



We're often asked which plants grow well in which situations, and while we're not master gardeners and can't guarantee anything, we've seen customers have more success with certain types of plants in certain situations. We've attempted to put together some of what we've seen in this guide; we recommend, of course, that you verify your desired selections with local experts.

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1. **Zone Hardiness Map** - <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html>



Hardiness Zone listing: Average cold temperatures by region.

In the NW region it is suggested to refer to the more specific and detailed mapping of the Sunset Hardiness Zones 1-17, for assistance within local microclimates.

<http://www.sunset.com/garden/climate-zones/>

Zone 1: below -46 C (below -50 F)
Zone 2: -46 to -40 C (-50 to -40 F)
Zone 3: -40 to -34 C (-40 to -30 F)
Zone 4: -34 to -29 C (-30 to -20 F)

Zone 5: -29 to -23 C (-20 to -10 F)
Zone 6: -23 to -18 C (-10 to 0 F)
Zone 7: -18 to -12 C (0 to 10 F)
Zone 8: -12 to -7 C (10 to 20 F)

Zone 9: -7 to -1 C (20 to 30 F)
Zone 10: -1 to 4 C (30 to 40 F)
Zone 11: above 4 C (above 40 F)





2. Tendril Plants (stem or leaf) these plants do well with 2"min – 4"max grid openings.

Stem Tendrils:

Passion Flower (*Passiflora*) – Zone 7b-11a
 Grape (*Vitis*) – Zone 6a-9b
 Blueberry Climber - Zone 5-8

Leaf Tendrils:

Sweet peas (*Lathyrus*) – Zone 5b-9b
 Cathedral Bells (*Cobaea scandens*) – Zone 3a-8a
 Chilean Glory Flower (*Ecchreocarpus scaber*) Zone 10a-11a

Tendrils are skinny, wiry structures along the plant's stem that actually reach around in the air until they come into contact with something they can grab. Once contact is made, the tendril curls, forming a coil that allows the plant to adjust the degree of tension or pull on the support.

There are two types of tendrils; Stem tendrils (which passionflowers and grapes have) are shoots that grow out of the stem, and Leaf tendrils (which peas have) look very similar, but the tendrils are actually modified leaves that emerge from a leaf node. Plants that have tendrils need handholds in the form of horizontal supports



Passion Flower

Passion Flower (*Passiflora*) - All but one of the passion vines listed are South American natives. All climb by tendrils 20 to 30 ft. Foliage is typically rich green. Plants bloom during warm weather. Many species produce edible fruit as a bonus. Train passion vines on trellises or walls for their vigor and bright, showy flowers; or use as a soil-holding bank cover. Vigorous vines, likely to overgrow and tangle; require rigorous thinning and untangling. Winter and early spring are best times for major pruning, but you can thin excess new growth at any time in the growing season. Tolerate many soil types.



Grape (*Vitis*)

Grape (*Vitis*) - There are two main types of grapes: European grapes (*Vitis vinifera*) and North American grapes (*Vitis labrusca* and *Vitis rotundifolia*). The grape vine is a woody climber with more or less twisted stems and large lobbed leaves. The grape vine attaches to other plants with its coiled climbing tendrils. The grape flowers are small and are formed on a light green panicle. In autumn, the grape vine forms blue, red or green colored grape berries (or simple called grapes) that contains between 5 and 10 seeds.



Tendrill Plants: continued...



Blueberry Climber

Blueberry Climber - Unusual, vigorous, deciduous climbing vine with 3- or 5-lobed, palmate, dark green leaves. Attractive lilac and blue berries provide color in fall. Good climber if given a sturdy support such as concrete wall or sturdy arbor. Tolerant of any sun exposure.



Sweet Peas (Lathyrus)

Sweet Peas (Lathyrus) - The sweet-smelling flowers come in a wide range of colors and are the main feature of this climbing plant. The vine grows 6 to 9 feet tall, with dwarf types reaching 8-20 inches. They do best in cool climates, but will grow in warmer ones. They need full sun and rich, well-drained soil. Work in some compost before planting. Seeds should be sown directly where it is to grow. Soak seeds overnight then plant about an inch deep and 3-4 inches apart. Water thoroughly after planting, then restrict water until seeds germinate. Watering regularly after germination will promote good growth. Over fertilizing will cause dark green leaves and fewer flowers. The plant benefits from deadheading but leave a few flowers at the end of the season to seed for next year.



