

Cat’s Claw Vine

This vigorous climber from tropical America can conquer large areas with its self-clinging slender stems. The fast-growing Cat’s Claw can reach 8 metres in height. It is still traded frequently under its outdated generic names Bignonia and Doxantha. Glossy, evergreen leaves are borne in pairs and end in three-clawed tendrils that adhere to most surfaces except glass or metal. Bright-yellow flowers appear from late spring to autumn. They are followed by brown, bean-like pods with seeds that germinate easily. Transplanting should be done carefully without disturbing the sensitive roots and the upright, spherical tuber. It is recommended that the stems be cut to the ground after planting, since only new growth attaches itself to supports. This radical treatment allows it to cling faster. Once established, this climber tolerates full sun, but partial shade and some drought are also tolerated, while still resulting in a lush appearance. It resists heat and frost up to -9°C. It tolerates a wide range of soils, but revels in nutritious ground with a high humus content and frequent irrigation. Maintaining this plant can cause skin irritation. Owing to its rampant growth, the Cat’s Claw needs some containment if planted next to buildings. Pruning may be necessary to keep the climber from getting too heavy. It is better located near walls or escarpments which can be overgrown. Stems without support hang down forming a curtain of filigree leaves. It is occasionally seen in Saudi Arabia, clinging even to high building facades.



GENERAL

- Origin : Mediterranean, sub-tropical, tropical
- Vigour : fairly fast growing
- Humidity : semi-arid, semi-humid
- Propagation : sowing and pricking out, cuttings
- Maintenance : high

CONDITIONS

- Urban climate : resistant
- Dessication : resistant
- Stagnant water : vulnerable
- Irrigation : high
- Salinity/ppm : moderate (3000 ppm)
- Hardiness : -9°C

SHAPE

- Type : climbers
- Height : 4 m-10 m
- Spread : 6 m-12 m
- Foliage : evergreen

FLOWER

- Colour : bright yellow
- Size : 20 cm
- Period : May - September

FRUIT

- Type of fruit : capsule
- Fruit size : 45 cm