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*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

## Social Climbers



**Fragrant jasmine covers a gate and arbor.**

Photo Cynthia Brian

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My Rieber grapevines (*Vitis Vinifera*) which I grew from canes my dad gave me from our ranch years ago have used my crabapple tree as a trellis. Fall is fun when the tree is filled with bunches of blue-black grapes hanging from the branches.

Climbing Roses can drape over a wall, sprawl along a fence, train up an obelisk, or swirl up a tree. In my yard, my two favorite climbers are the thornless, white Lady Banksia rose, which cohabitates with my plum and chestnut trees, and the delightfully fragrant Lady of Shallot in shades of apricot and pink that covers a fence.

Nasturtium is a delicious edible plant with a zesty, peppery flavor. Flowers with bold colors of yellow, red, and orange trail and climb.

### **Popular Climbers NOT to plant:**

Honeysuckle  
Morning Glory  
Ivy

As beautiful as honeysuckle and morning glory are, they can also be incredibly invasive - displacing native species, producing dense mats of foliage, and covering trees, fences, or any item in their path. In some settings, they increase the erosion of the soil while reducing biodiversity. I remember my first visit to Bermuda thirty years ago, where I was mesmerized by the giant and glorious sky-blue flowers that covered everything everywhere. When I asked about the “magnificent morning glory”, my comment was met with disdain. “This is a nuisance plant,” I was told. Just as bindweed is a troublemaker in our gardens, controlling morning glory is a challenge. The “easy-to-grow” or “no-fail” honeysuckle called “Hall’s Prolific” is marketed to new gardeners, but these are invasive species. ... continued on Page OH10

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