Cathedral Bells (Cobaea scandens)

Cathedral Bells (Cobaea scandens) - This fast-growing annual vine gets its common names from its flowers. The bell-like or cup-like blossoms rest on saucer-like calyxes. Cathedral Bells are climbers and some varieties can grow over 20 feet in a season, if supported by a trellis or a fence. Once your Cathedral Bells are established, they should grow well and vine out at a fast pace. Watering during dry periods is important to sustain fast growth and big, bright blooms. Cathedral Bells will attract hummingbirds. Cathedral Bells are annuals and will succumb to frost and freezes.





Tendril Plants: continued...



Chilean Glory Flower (*Eccremocarpus scaber*)

Chilean Glory Flower (*Eccremocarpus scaber*) -

This fast-growing, evergreen climber has sharply 4-angled stems and red-orange tubular flowers tipped with yellow that are borne in clusters 4 to 6 inches long. Chilean glory flower blooms from late spring to autumn. Light green leaves are small, ovate, and boldly veined. Grow in fertile, well-drained soil in full sun. Do not overwater. Outdoors, train over a pergola or house wall, or let it climb up a small tree or trellis.





3. Twining Plants (stem or leaf) – Easy to grow, these attach to the living screen with very little help and do well to attach to the thin gage wire (10GA or 12GA).

Twining leaves:

Clematis – Zone 5a-9b

Climbing nasturtium (*Tropaeolum polyphyllum*) Zone 9-10

Rhodochiton Zone 9-10

Twining stems:

Pole beans Zone 1-11 (frost dependant)

Dutchman's pipe (Aristolochia) Zone 4-8

Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) Zone 3-11

Morning Glory Zone 3-10

Moonflower (Ipomoea) Zone 8-11

Jasmine (Jasminum) Zone 7-10

Honeysuckle (Lonicera) Zone 4-11

Black-eyed Susan vine (Thunbergia) Zone 3-9

Humulus lupulus- Common Hops Zones 3-11.

Wisteria Zone 5-10

There are two important differences among twining plants: they either have twining leaves or twining stems. Plants with twining leaves, such as clematis, use their leaves like tendrils. The young leaves of these plants are able to twist around slender wires, string, twigs or other leaves. The key is to provide a thin enough support for the leaf stem to curl around.

Twining stems twist around whatever they touch, be it a pole, branch, wire or chair leg. The stems will wind clockwise or counterclockwise, depending on the species of plant. There are loosely twining stems such as gourds, and strongly twining stems such as thunbergia, wisteria, morning glory, jasmine and Dutchman's pipe.



Clematis

Clematis - Clematis flowers include a vast array of colors, from the richest blues and purples, to glowing reds, elegant pinks, and the purest whites. Flowers can range from 1/2" to an impressive 9" across. Clematis can be used to climb such things as lattice, fences, mailbox posts, walls, lampposts, or trellises. Clematis grow best where their leaves are exposed to full sun and roots kept shaded and cool. It is recommended to place 2-3" of pine bark around the base of the plant to help retain the soil moisture. Clematis grow best in humus-rich, fertile soil with very good drainage. The soil should be kept moist, but not wet. A yearly application of a slow release fertilizer in the spring is also recommended, beginning the second year after planting. Certain clematis varieties flower only on the previous year's growth. Therefore, they should not be pruned except to remove weak or dead stems after they have finished flowering. Other varieties need to be pruned to promote vigorous growth and increased flowering performance. These varieties should be pruned between late February and early April.





Twining Plants continued...



Climbing nasturtium (*Tropaeolum polyphyllum*)

Climbing nasturtium (*Tropaeolum polyphyllum*) -

Nasturtium is a climbing annual flower. The flowers come in many colors such as white, brown, red, yellow and orange. They attract butterflies and can flower in spring, summer or autumn. They grow throughout the U.S. and part of Canada. In warmer areas they may even last all year. Nasturtiums are easy to grow. They prefer sandy soil but aren't picky and will grow in any well-drained area. They do better in soil of lower fertility; if the soil is too rich, you'll get more leaves than blossoms. After the last frost of the season plant nasturtium seeds about 1/2 inch deep in moist soil and spaced about 2 to 3 inches apart. They can grow in full sun or partial shade. They like well-drained soil and can even do well in full sun and drought conditions. If they are tall nasturtiums you'll want a trellis they can climb. The seeds will grow 4 months after planting. For the most part Nasturtiums are very hardy and pest resistant.



