

PLANT of the MONTH

Gum Vine *Aphanopetalum resinosum*

Gum vine is a twining climber found in rain forest or wet forest areas of Queensland and New South Wales. It also grows along the coastal tracks of the far south coast.

Gum vine can tolerate quite a high level of sun and wind exposure.



It is a useful foliage plant for shaded corners of the garden, with the added features of delicate flowers and attractive fruits. It usually flowers in late spring to early summer. The fruit is a nut which is surrounded by the persistent calyx.



Glossy leaves and rough reddish stem.

The foliage is most attractive as the opposite leaves are a dark glossy green and up to 100 mm long. Leaf shape varies from ovate to lanceolate with bluntly toothed margins. The stems are covered in resinous dots.

As a stem twiner it needs support to raise itself above ground level but will also ramble along the ground as a ground cover. It can form a useful screen when grown up a trellis or fence.



Japanese honeysuckle

The vine responds well to pruning and can be grown in pots or hanging baskets. It is a **good replacement for the invasive Japanese honeysuckle.**

Aphanopetalum resinosum can be propagated easily from semi-hard cuttings. It may also be propagated from seed if sown when fresh.



Clematis aristata

Another beautiful climbing vine found locally is *Clematis aristata*, also known as Traveller's Joy and as Old Man's Beard (from the fluffy white seed heads).