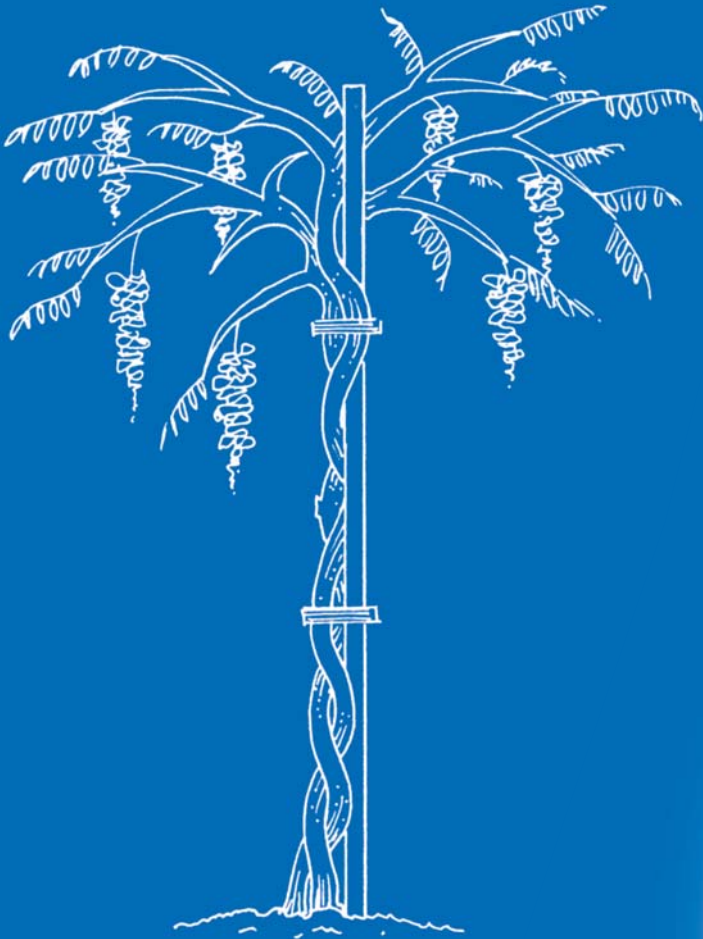


Grow a weeping standard

Wisteria can also be trained to make a beautiful, weeping small tree.

Choose a tall, container grown plant, with at least one strong stem. Stake firmly to the trunk, plaiting or intertwining the stems if there are three or more. Once the trunk has reached its final height, cut carefully above a bud to encourage the "head" to form. Side shoots will quickly appear, forming a framework of cascading branches.

Feed annually with Miracle-Gro 'Rose Plus' and prune (see previous instructions) to keep the branches clear of the ground.



A young trained weeping standard *Wisteria*.

caring for...

caring for... **Wisteria**

Wisteria

Haskins Ferndown

Longham, Ferndown
Dorset BH22 9DJ
Tel: 01202 591919

Haskins West End

Mansbridge Road, Gaters Hill
West End, Southampton SO18 3HW
Tel: 023 8047 2324

Haskins Roundstone

Roundstone Bypass, Angmering
West Sussex BN16 4BD
Tel: 01903 777666

Haskins Snowhill

Snowhill Lane, Copthorne
West Sussex RH10 3EY
Tel: 01342 712545



Wisteria sinensis



HASKINS
for garden pleasure



HASKINS
for garden pleasure



caring for... **Wisteria**

Wisteria

Wisteria are vigorous, twining, woody-stemmed climbing plants, originating from China, Japan, Korea and the U.S.A. They are grown for their spectacular racemes of pea-like fragrant flowers, resplendent in spring and early summer. Velvety-green bean-like seed pods often follow.

Growing to a height of 30ft (10m) or more, they are ideal trained against a house wall or into a large tree. With regular attention to pruning, *Wisteria* also make attractive additions to arches and pergolas, allowing their pendent blooms to dangle freely - at a height that can be appreciated.

Wisteria require support, either from wire strung between nails or wooden trellis, for their flexible stems to twine around - always in an anticlockwise direction.



Choosing plants

To avoid disappointment, take care when selecting and planting all *Wisteria*.