Rhodochiton

Rhodochiton atrosanguinea is more commonly

known as Purple Bell Vine. The plant is a native of southwest Mexico and is recommended for growing in gardening zones 9 and 10 in the United States. Purple Bell Vine features pink to purple flowers with a dark purple bell coming from the flower. It's a very showy and beautiful vine that can grow as long as 10 feet. Rhodochiton is a deciduous climber with rich green leaves and pendent, tubular, blackish red flowers. Blooms summer to fall. Great cover for pergola or trellis in frost-free climate. Prone to spider mites and whiteflies. Prefers fertile, humus-rich, moist but well-drained soil in full sun.





Twining Plants continued...



Pole Beans

Pole Beans:

There are two main types of beans: pole beans and bush beans. Bush beans grow to about 18 inches tall and produce a big flush of beans at once. Pole beans grow on a tall vine and produce beans continuously during the growing season. There are hundreds of pole bean varieties and they come in green, yellow, purple and mottled colors, and their pods range in size from skinny French green beans to long, flat, meaty Italian beans.



Dutchman's pipe (Aristolochia)

Dutchmans pipe vine (*Aristolochia durior*) is a fast growing vine with large heart shaped leaves. It easily grows to twenty feet tall and equally wide if given a good supporting trellis. Older gardens have often used it to cover sun porches or screens. There are several related plants in this family that are tropical and not overly hardy past 20F. The plant blooms in late spring or early summer (May-June) depending on location and the shape of the flowers (that come out in pairs) gives rise to this common name.





Twining Plants continued...



Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)

Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) - The deep green foliage and attractive fruit of bittersweet make it a highly attractive addition to the home landscape. American bittersweet grows as a twining vine that reaches up to 20 feet in height. The vines require support from fences, trellises or poles. In fall, bittersweet produces small yellow or orange fruits. These later split open and reveal vivid red berries, which provide an element of interest to the winter garden and attract songbirds to the yard. There are three different plants known as the bittersweet vine: *Celastrus scandens*, or false bittersweet; *Celastrus orbiculatus*, or Asian bittersweet; and *Solanum dulcamara*, otherwise known as true bittersweet or American bittersweet. Of the three plants that are known under as bittersweet vine, *Solanum dulcamara* is considered highly poisonous. While false bittersweet and Asian bittersweet are deemed non-poisonous, they are known to cause severe stomach upset. *Solanum dulcamara* contains a toxin known as solanine, which causes gastrointestinal effects as well as severe depressive effects on the brain and central nervous system.



Morning Glory

Morning Glory - The morning glory vine is a member of the Convolvulaceae family of plants that can grow up to 10 feet long. Morning glory flowers are typically blue, purple, red, white or yellow and are alternately described as saucer-shaped or trumpet-shaped. Each bloom opens early in the morning before temperatures rise and fades before the end of the day. In addition to the colorful bloom, the vine has dark green leafy foliage. When properly cared for, morning glory plants will last through the first frost before dying back. Place the morning glory flower in a location where it receives full sunlight, especially in the morning hours. Tie the morning glory vines to the trellis using gardening tape spaced every 12 inches along the vine.





Twining Plants continued...



Moonflower (*Ipomoea*)

Moonflowers (*Ipomoea alba*) are fragrant annual twining vines that attract the eye with their white blossoms and green, heart-shaped leaves. They are night-blooming flowers, opening during the afternoon and closing by daylight. With a fast growth rate, moonflowers bloom from August through October and are low-maintenance plants for home gardeners. Grow moonflowers in locations that provide full sun exposure for the most successful growth and development. Cultivate moonflowers in nearly any type of soil. Provide consistently well-drained soil, whether it is moist or dry; moonflowers will thrive in poor conditions. Choose the location for your moonflowers carefully. These vines will climb any nearby structure or support, including shrubs and other plants, and typically reach a height of 5 to 10 feet. Although moonflowers are known for their lack of pest and disease problems, look for the presence of pests like tortoise beetles, which target moonflowers as host plants.



