

Scenic Canoe Day Trips • Ready-made Kitchen Cabinets

Sunset

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Garden in a Basket

Spring Party Ideas

- Outdoor Buffet
- Easter Projects

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2. Cover an arbor. Two grapevines ('Concord' and red 'Flame') and a perennial morning glory vine scramble up posts that flank this entry. All three vines shade the deck in summer, making a fresh-air retreat.



3. Create an outdoor room divider. Potato vine (*Solanum jasminoides*) climbs up 4-by-4 gateposts and over two 2-by-6s across the top to mark the transition from front to backyard in this Southern California garden.

How to choose a vine

- **Find suitable locations** for vines in your garden *before* you shop. Are the potential sites sunny or shady? Are there other factors to consider? Boggy ground suitable only for plants that love wet feet, for instance, or lots of reflected light that heat lovers could tolerate? How's the soil? Is the planting area you have in mind under eaves where the vine won't get rain? How will you irrigate—drip, soaker hose, or by hand?

- **Flowers or foliage or both?** Will the vine be a solid backdrop to set off your flowering plants? If so, evergreens like star jasmine or creeping fig are what you want. For shade in the summer and sun in the winter, on the other hand, shop for something deciduous like grape or wisteria. If it's sky-high flowers you're after, when and in what color do you want them?

- **Clinger or nonclinger?** Vines with their own Velcro-like pads, such as Boston ivy, attach themselves to any rough surface without help. But don't grow them next to wood shingles or surfaces you'll repaint often, because clingers don't detach willingly. The majority of vines, however, climb with clasping tendrils or by twining and need three-dimensional support.

- **What kind of support?** For annual vines, a casual arrangement—like bird netting tacked to a fence—will suffice. But perennial vines require a more permanent toehold: a chain-link fence, trellis, galvanized wire grid, or sturdy pergola. When choosing a support, consider the vine's ultimate bulk and woodiness. A lightweight twiner like Chilean jasmine (*Mandevilla laxa*) will do fine on a nursery-variety trellis, but a woody wisteria will need a sturdy trellis, of 4-by-4s at least, to support its ultimate weight.

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