

Hairy clematis



Scientific name: *Clematis hirsutissima* Pursh var. *hirsutissima*

Common names: Hairy clematis, Sugarbowls, Lions-beard, Bad-hair-day, Vase-flower

Hairy clematis can be found growing in mountain brush, meadows and woodlands in the foothills and mountains. As it often grows tucked up against shrubs or in within deep vegetation, the leaves and flowers are not always easily noticed. When they are seen however, the flowers are unmistakable.



The silvery-purple, urn shaped flowers which are 2 to 5 cm long, nod downward. Interestingly, the flower is not made up of true petals, but are petal-like sepals bearing color. A covering of small hairs gives the flowers their silvery glisten.

Hairy clematis flowers from spring to mid-summer and does not grow vines like most other species of Clematis. It does however have showy seedheads, like other Clematis species, made up of long plumes on the end of the seeds.

Clematis is an ancient Greek name for several climbing plants. 'Hirsutissima' is Latin for 'very hairy'.