Jasmine (*Jasminum*)

Jasmine (*Jasminum*) - There are over 400 species in the genus *Jasminum*, some of which are very fragrant while others have no scent at all. The most popular of the jasmines are common jasmine, primrose jasmine, poet's jasmine and winter jasmine. The plants are sub-tropical to tropical vines, and depending on the species you may find some hardy to USDA planting zone 7. Confederate jasmine and star jasmine are often thought to be *Jasminum* because of their scent, but these are not true *Jasminum*. Install a trellis or arbor if the vine has not been planted near something it can climb. As the vine grows, attach it to the trellis with a landscape tie and it will take over from there. Once established, you will only need to water during dry, hot or windy periods during the summer.



Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*)

Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*) Zone 3-11 - Commonly called Brown's honeysuckle, *Lonicera brownii* is a woody, hybrid vine grown for its showy, tubular flowers and ability to grow several feet in one year and it requires a sturdy support. It has bluish-green foliage and blooms in summer with tubular orange-red to red flowers; these flowers eventually become red berries. The plant climbs by twining, or it can be grown as a ground cover. It tends to reach 8 feet in length, but it can eventually cover 12 to 20 feet at maturity.. It is deciduous and tolerates freezing temperatures. *Lonicera brownii* requires full sun to partial shade and a moist, well-drained soil.



**Twining Plants continued...**

Black-eyed Susan vine (Thunbergia)

Black-eyed Susan vine (Thunbergia) - The vining black-eyed Susan (Thunbergia alata) is a cheery addition to the garden. Blooming in red, yellow, orange or white flowers, on vines that can reach 6 to 8 feet in length, vining black-eyed Susan looks stunning trailing over a hanging basket. This vine loves to climb, so if it is planted in the ground, provide it with a sturdy structure. Vining black-eyed Susan is a perennial in U.S. Department of Agriculture hardiness zones 9a to 10b. In colder climates it is grown as an annual. Grow the vining black-eyed Susan in full sun. Although the plant will tolerate partial shade, it will not flower as profusely as it will in full sun. Check the black-eyed Susan vine periodically for signs of spider mites.



Wisteria

Wisteria is a vigorous, twining vine that can grow up to 25 feet long. Some cultivars are extremely invasive and can cause injury to homes and other plants in the area. All types of wisteria have the potential to clog gutters, so while planting the vine you need to keep it away from the house. Wisteria thrives in USDA zones 5 to 10, the areas of the United States where the temperature does not drop lower than -10 degrees F. Plant the wisteria in slightly acidic, rich and deep soil in an area with full sun. Erect a solid support such as a trellis or arbor up which the vines will climb. Fertilize annually while the plant is still young to encourage vegetative growth. Once the vine fills the space you designated for it, stop fertilizing altogether. The plants are not likely to bloom until you stop fertilizing. Select the strongest upright stem to be the leader branch and attach it to the support. Train it upwards and allow it to grow. Choose side arms on which the vine will bloom that are at least 18 inches apart to train along the trellis.





Twining Plants continued...



Hops *Humulus lupulus*

Humulus lupulus- Common Hops is a spectacular vine that grows 10-25 feet with a 12-18 foot spread. Hops can grow up to 25' tall and prefer a vertical line to grow, so the Trellis should be designed to accommodate this plant specifically. This twining vine has attractive grape-like leaves that are rough surfaced with 3-5 deep lobes on long stems. The dangling fruits are kind of cone shaped and used for beer flavoring. They like full sun with deep, well drained soil amended with humus. When the vines are about one foot long, select 2-3 strong vines and wrap them clockwise around a support system. Make sure your support is strong enough to support the weight of the plant at full maturity (it can get up to 20-30 lbs).





