



## Ernest Markham Clematis Clematis 'Ernest Markham'

### CARE REQUIREMENTS

#### **Sun:**

- Full Sun to Partial Shade
- Best flowering with at least 6 hours of sun

#### **Water:**

- Moderate
- Prefers evenly moist, well-drained soil

#### **Mature Size:**

- 10–15 ft long
- 3–6 ft spread depending on support structure

#### **Hardiness Zone:**

- USDA Zones 4–9
- Can perform well in protected Alaska gardens

#### **Growth Rate:**

- Fast

#### **Bloom Time:**

- Mid to Late Summer through Early Fall

#### **Bloom Color:**

- Rich magenta-red / fuchsia

#### **Flower Size:**

- Large 5–6 inch blooms

### PLANTING

#### **Best Planting Conditions:**

- Plant in full sun for best flowering
- Prefers cool, shaded roots and sunny upper growth
- Well-drained fertile soil is critical
- Excellent for trellises, fences, pergolas, arches, and vertical garden spaces
- Avoid soggy or compacted soils

## WATER

### First Season:

- Keep soil consistently moist
- Water deeply during dry periods

### Established Plants:

- Moderate watering needs
- Avoid prolonged drought during blooming season

## SPACING

### Spacing:

- 3–5 ft apart from other large climbers

## ALASKA NOTES

### Alaska-Specific Tips:

- Best planted in protected locations with winter snow cover or mulch protection
- South-facing walls or sheltered garden spaces improve success
- Mulch heavily before winter
- Late-season blooming works well in longer summer daylight conditions
- May die back heavily during winter and regrow vigorously in spring

## PRUNING & MAINTENANCE

### Pruning:

Blooms on new growth

- Cut back hard in late winter or early spring to 12–24 inches above ground
- Encourages vigorous flowering and manageable growth

### Fertilizing:

- Balanced flowering fertilizer in spring
- Compost or organic matter improves vigor and bloom production

## COMMON MISTAKES

- Hot dry roots
- Poor drainage
- Skipping annual pruning
- Too much shade reducing blooms
- Allowing vine to dry out during flowering

## KEN'S TIPS

- **Ernest Markham is one of the boldest clematis varieties you can grow — when it blooms, it absolutely explodes with color and gives Alaska gardens a dramatic cottage-garden feel.**