Both Photos: Marcia Goodrich

## Purple Clematis

Clematis occidentalis var. occidentalis

Light: Full Sun, Partial Sun

Soil: Chalk, Clay, Loam, Sand

Moisture: Medium, Medium-Dry

Benefits: Butterflies, Hummingbirds, Bees,

Deer and Rabbit Resistant

Height: Up to 6'

Blooms: May-July

Zones: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Color: Pinkish-purple

Spacing: 3-4'

Purple Clematis is a rare and special plant. In Michigan, it's mainly found on Isle Royale with most other sightings in the western U.P. A species of special concern in the state, its elegant purple blossoms dripping from delicate vines cannot be confused with any other flower.

Not much is known about purple clematis, but presumably it likes to have its feet in the shade and its head in the sun, like others in the genus, It does require sun to blossom, and it can be found growing on rocky outcrops. Grow it on an arbor or over native shrubs and small trees.