4. Scramblers: Require more maintenance and training to adhere to the living screen as they grow.

Bougainvillea – Zone 10

Cape leadwort (Plumbago) - Zone 9a-11a

Climbing rose (Rosa) - Zone 8a – 9b

These plants have long, flexible stems that may look like vines, but they are unable to climb on their own. Scramblers sometimes have thorns that help them grip neighboring stems, if you want these plants to "climb" up a trellis, arbor, or pergola, you will need to tack them into place and probably tie them with wire or sturdy string.



Bougainvillea

Bougainvillea - is both the [botanical](#) and common name for this plant. It is a woody vine from the four-o'clock family (Nyctaginaceae). Bougainvillea grows best in USDA hardiness zones 9 through 11. In other regions, it is considered an annual plant. Bougainvillea vines grow approximately 4 to 6 feet long. They can also be trimmed to create a shrub form for bushes. Plant bougainvillea in full sun. The plant blooms best when the ground is kept dry. The bougainvillea's true flowers are the small, white flowers in the middle of the colorful, papery bracts. A bract is a modified version of a leaf. The bracts come in white, yellow, orange, purple, red and pink.



Cape leadwort (Plumbago)

Cape leadwort (Plumbago) - Plant imperial blue cape plumbago in an area that receives full sun to partial shade. It produces more blooms in direct sun. It prefers a well-draining, loamy, soil that is slightly sandy. It performs best in soil slightly acidic soil. This plant is frost-sensitive but rebounds quickly, even when it appears that a deep frost has completely killed it. The flowers are sticky because of the gland-tipped hairs on the petals. They fall off the plant easily; heavy tropical rains can strip an entire plumbago plant of flowers. To prevent knocking the blooms off the plant, don't spray blooms directly with water. Fertilize with a water-soluble fertilizer every two weeks throughout the spring and summer between bloom flushes. Do not fertilize once the plant has flowered. Blue cape plumbago grows quickly and has a tendency to vine. The plant quickly fills in large garden areas or climbs along a trellis. Imperial blue cape plumbago quickly reaches 10 feet in height and width. Wear garden gloves and a long-sleeve shirt when pruning; the flowers are very sticky and might stick to skin. Flower buds develop on new growth, and each trimming results in another flush of blue flowers.





Climbing rose (Rosa)

Climbing rose (*Rosa*) - is a woody perennial of the genus *Rosa*, within the family [Rosaceae](#). There are over 100 species. They form a group of erect shrubs, and climbing or trailing plants, with stems that are often armed with sharp prickles. Flowers are large and showy, in colors ranging from white through yellows and reds. Most species are native to Asia, with smaller numbers native to Europe, North America, and northwest Africa. Species, cultivars and hybrids are all widely grown for their beauty and fragrance. Rose plants range in size from compact, miniature roses, to climbers that can reach 23 feet in height. Different species hybridize easily, and this has been used in the development of the wide range of garden roses.





5. Adhesive pads: (these are easy climbers but they will also attach to walls, so be sure to keep them on the trellis)

Cissus - Zone 10a – 11a

Boston Ivy (Parthenocissus) – Zone 4b – 8b

Boston ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*) and Virginia creeper (*P. quinquefolia*) have stem tendrils with touch-sensitive adhesive pads that allow them to stick to almost any surface. Climbers with adhesive pads can attach themselves to the face of a building or the trunk of a tree. If not provided with a vertical support, they will just as happily crawl sideways, attaching themselves to anything in their path.



Cissus

Cissus rotundifolia - is also commonly known as Peruvian grape ivy, Arabian wax cissus, succulent grape and Venezuelan treebine, and is a member of the Vitaceae family. *Cissus rotundifolia* is characterized by its foliage, which almost has a round shape. The leaves, which are simple and grow in alternate directions, are deep green in color, and are toothed and fleshy, with waxy textures. The diameter of the leaves is approximately two and a half to three inches. Around the base, the leaves are vaguely heart-shaped. The tendrils appear opposite of the young foliage. Small flowers can be either whitish or greenish. In general, the plants achieve heights of between 12 and 15 feet. Very low amounts of water are required for successful plant cultivation. The *cissus rotundifolia* is particularly low maintenance, and watering once a week is suitable. The plants are highly tolerant of drought, and thrive when grown under light shade. Soil that is well drained is recommended for optimal growth. The *cissus rotundifolia* berries of the plant are edible, and are about half an inch in length, with a color that can be purple or red. Also, the foliage of the can be cooked and consumed as a vegetable.



