



Gardens For Birds

#THINKBIRDS

# How-to Plant Climbers

Climbers are a great option for attracting wildlife; if you have limited space like a balcony or small courtyard garden, you just need to plant vertically!

Get more how-to guides and learn about the gardens for birds campaign on our website: [www.songbird-survival.org.uk](http://www.songbird-survival.org.uk)

1

Consider where you are planting

Are you planting somewhere sunny? Is the soil wet or dry? Are you planting in the ground, in a planter? Are you growing it against a wall or trellis?

2

Choose your climber

Does the plants requirements match the area you are planting in? How high do you want it to grow? Do you want a plant that needs regular pruning?

3

Dig the hole for your plant and plant it

Dig a hole around 30-45cm from the trellis to avoid dry soil. Soak the root ball before planting so that you can tease the roots apart. Plant the root ball below the soil leaning towards the support.

4

Cover with soil and water well

Refill the hole around the plant carefully, and add some compost or bone meal in to help it along. Water well so the soil is moist to the touch.

5

Tie your climber to your trellis

Use canes, mesh or trellis and lean your plant towards them. You can wrap the shoots around the cane and use ties to support your climber. As it grows, re-tie the new shoots to the trellis to guide it.

6

Aftercare when establishing

In the first couple of years after planting a climber, you may want to water them in drier spells. Some species need regular pruning, ask your local garden centre for advice.