumn foliage colour.

Japanese Wisterias- Stems twine in a clockwise direction.

Wisteria floribunda-(Japanese Wisteria)- Blue-violet, sweetly scented flowers. Long racemes, often more than 30cm long.

Wisteria floribunda alba-(White Japanese Wisteria)- (also known as Shiro Noda and longissima alba)- Beautiful white flowered variety. Long racemes carry a high flower count. Faintly Scented. Famous because it is the variety growing on the Japanese Bridge, in Claude Monet's garden in Giverny, France.

Wisteria floribunda rosea -(Pink Japanese Wisteria)-(also known as Honbeni)- Long racemes of pink- lavender tinged flowers. Light to medium strength scent. Foliage also puts on a good autumn show. Darker pink in colour than Wisteria floribunda carnea.

Wisteria floribunda carnea-(Pale Pink Japanese Wisteria)- (also known as Kuchibeni) – Pale mauve- pink flowers on long racemes. Sweetly scented with good autumn foliage.

Wisteria floribunda longissima (also known as Macrobotrys)- Classic variety with very long racemes of mauve-pale violet flowers. Scent is of mid strength and the plant has reliable autumn foliage colour.

Wisteria floribunda Domino (also known as Issai)- Lilac to blue-violet, faintly scented blooms.

Wisteria floribunda Royal Purple (also known as single Black Dragon)- Dark purple-violet flowered. Sweetly scented with good autumn foliage. This is the darkest coloured of all the single flowered Wisterias.

Wisteria floribunda violacea plena (also known as Double Black Dragon)- Rich dark mauve-violet coloured, double flowers. Lightly scented. Excellent golden yellow autumn foliage.

Wisteria floribunda nana- Dwarf Japanese Wisteria- Slow growing, shrub like habit. Compact branches and foliage. Blue/violet flowers, although it is a very infrequent flowerer, it does make a perfect bonsai specimen.

Wisteria brachybotrys Shiro Kapitan- (also known as Wisteria venusta alba)- White flowering, sweetly scented. Compact racemes.

American Wisterias- Stems twine in anti-clockwise direction.

Wisteria frutescens Amethyst Falls- (American Wisteria)- Smaller and less invasive than *Wisteria sinensis* and *floribunda*. Flowers in spring and sporadically through summer. Fragrant blue-purple flowers on short racemes.

Wisteria macrostachya Pondsides Blue- (American Wisteria)- Blue-violet flowering, faintly scented. Tolerant to boggy soils.

Hybrid Wisterias-

Wisteria Lavender Lace-Sweetly scented variety with lavender-pale violet blooms. Long showy racemes.

Growing Guide-

Soils and Feeding

Plant Wisterias in well drained soil, improved by the addition of Dawson's Soil Improver. Water newly planted Wisterias daily for over the warmer months to aid establishment. Once established mature plants are extremely hardy and are more than happy with our two day a week watering regime. Feeding is best with an annual dose of Dawson's All Purpose Fertiliser in early spring or a slow/ controlled release fertilizer applied in spring and autumn.

Pruning Wisterias

Wisterias are vigorous, quick growing vines. Pruning is required to keep plants to a manageable size and to encourage the development of more flowering spurs.

The main pruning time for Wisterias is after flowering in early to mid summer.

Prune the new season's long shoots (arising from the main framework branches), back to 6 inches long (reducing them to 4-6 leaves length from the main branch).

As Wisterias flower on two year old wood, this shortening of the shoots encourages the development of shorter flowering wood as opposed to longer vegetative shoots. At the same time you can thin the vine by removing any shoots not required for the main framework and prune away any suckers.

Care must be taken when pruning in winter, as heavy winter pruning can stimulate rampant vegetative growth. In late winter, the same shoots reduced in summer are shortened again back to 3-4 inches leaving them only 2-3 buds in length. When pruning in late winter, the plump flower buds should be obvious and easily distinguished from the flattened growth buds. Winter is also a good time to remove any unwanted branches.

Further reading: Peter Valder's "Wisterias A Comprehensive Guide", published by Florilegium (Australia) is probably the definitive guide.



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