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How to Grow Star Jasmine: The Complete Plant Guide



Beautiful white flowers of Star Jasmine
(*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) also known as
Confederate jasmine.

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Learn how to plant, grow, and care for star jasmine vines.

By [Andy Wilcox](#)

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Want a garden that smells like heaven?

Meet star jasmine—the fast-growing, low-maintenance vine that wraps walls and trellises in lush green and bursts with fragrant white blooms. Here's everything you need to know to plant, grow, and care for this intoxicating beauty.

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About Star Jasmine

Southern jasmine or Confederate jasmine.

Although the common name is star jas-
mine, these plants are not actual jasmine.

Their botanical name is *Trachelospermum jasminoides*, and they are similar in ap-
pearance but completely different plants
than jasmine. Other plants, such as Asiatic
jasmine (*T. asiaticum*), are also referred to
occasionally as star jasmine and actual
jasmine plants(*Jasminum officinale*) can
also be confused for this plant. Check the
tag for the botanical name to ensure you
buy the desired plant. While star jasmine
is not considered invasive, several other
similar plants are.

Star jasmine plants are drought tolerant,
quite deer resistant, and tolerate some
salt exposure, making them a good fit in
coastal locations. Once established, star
jasmine is a rapid grower and will com-
monly grow six feet or more in a single
growing season after its second year.

They're cold hardy in USDA zones 8-11,
although you may be able to grow them in
protected areas in zone 7.

pace throughout the summer. The delicate pinwheel-shaped blooms have five petals, a lovely fragrance, and attract hummingbirds and bees. Slightly glossy, evergreen foliage is thick on twining stems, making an excellent privacy planting that doubles as a fragrant flowering specimen.

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Blossoming star jasmine creates a

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PLANTING

When to Plant Star Jasmines

Star jasmines can be planted in spring or fall. Spring planting allows them to establish before the powerful summer sun arrives, and planting in fall lets them put out new roots and settle in before the winter season. Plant in spring after the last frosts have finished, and for fall, get them in the ground 4 weeks before your first freeze.

Star jasmines can also be planted in summer but will require more frequent watering.

Where to Plant Star Jasmines



growth and fragrant flowers that you want. They love the heat and will grow in virtually any well-drained soil.

These twining plants are best grown where they have something to climb so they can show off. An arbor, fence, deck railing, or trellis is perfect. Plant star jasmine on each side of an arch framing the entrance to your house to create a scented doorframe. Let them crawl over a pergola to make a shady spot to sit underneath. They're not limited to lofty structures; star jasmine can also be used as sprawling low shrubs or ground cover.



Want to add a beautiful arch or trellis in the garden? Grow fragrant star jasmine! Credit: Esin Deniz

Star jasmine can be grown in containers, and some northern gardeners treat it as

thing to climb, and the container should be large enough to provide mass to keep the plant upright in the wind. For winter, a large planter and trellis could be wheeled and moved into a sunroom or other well-lit spot and returned outdoors in late spring.

How to Plant Star Jasmines

Most star jasmine plants come in small or medium pots, ready to transplant, and they often have a short wooden or wire frame to crawl up already in their pot. However, you'll want to provide a larger climbing opportunity at transplant time.

- Prepare the area, removing sod, mulch, and weeds.
- Dig a shallow-sided hole slightly deeper than the root ball and 2-3 times as wide. Dig the hole deeper than needed and then backfill to ensure the bottom soil is loose and ready for new root growth.
- Remove the star jasmine from its nursery pot and prune any circling or girdling roots. Score the root ball with a trowel to stimulate new growth if it's rootbound.
- Place the plant in the hole and check the planting depth. The top of the root ball should rest at or slightly above ground level. Avoid planting too deep and adjust as necessary by adding or removing soil.
- Fill the hole using the native soil you removed, tamping down lightly but firmly to minimize air pockets around the roots.

When the hole is halfway refilled, water it. Keep adding soil and firming it with your hands, watering again

the stems.

- If your star jasmine needs an arbor or trellis, install it at planting time.

Digging or stabbing stakes into the soil after the roots have started to spread out can damage your plant.

GROWING

Star jasmine is fairly tough and won't need much care after the first year. They're fairly drought tolerant, although, in very dry conditions, some of their leaves may start to bronze and drop.

- Water if the soil feels dry an inch down during the initial growing season. In subsequent years, they'll only need watering during prolonged drought conditions.
- Fertilize star jasmines 2 to 3 times their first year and then in subsequent years, if desired, once in spring with a slow-release general-purpose formula. In more fertile soil, they may not need anything. Avoid fertilizing in late fall, as

Pruning Star Jasmines

Pruning needs are limited to keeping vigorous vines under control, if desired, and removing dead or damaged stems.

