



Virgin's- bower *Clematis* *virginiana* L.

Virgin's-bower is a perennial vine native to the eastern United States, clinging by means of twining leaf stalks. It is related to the large, showy clematis that many people grow, but the flowers of this species are small and numerous. Vines usually die back during winter, with the roots sending up new shoots the following spring. The vine has a long flowering season, with one-inch flowers borne July-September.

This Clematis is hardy through zone 4. It is an aggressive vine that can climb up to 20 feet, so place it appropriately. Be warned that it freely self-seeds. It is moderately shade-tolerant, but will bloom best in full sun. It is a great vine for trellising.

Propagation:

Standard cold stratification is recommended. This can be accomplished by direct sowing of the seed in fall or early winter, or by cold storage in a moist medium. If the latter method is used, allow 60 days of stratification (more is better), alternating at least twice between freezer and refrigerator.