Boston Ivy (Parthenocissus)

Boston Ivy (Parthenocissus) - is a deciduous vine with tendrils and is commonly known as Cottage ivy, Japanese ivy, Japanese creeper and Boston creeper. It is used as a climbing ornamental on stone and brick facades. This creeper is one of the most commonly used vines in the United States. Boston ivy has dark green deciduous leaves, which are simple and 3-lobed, or compound with three leaflets. During the fall the leaves turn bright scarlet. Small green inconspicuous flowers are produced in early summer which morph into blue-black berries. Birds find the berries very attractive however, thus encouraging the natural spread. This ivy is easy to grow and will tolerate site and soil conditions where other vines would do poorly. While it tolerates dry soils it would do best with rich soils. While it needs little attention, it may need to be trimmed to keep it in bounds.





6. Clinging stem roots: - These stem rooms have strong vines that will cling well to anything it's close to, we recommend a longer bracket to allow an increased distance between the wall and the trellis.

Climbing Euonymus (*Euonymus fortunei*) Zone 6-9

Climbing Hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*) Zone 4-8

English Ivy – Zone

Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis Radicans*) Zone 4-

The stems of these plants produce a cluster of short, stout roots that cling to surfaces of almost any kind. Examples of plants with clinging stem roots include climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*), most ivies such as English ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Irish ivy (*Hedera hibernica*), and also euonymus. These plants can damage paint work and mortar if you try to remove the stem roots from a structure.



Climbing Euonymus

Climbing Euonymus - also known as wintercreeper, Emerald'n Gold, and Gaiety, is an evergreen, clinging vine. It can form a dense groundcover or shrub to 3 feet in height, or climb 40-70 foot high vertical surfaces with the aid of aerial roots. Dark green, shiny, egg-shaped leaves, from 1 - 2 1/2 inches long, with toothed margins and silvery veins, occur in pairs along the stems. Stems are narrow, minutely warty, and have abundant rootlets or trailing roots. Clusters of inconspicuous green-white flowers are produced on a long stalk from June to July and are followed in the autumn by pinkish to red capsules that split open to expose seeds adorned with a fleshy orange seed coat, or aril.



English ivy (Hedera)

English ivy (Hedera) - lobed leaves and lush, trailing vines, English Ivy is a beautiful accent plant. It's a vigorous grower with strong, wiry stems densely covered with distinctive foliage, in some states it is considered a noxious weed. Although commonly grown as a hanging plant indoors, its aerial roots can easily be trained to climb a moss stick or trellis. There are hundreds of types of ivy varieties -- some with plain green leaves, others are variegated with yellow, gold or creamy white. It will climb as high as it is allowed to. Ivy prefers bright light, but no direct sun. It thrives under fluorescent light. If variegated varieties change to mostly green, it isn't getting enough light. Keep soil evenly moist but not soggy spring through fall; slightly drier in winter. provide good drainage.





Clinging stem roots continued...



Climbing Hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*)

Climbing Hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*) - is a dazzling perennial vine that produces large clusters of white blossoms. Slow-growing and shade-loving, the climbing hydrangea can climb to 50 feet, growing aerial roots that attach to walls, fences and even trees. Climbing hydrangeas are one of the easiest plants to propagate from stem cuttings. Take your cuttings in late summer, and by springtime you'll have a whole new crop of climbing hydrangeas to plant in your garden. Hydrangea vine or climbing hydrangea is a perennial woody vine that has rootlets allowing it to climb vertically as it grows up trees and other structures. Climbing hydrangea prefers partial shade and acidic soil that is rich in organic materials. You can propagate climbing hydrangea with cuttings.



Trumpet Creeper

Trumpet Creeper - is a native vine found throughout nearly the entire breeding range of the **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**. Robust and aggressive, it is best planted at the base of a fence or tree where it can be trimmed back. With support, it can grow 20m high with a main vine nearly 15cm in diameter. Flowers occur on new growth each summer, from late May through mid-September in the Carolinas; the growing season is shorter to the north, slightly longer in the southern U.S. Trumpet Creeper blooms profusely in full sun, less so in partial shade.





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