



Hydrangea Care



Hydrangeas are one of the most desirable flowering shrubs for mid to late season color in the garden. Their lasting, large blossoms are excellent for fresh and dry floral arrangements or just to enjoy in a container, foundation planting or as a specimen plant. A hydrangea's size, growth habit, color, and type of flower vary from variety to variety. *Please see varieties available from Petitti's listed on the back of these care instructions.*

Hydrangea Families & Flower Types:

Hydrangea arborescens - Smooth Hydrangea, white to cream to pink, "Snowball" type, popular varieties are 'Annabelle' & 'Invincible Spirit', flowers on new wood so prune heavily, down to 6", late winter/early spring.

Hydrangea macrophylla - Bigleaf Hydrangea, the most common in the landscape, both "Lacecap" and "Mophead" types available, blooming blue (low soil pH) or pink (high soil pH), changeable in color, where older varieties' flowers form on old wood, new, "repeat blooming" varieties produce blooms on old and new wood.

Hydrangea paniculata - Panicle Hydrangea, cream to rose pink "grape cluster" blossoms, tolerant of full sun and heat, and commonly grafted into tree forms. Flowers form on new wood, prune heavily late winter.

Hydrangea anomala subsp. petiolaris (true Climbing Hydrangea) and ***Schizophragma hydrangeoides*** (Japanese Hydrangea Vine) with "Lacecap" flowers, clinging vines growing up to 30'+, blooms June-July.

Hydrangea quercifolia - Oakleaf Hydrangea, cream panicle, "grape cluster" type flower blooming June-July with bold foliage texture and beautiful fall color, flowers forming on old wood.

General Care:

Before planting Hydrangea, realize that most require well-drained, evenly moist soil in **part shade (4-6 hours of direct sunlight)**, eastern exposure is best. *Hydrangea paniculata* varieties possess the best sun and heat tolerance growing well in full sun conditions, but most others may experience severe wilting, burnt foliage and/or bleached flowers in too much sun (6+ hours). Hydrangeas do require thorough watering, approximately 1" of water each week or more as needed through drought periods. Mulching no more than 2" over the root base of the hydrangea will also be beneficial to keep the soil moist and suppress weed growth. Fertilize with a slow release, granular fertilizer like Espoma Plant-tone once in the spring and again in mid-summer. If you are trying to change the color of your *Hydrangea macrophylla* to blue apply **Aluminum Sulfate** or Espoma Soil Acidifier fall & early spring, plus use an acidic fertilizer (soil pH 5.0-6.5). Use **Garden Lime** along with a neutral fertilizer for pink flowers (soil pH 6.5-7.5). For purple blooms you will have to find that "happy medium". If it is a lack of blooms that is your concern, try applying **Triple Phosphate** or a high phosphorus plant food to force more flowers. We recommend spraying **Plantskydd** on your hydrangeas to protect them from deer browsing.

Winter Protection:

Winter protection is necessary for *H. macrophylla* and *H. quercifolia*, being that these species produce their abundant flowers primarily on old wood. Protect your hydrangea in late fall after the leaves drop with 4-6" of winter mulch, and by wrapping the stems in burlap or spraying them with Wilt-Pruf. This will protect the older wood and buds that are being produced (starting in August) for the next growing season's bloom cycle.

Pruning:

In the mid-summer thru fall, Hydrangeas need to be dead-headed, removing the spent flower and a short stalk down to the next leaf set or new bud growth. Cut long stems for flower arranging or drying before August. On *H. macrophylla* and *H. quercifolia* little pruning is necessary. If needed, prune heavily in the early spring removing only winter damaged, weak growth down to the uppermost buds being produced. With the other Hydrangeas (*H. paniculata* and *H. arborescens*) you can prune heavily in late winter or early spring, down to 6-12" or back to any node producing new growth. Any mature hydrangea would benefit from the removal of 1/4 of their oldest branches down to the ground to improve air circulation and strengthen existing growth.

