

9033815 'Trailer'

Scientific Name: *Clematis ligusticifolia* Nutt.

Common Name: Western clematis

Cultivar Name: 'Trailer'

Selected By: Pullman PMC, SCS, USDA

Release Cooperators: USDA-SCS, WSU-ARS, OSU-AES, UofI-AES

Release Date: 1992

COLD HARDINESS ZONE: 5a-7a



Origin: 'Trailer', western clematis, *Clematis ligusticifolia* Nutt., is a cultivar developed from native collections made in Walla Walla and Benton Counties, Washington.

Description: Viny perennial with woody stems. Deciduous. 'Trailer' is dioecious, meaning unisexual. Both the male and female plants bear showy white flowers, approximately 2.0 – 2.5cm in width. Both types of plants have stamens on the male flower part. However stamens on the female plant produce no pollen and are sterile.

Growing Conditions: Nine to twenty-one inches mean annual precipitation. Silt loam soils at 500-4500 feet in elevation. 'Trailer' has survived and grown well under dryland

conditions at the following locations: Pullman, Lind, Central Ferry, and Mattawa, Washington; Squaw Butte Experiment Station, Oregon; and in an irrigated landscape planting in Aberdeen, Idaho.

Other Characteristics: ‘Trailer’ is deciduous, greening-up in early spring and dropping leaves by early November. Flowers appear in late June and continue through August. In late fall the female plants mature seed with a plume-like tail (stylus). When seed-development is abundant, which is normal, its' appearance on the plant is a mass of attractive cotton-like balls.

Propagation: Softwood cuttings is the current method of propagation. ‘Trailer’ can reproduce from seed, but it is not considered weedy. It also layers from nodes, sending out new adventitious roots. It has layered in an 8 inch precipitation planting near Mattawa, WA. Letting the plant trail on the ground rather than climbing increases its’ layering ability. Using a mulch, especially bark, also increases layering.

Conservation and Landscape Uses: ‘Trailer’ is recommended for use as soil cover in intermittent dryland stream corridors; for roadside and other erodible soil sites; as ground cover for small mammals and upland birds; and as a screening or landscape plant, particularly when a native is desired.

Availability: Softwood propagated plants of ‘Trailer’ western clematis are available to growers, and nurseries in limited quantities from the Pullman Plant Materials Center.

For additional information contact: Plant Materials Center, USDA-NRCS, 211A Hulbert Hall, WSU, Pullman, WA 99164, (509)335-7376 or a local NRCS office.