Why use a trellis?

- Fun, form and function
- Unique and artistic
- Saves space in small garden
- Adds vertical element for interest and privacy
- Creates area of shade
- Hanging fruits less susceptible to rot from the ground
- Displays flowers and form of plant

Materials & supplies:

**Bamboo poles** - sizes to suit. Try 8’ tall and 6’ tall; for uprights use 7/8 or 1” diameter; 1/4” diameter laterals for strength; 1/4” diameter is more flexible for weaving and extra climbing support

**Lashing materials** - zip ties are our favorite now - though cord, twist ties or thin wire can also be used

**Cutting bamboo** - Pruning shears to trim ends; a small hand saw may be needed to cut larger diameter poles

Optional:

**PVC pipes** for heavy soil - match internal diameter to bamboo, pound 8-12” into the soil

**Embellishments**: bailing wire, found objects such as beach glass, beads, old CDs; thin branches of willow

Sources:

Local nurseries and hardware stores - or check online

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Plants for your trellis:

**Ornamentals:**
Clematis,
Morning glory (Ipomoea),
Hyacinth bean (*Dolichos lablab*),
Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*),
Black-eyed Susan vine (*Thunbergia*),
Bittersweet (*Celastrus*)

**Edibles:**
Peas,
Pole beans,
Climbing cucumbers,
Melons,
Indeterminate tomatoes

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Create a bamboo trellis:

> PVC pipes or bamboo - place into soil approx 8-12”. Can use PVC pipe in soil to hold bamboo.
> Lash with zip ties - tighten when all are in place; trim.
> Trim tops of vertical to just above node so less space for water to collect and increase chances of rot.
> Try different spacing depending on the plant you are planning to trellis
> Be creative - they don’t have to be perfect - you can also create in stages as plants grow.
> We have left trellises outdoors for several years - eventually freezing water will crack the bamboo - but they can remain functional.
> For maximum life, it is probably best that they be dismantled and stored indoors during the winter.