



GEOFF HODGE

Tools for THE JOB

Writer, TV & radio broadcaster and product guru

Expanding plant support garden trellis

Here's a selection of the best for supporting your climbing plants quickly, easily and at a good price

Expanding trellis is the perfect solution when you need to support climbing plants quickly and easily - and reasonably cheaply - or even temporarily for annual climbers, for instance. While those made from plastic and solid wood are generally more robust, those made from willow stems and bamboo canes provide an attractive rustic look and feel. Being expandable, you can extend them to various different sizes, making them very versatile, too.

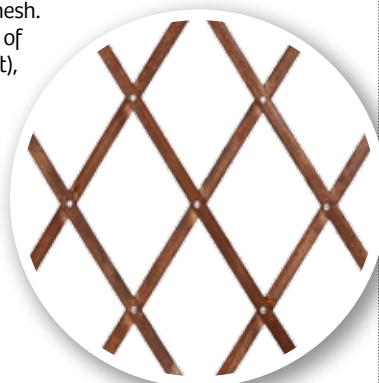
BEST WOODEN TRELLIS

Gardman Riveted Garden Trellis £9.99

This trellis is made from 2x0.8cm (3/4x3/8in) stained softwood timber slats, riveted together. It's very sturdy, although a little stiff initially when expanding and contracting. At its nominal size, it measures 1.8x0.6m (6x2ft) with a 14cm (5 1/2in) wide mesh. Available in tan and three shades of green. Other sizes: 1.8x0.3m (6x1ft), £6.99; 1.8x0.9m (6x3ft), £10.99; 1.8x1.2m (6x4ft), £14.99.

Quality ★★★★★
Performance ★★★★★
Value for money ★★★★★

Supplier Gardman, 01406 372227, www.gardman.co.uk, available from garden centres and online stores.

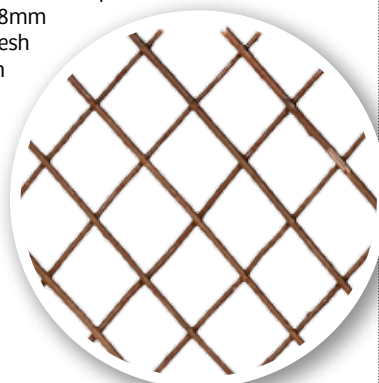


Verve Expanding Willow Trellis £5.50

This nominal 1.5x0.3m (5x1ft) trellis is made from stripped natural willow stems, 6-8mm (1/4-3/8in) in diameter, creating a mesh size of 5cm (2in). Stems are held in place with metal pins. Best suited for annual climbers and smaller plants. Other sizes: 1.8x0.3m, £7.56; 1.8x0.6m, £11.92; 1.8x0.9m, £18.61.

Quality ★★★★★
Performance ★★★★★
Value for money ★★★★★

Supplier B&Q, 03330 143098, www.diy.com.



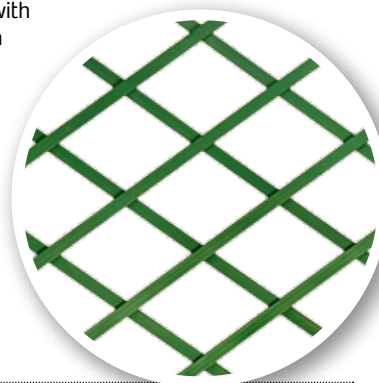
BEST PLASTIC TRELLIS

Tenax Treplas £9.25

This was the most robust on test, thanks to its UV-stabilised PVC plastic construction. Although hollow, making it very light, the 2.5cm (1in) wide, 0.8cm (5/8in) deep slats are strengthened internally. At its nominal size, it measures 2x1m (6 1/2x3ft) with 15cm (6in) mesh size. Available in three colours - green, brown and white. Other sizes: 1x1m, £4.65; 1x3m, £13.85

Quality ★★★★★
Performance ★★★★★
Value for money ★★★★★

Supplier Tenax, www.tenax.net/en/diy, available from garden centres and online stores.



Papillon Black Bamboo Expandable Fencing Screening Trellis £14.99

An ornamental 1.8x0.9m (6x3ft) trellis made from 1.5cm (5/8in) diameter black bamboo canes secured with sturdy metal pins and washers. It creates 20cm (8in) wide diamonds at its 1.8m height. It's flexible and easily extends. Other size: 2x2m (6 1/2x6 1/2ft), £22.99.

Quality ★★★★★
Performance ★★★★★
Value for money ★★★★★

Supplier Primrose, 0118 903 5210, www.primrose.co.uk.