However, they do respond well to pruning and can even be kept espaliered.

Star jasmine can be pruned any time after the main flowering peak in early summer, and dead or damaged stems can be snipped anytime. Cut back to just above a healthy branch, or cut less vigorous stems back to the ground. Wear gloves and old clothes, as the sap can be sticky and stain.

Types

You aren't likely to find many cultivars of star jasmine, but there are a few. Several other similar plants, like Asiatic jasmine, are also available.

- 'Madison' is more cold-hardy than other star jasmines, and a better bet for zone 7 gardeners. It's slightly more

- The unadulterated species plant, *T. jasminoides*, is commonly sold, and you can't go wrong with it. Purchase healthy plants from a reputable vendor and enjoy their fragrant scent.
- ‘Variegatum’ is, as it sounds, a star jasmine with variegated leaves but the same flower power as its green-leaved kin. Leaf margins and edges are splotched with creamy white patches, providing more interest when the plant is not blooming.

GARDENING PRODUCTS



- Sooty mold
- Root rot

WIT AND WISDOM

- Star jasmine vines can get vigorous and heavy, and their thick foliage will catch storm winds. Make sure to anchor any vertical climbing structure well so they don't tip over in a wind gust.
- Star jasmine is a great climber but won't climb masonry walls by itself. You'll need a lattice-like structure for it to attach itself.
- Star jasmine, like other perennials, follows a sleep-creep-leap growth pattern. The first year will see a few feet of growth, but by the third year, this perennial will begin maturing and may eventually have stems 20-30 feet long.



VINES

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Andy Wilcox is a flower farmer and master gardener with a passion for soil health, small producers, forestry, and horticulture.

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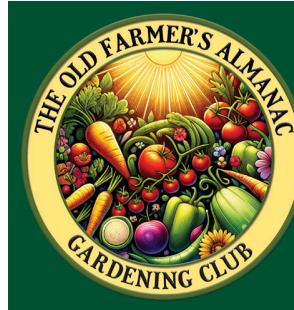


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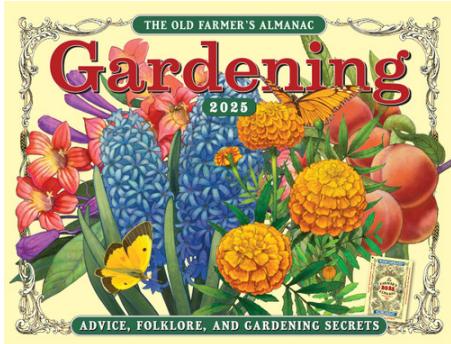
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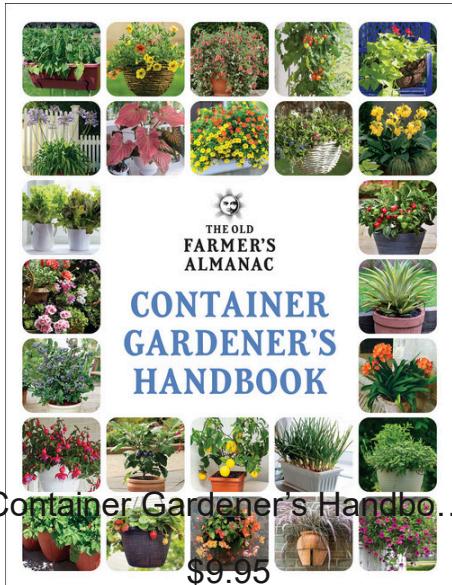
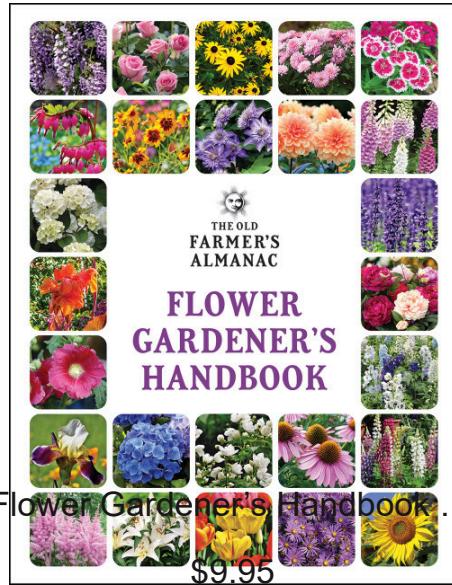
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