

Planting, Growing, and Pruning Clematis in Truckee and Tahoe

For #1 gallon staked clematis: sun on the vine, cool roots, steady moisture, and a protected crown.

Where clematis thrive

Clematis bloom best with 5–6 or more hours of sun, a cool shaded root zone, and good air circulation. Give them a trellis, obelisk, fence, or shrub to climb through.

Planting for cold, dry Sierra winters

Dig a generous hole 18–24 inches wide and loosen the sides. Mix compost, fertilizer, and lime through the backfill. Plant the crown and the lowest 1–2 stem nodes 2 inches or more below finished grade. This helps protect the crown in our low-snow winters and encourages new shoots if top growth is damaged. If planting by a wall or fence, set the rootball about 12–18 inches out and angle the stems toward the support.

Water, mulch, and feeding

Water deeply at planting and keep the root zone evenly moist through the first season. Mulch 2–3 inches deep, but keep mulch a few inches away from the stems. Feed lightly in spring as growth begins and again after the first flush of bloom. Avoid heavy nitrogen or late-summer feeding.

First year care

Leave the nursery stake in place until stems are tied to a permanent support. Shade the root zone with mulch, a flat stone, or a low perennial. After the ground freezes, a very loose handful of pine needles or shredded bark can shade a new crown during snowless cold. Pull it back in spring.

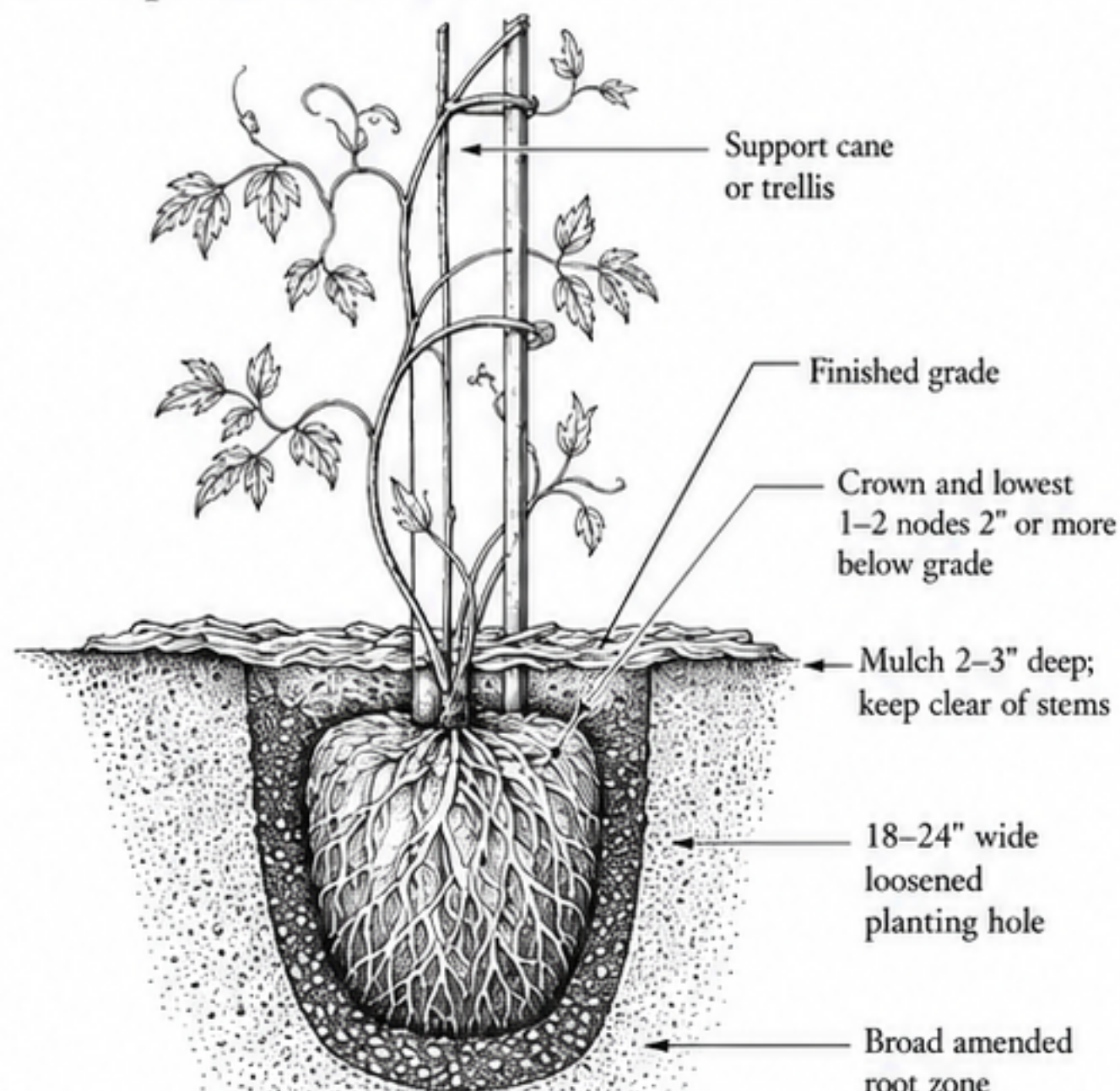
Pruning groups and pruning types

Group and Type mean the same thing in clematis pruning.

Group / Type	Typical vines	Bloom habit	When and how to prune
1	Alpina, macropetala, montana	Flowers on old wood	Prune only after bloom to tidy or shorten. Do not cut hard in spring.
2	Many large-flowered hybrids	First flush on old wood, often repeat bloom later	In early spring, trim to strong live buds and remove dead tips. After the first flush, lightly shape if needed.
3	Viticella, jackmanii, integrifolia, texensis, and other late bloomers	Flowers on new wood	Cut back hard in late winter or very early spring to a strong pair of buds, usually 12–18 inches above the soil.

Mountain note: Group / Type 3 clematis are often the easiest in cold Sierra gardens, while Group / Type 1 alpinas are also excellent but should be pruned only after bloom.

VILLAGER NURSERY, TRUCKEE, CALIFORNIA



Add to each planting hole

- 2–3 shovels mature compost, mixed through the backfill
- 1/2 cup organic all-purpose, rose, or vegetable fertilizer
- 1/4–1/2 cup garden lime or oyster shell for calcium
- Optional: 1/4 cup bone meal if not already included

Do not use hydrated lime. Mix amendments through the backfill, not as a hot layer under the roots.

COMPOST



FERTILIZER



LIME

