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*Clematis*

*Ranunculaceae*

*Clematis* is derived from Greek *clematis* (clematis) used for a number of different climbing plants that is itself said to come from Greek *-clema* (graft, scion, slip, twig) component. There are about 250 species of deciduous or evergreen woody flowering climbers in this genus which are native to Asia, China, Europe, Himalayas, Iran and the United States, and these can range in height from 2-40 ft. – but the genus also includes some non-climbers.

Warning – some *Clematis* species have been identified as fatally poisonous and others should be considered as potentially so. Acrid juice in the leaves of some species could cause dermatitis.

In the language of flowers clematis is said to be a symbol of mental beauty, and evergreen clematis is said to be a symbol of poverty.