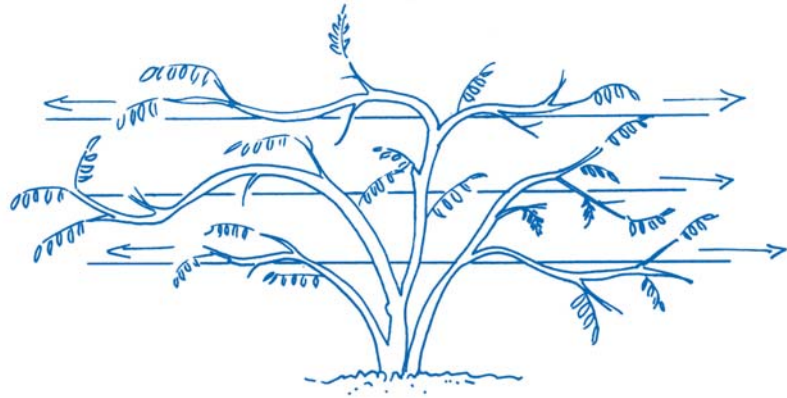
- Select only **grafted** plants - a reluctance to flower may be due to variable seed raised stock.
- Always plant **container grown** plants as they resent root disturbance and may remain dormant for several months after planting.
- Plant in a **sheltered position** - many a spring display has been spoilt by a late frost. (The plants themselves are fully hardy.)
- To encourage flowering, feed each spring with a granular feed **high in Potash** and low in nitrogen, such as Miracle-Gro Rose Plus Rose and Shrub Food. Feeds that are high in nitrogen simply encourage leafy, green growth and few blooms.

To improve flowering

A vigorous *Wisteria* may be reluctant to flower unless the leafy new growth is reduced and the plant's energies are channelled into producing next year's flower buds.

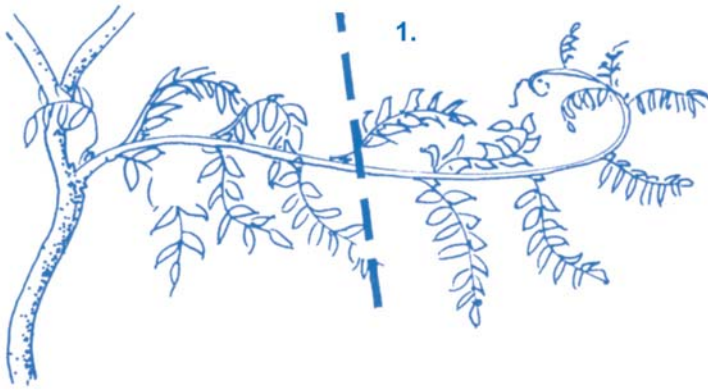
Flowers are produced on short spurs, so the aim of pruning is to encourage these to develop throughout the framework of the plant.

Initially train the main stems horizontally, rather than vertically, to encourage more flowers and less vigorous growth.

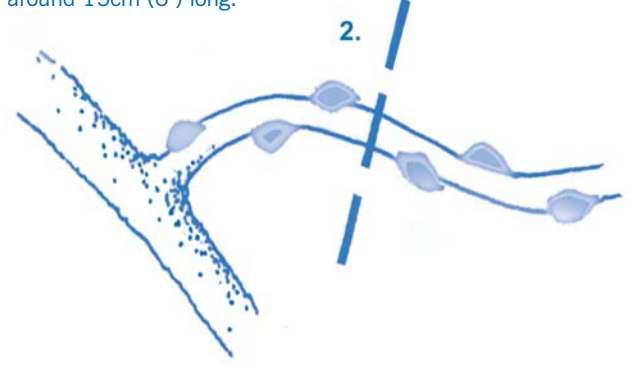


Pruning and Training

Traditionally, a two step pruning plan has always been recommended. **(1)** This involves reducing in length all vigorous, leafy summer growth to four or six leaves from the main stem, in June or July. Leave stems un-pruned only if they are needed to extend the branch framework.



(2) In mid-winter cut back this growth further, leaving only two or three buds (to encourage larger blooms). At the same time reduce any growth that has appeared, after the initial summer pruning, to around 15cm (6") long.



When pruning, ensure all cuts are above the last bud to be retained, as they can be easily damaged.

Alternatively, if you are short of time, prune just once a year, cutting the current years side growths back to 15cm (6") in July.

To encourage flowering, feed each spring using a granular feed, low in Nitrogen and **high in Potash**.

Further reading

Climbing Gardens
by Joan Clifton ISBN 0-7112-1607-X

The Royal Horticultural Society - **Pruning & Training**
by Christopher Brickell ISBN 0-7513-0207-4

R.H.S. Practical Guides - **Climbing Plants**
ISBN 0-7513-1293-2