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## ANNUAL VINES for WHIMSY

Would you like to add a bit of whimsy to your garden? Annual vines might be just the ticket!

**1 and 2. Moonflowers (*Ipomoea alba*)** are showstoppers when they open into giant white saucers at dusk. The bud itself is beautiful and fun to watch unfurl before your eyes.



**3. The Purple Bell Vine (*Rhodochiton atrosanguineus*)** is a much more delicate plant. Pink bells with purple clappers start ornamenting the vine when it just starts to reach up to a trellis to climb. Since it starts flowering in early summer, I am testing how well it can share a trellis with my Moonflower that flowers later in the summer. I first encountered Purple Bell Vine at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens growing through huge rhododendron shrubs. If it can manage a Rhododendron, I'm betting it can coexist with the robust Moonflower.

**4. Tennessee Dancing Gourds or Spinning Tops (*Cucurbita pepo*)** caught my attention this winter in a seed catalog. They were too cute to pass by! I am pleased that my vine already is producing the darling fruits, just 2-3 inches long.

Giant flowers, a row of bells, miniature gourds...any of these can be yours for the price of a pack of seeds and a bit of space on a trellis in the sun.

