

Passion Vine Growing Guide

Four Winds Growers

Acclimation: You will want to first acclimate your vine to its new home just like any online nursery plant. This can be done by immediately removing the bag used to keep the soil in place during transit. Then you will want to place the tree into a rather shady spot in the yard for the first couple of weeks so the vine can adjust to the climate. We are heading into the coldest part of the year so if your vine looks stressed due to the temperature that is totally normal. It will perk up again once temperatures warm up come spring.

Location: Passion vines are a subtropical plant that loves heat so choose a spot in your yard that ideally gets full 8+ hours of sunlight. If you choose a spot with less sun, the vine will continue to grow fine but you may have issues with fruit set/ripening. If you live in a location that is susceptible to extended periods of time with hard frosts then you should expect to see some dieback. Annual dieback from hard frosts can actually help keep the vigorous grower in check so this is nothing to worry about. So long as the roots do not freeze then your vine will grow back.

Spacing: A single passion vine can easily cover a 10' tall by 20' length of fencing in a couple of seasons so keep this in mind when choosing a trellis or fence location.

Planting: Now that you have chosen the right spot in your yard for your new vine we need to prep the planting site. Dig a hole about twice the size of the current root mass. As you dig this hole, pay attention to your soil quality. Is your soil loose and easy to dig through or are you struggling to get through hard clay? If the soil is hard clay, then you want to dig a slightly larger hole and amend the soil prior to planting or mound up above the native soil level by at least the height of the pot your vine came in. This is done to improve drainage and decrease the chances of root damage from overwatering. Amend your soil with compost, mulch, perlite, or a premium potting soil mix. Mix 50/50 native soil and amendments then backfill until your planting hole is back to about twice the size of your vines root mass. Mound up a bit of soil at the center of the planting hole. Now remove your vine from its container and place it at the center of the hole. Your vine should be set so that the top of the root ball is about flush with the native soil line. Once your vine is set in place then you can backfill with more of your amended soil gently tamping down as you go to close any potential air pockets. Lastly, we want to make a small watering basin around the base of your newly planted vine to help with more even watering and give your plant a deep watering.

Watering: Passion vines do not require a lot of water once established. How often to water will vary on the environment and depends on soil porosity, tree size, and temperature. Passion Vines are sub-tropical plants that prefer infrequent deep watering. It is best to allow the soil to dry out somewhat between watering. Typically a weekly watering is all you need but be sure to adjust based on weather conditions.

Fertilizing: Passion vines are vigorous growers on their own but if you want maximum growth during the growing season, a monthly dose of Romeo Plant Food during the growing season will have your vine growing 3 doors down in no time. [Romeo Plant food](#) is a water-soluble fertilizer that is instantly available to your plant for fast results. Alternatively, you can use a balanced organic fertilizer or compost tea to feed your vine.

Pruning & Maintaining: Pruning passion vines is important for plant health as well as for regulating the size of your vine. Removing dead or frost-damaged branches in the spring will help to clean up your vine and help discourage critters from nesting in the deadwood. Clipping off terminal buds(buds at the tips of a branch) will

encourage side branching if your goal is to have a fuller plant. Alternatively, you can train long leading vines on all sorts of trellises, arbors, or fences. This can be done by simply intertwining the vine through the trellis or with temporary affixments such as twine, clips, and hooks.