

Wisteria: Cascading Beauty

Dramatic Display

Few sights match the beauty of wisteria in full bloom. Cascading clusters of fragrant purple, pink, or white flowers drape from pergolas and arbors, creating romantic scenes in spring. These vigorous vines can live for over 100 years.

Types of Wisteria

Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*) has the longest flower clusters, up to 3 feet. Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*) blooms more reliably but can be invasive. American wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*) is smaller and better behaved.

Growing Requirements

Wisteria needs strong support - mature vines can pull down weak structures. Plant in full sun with average soil. Established wisterias are drought-tolerant. Prune twice yearly: in summer to control growth, and in late winter to encourage bloom.

Patience Required

Wisteria can take 7-15 years to bloom from seed, though cutting-grown plants bloom sooner. To encourage blooming on reluctant plants, try root pruning, reducing nitrogen, or providing cooler winter temperatures. The wait is worth it when those glorious blooms finally appear.