

- Suggested story concept
- Wrote story and instructions

Twig to a Good Idea

DESIGNED BY JON GILLETTE

TEXT BY JO CALVERT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL GRAYDON



Tall and handsome, these twig trellises can perform a strong supporting role in your garden. They're fast and fun to assemble – and hunting for the twigs and branches is all part of the creative exercise (as long as they're not punky, branches picked from deadfall work just as well as freshly cut).

Either style of trellis is the perfect partner for that classic combo: a clematis planted with a climbing rose, but don't forget that twining vegetables – such as cucumbers, peas, pole beans, tomatoes and zucchini – like to cling and climb as well. ▶

YOU NEED:

Hardwood branches, 4 to 6 feet long and 3/4- to 2-in in diameter (at bottom ends)

Drill and 3/32-in bit

Assorted No. 6 wood screws, from 1 to 2 in long

Screwdriver

Saw

Secateurs

Set square, ruler and masking tape

TO MAKE:

NOTES:

- An extra pair of hands is helpful during assembly.
- To avoid splitting branches, predrill all screw holes right through overlapping branch and about 1/2 in into overlapped branch, then select appropriate-length hardware and screw in place, countersinking slightly.

FREESTANDING PYRAMIDAL TRELLIS

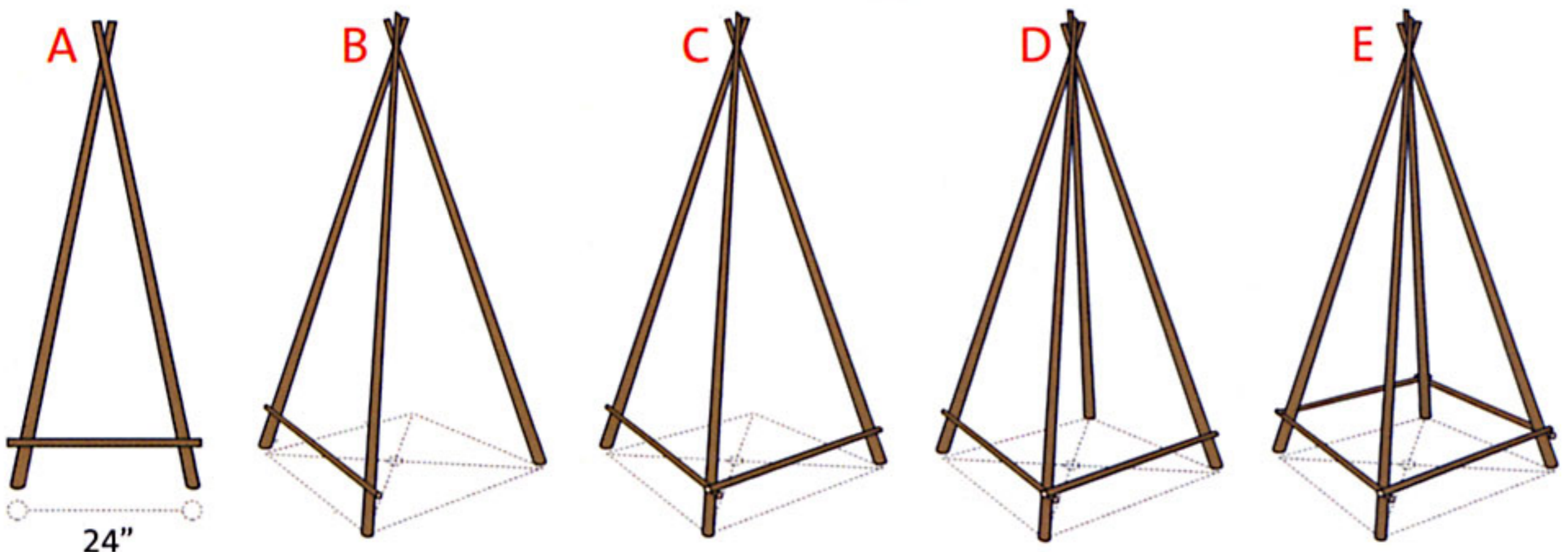
- 1 With tape, mark off 24-in square on work surface or floor, then mark centre.
- 2 Cut 4 long, sturdy and almost-straight branches, each about 6 ft long, for pyramid; then cut 4 short, almost-straight branches, each about 30 in long, for cross braces.
- 3 Lay 2 long branches flat on work surface, so bottom ends are about 24 in apart and top ends cross 6 to 12 in from tips; screw together at cross. Centre cross brace on branches, 6 to 10 in from bottom ends as shown in A; screw in place to form first "side." With each bottom end on 1 corner of taped square, set side upright, then angle slightly so cross is above centre of taped square.
- 4 With bottom end on next corner (working counterclockwise), set next branch upright, then angle and screw to cross as shown in B. Screw on cross brace as shown in C to form second side.

- 5 Continue in same manner to add last long branch and remaining cross braces as shown in D and E.
- 6 Arrange curved, forked branches into decorative latticework up each side; trim ends to fit and screw in place.
- 7 If desired, trim bottom ends flat to sit on deck or patio, or at acute angle to push easily into garden soil.

FLAT TRELLIS FOR WALL

- 1 With tape, mark off desired dimensions of trellis on work surface or floor.
- 2 Cut 2 long, sturdy and arching branches, each about 6 ft long. With bottom ends even and top ends crossing about 6 to 8 in from tips, lay along tape at opposite sides; screw together at cross. Centre cross brace on branches, 6 to 10 in from bottom ends; screw in place.
- 3 Arrange curved, forked branches into decorative latticework across centre; trim ends to fit and screw in place. ●

For more clever ways to use twigs, see "Art in the Garden," page 196.



PYRAMIDAL TRELLIS