

Clerodendron - Growing Guide

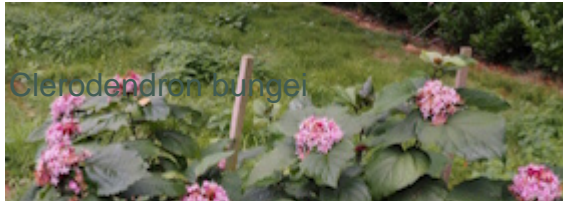
Growing Clerodendron

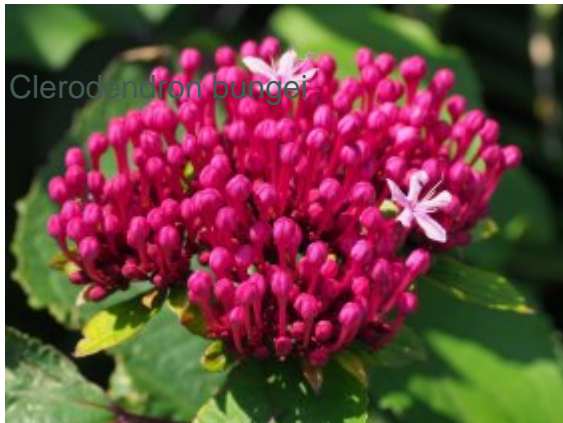
These are very attractive and unusual plants which flower and fruit late in the summer and produce spectacular fruits into the autumn. However only three of the species in this huge genus of tropical and sub tropical plants are genuinely hardy in UK gardens.

The three which are hardy have large terminal panicles or corymbs of flowers with cylindrical tubes and protruding stamens. The flowers are scented although the scent of *C. bungei* especially is unpleasant. Not for nothing is it also known as *C. foetidum*. Its leaves smell disgusting as well when crushed.

These plants are best grown in or behind a warm border or a wall to get them to flower at their best. However growers should be aware that these are spreading suckering plants which need plenty of room. *C. trichotomum* looks wonderful where it has grown as a clump of small trees and suckers of varying sizes in a woodland glade.

C. bungei, the 'Glory Flower', is really a shrub which can get killed to the ground in cold winters. It will however readily send up shoots of 3-6ft in height next season. These have heart shaped toothed leaves. The flowers appear in August and September in rounded corymbs of 4-5in across densely packed with purple-red flowers. This plant is easily propagated by digging up the suckers in the autumn or from semi-ripe cuttings.





Clerodendron trichotomum



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In early autumn these clerodendrons will add interest and colour to the garden as it enters dormancy.

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