Name	Size	Description
<i>H. anomala</i> subsp. <i>petiolaris</i> Climbing Hydrangea	20-60'	Dark, glossy foliage w/ white lacy, 6" flowers in June-July, slow growing, trouble free, clinging vine, but may take a few years to develop a good bloom cycle. <i>Schizophragma hydrangeoides</i> -Japanese hydrangea vine is similar.
<i>H. arborescens</i> - Smooth 'Annabelle'	4x5'	Huge, 12" snowball flowers from June to Sept., cut back entire shrub to 6-18" in early spring. No staking is required when planted close together (3') to support each other.
'Incrediball'	4x5'	Almost identical to 'Annabelle', but possesses an improved, sturdier branching habit
'Invincibelle Spirit'	3x4'	Spectacular rose pink form of 'Annabelle', repeat blooming, same easy care, blooms better as it matures, proceeds support the Breast Cancer Research Foundation
<i>H. macrophylla</i> - Bigleaf 'All Summer Beauty'	3x4'	Improved form of 'Nikko Blue', repeat bloomer, flowering on new & old wood, more sun tolerant, winter hardy w/ minimal protection, changing flower color depending on soil pH
'Blue Cassel'/'Pink Cassel'	4x4'	Enormous lace-cap blooms (blue or pink) cover the entire plant, start late summer to fall, an exclusive Petitti introduction with tremendous vigor, flowers on new & old wood
'Blushing Bride'	3x5'	Sister of 'Endless Summer', white to blush pink in color, better blooming than the original
'Cardinal Red'	4x4'	Rose-red blooms, June-September, deep green to purple foliage in fall, protect in winter
'Cityline Berlin'	2x2'	Dwarf, neat & tight habit bred for containers & garden, rich pink blooms w/green accents
'Cityline Rio'	2x2'	Dwarf, neat & tight habit bred for containers & garden, strong purple-blue mopheads
'Double Delights Freedom'	3x4'	Showy, fully double, bicolor blooms in deep pink (or blue) with white, repeat flowering
'Double Delights Perfection'	3x4'	Showy, fully double blooms in deep pink (or blue), repeat flowering, strong stems
'Double Delights Wedding Gown'	3x4'	Showy, fully double & lacey blooms in white & cream, repeat flowering, strong stems
'Endless Summer'	3x3'	8" blue or pink blooms produced consistently on old and new wood thru the summer.
'Glowing Embers'	3x4'	The closest to red you can get! Beautiful shades of deep rose, fluorescent pink with repeat blooms, a second set of flower shoots produced late summer, aka 'Alpenglow'
'Let's Dance Starlight'	3x4'	Vivid, repeat blooming lace-cap type with glossy foliage, disease resistance, easy care
'Mathilda Gutges'	4x5'	Produces rich blues to deep violet purple flowers in acid conditions, aka 'Royal Purple', often forced into bloom for spring holidays, slow growing, protect in winter
'Merritt's Supreme'	4x5'	Intense carmine red to deep pink, perfect mop-head flowers produced naturally in July and August, often forced into bloom for spring holidays, very productive variety
'Pink Beauty'	4x4'	Large, cream to pink blossoms with striking burgundy foliage and stems throughout the summer. Very distinctive in the landscape. Beautiful scarlet fall color.
'Pink Shira'	3x5'	A compact, reliable longer bloomer starting lime-green then flushing to deep cerise pink
'Sister Theresa'	4x5'	Early blooming, flattened white flowers w/ a pink blush, flower color continually changes
'Snowstorm'	3x5'	Pure white, full mophead that blooms earlier & longer, repeat

		blooms after deadheading, sun scorch resistant, powdery mildew resistant, tight, compact growth
'Variegated'	4x4'	Bright green foliage w/ pure white margins. Flowers are a lace-cap type w/ white to light pink outer sepals and darker pink interior flowers. Stubborn to bloom, needs phosphorus.
<i>H. paniculata</i> - Panicle 'Bombshell'	3x3'	A spectacular improved & dwarf form of 'Pee Gee' with a tight, strongly branched habit bursting with creamy-white to soft pink, full clustered blooms from early summer to fall
'Fire and Ice'	4x4'	Beginning in July with dense, cream blooms, maturing to pink then burgundy by fall
'Grandiflora' or 'Pee Gee'	4x5'	Most common tree form w/ dense, cream conical flowers giving a weeping appearance. Tree form can grow to 15' tall
'Honeycomb'	8x5'	Giant plumes of lacy, fragrant, white to blush blooms with super strong, upright stems
'Limelight'	5x4'	Light, lime green, conical flowers w/ bright green foliage, use as a specimen or backdrop.
'Little Lamb'	4x4'	Most floriferous of the panicle types, great late bloomer with compact, dense habit.
'Little Lime'	3x4'	Petite version of 'Limelight', same soft lime blooms, same easy care, same performance
'Phantom'	6x6'	Huge blossoms, bigger than any of the other <i>H. paniculata</i> types, non-fading, creamy-white starting mid-summer. Cut back hard to 12" in March to keep compact
'Pink Diamond'	6x5'	Another variety used in tree forms, starting white, deepening to rose flowers quickly
'Pinky Winky'	6x6'	12-16" long blooms are bi-color pink and white mid-summer through fall, good cut flower
'Quick Fire'	5x4'	Earliest blooming panicle hydrangea, starts in June along with mop-head types, but continues late into the summer turning from white to deep rose
'Snow Mountain'	8x12'	Tree form, 'Kyushu' improved, showy, white panicle blooms on a strong, vase shape
'Sweet Summer'	4x4'	Covered in full, dense blooms starting lime, cream then pink on strong stems, great in pots
'Vanilla Strawberry'	6x5'	Large, full conical blossoms start cream, then strawberry red to burgundy & repeat
<i>H. quercifolia</i> - Oakleaf 'Snow Queen'	5x5'	Creamy, conical blooms, with excellent, leathery foliage texture and rich crimson to burgundy fall color. Protect for winter.
<i>Schizophragma hydrangeoides</i> Japanese Hydrangea Vine	20-30'	Deeper green, heart shaped, leathery foliage, with lacecap flowers, very similar to the true Climbing Hydrangea, but seems to develop blooms faster, and is slightly more vigorous. Prune as needed in early spring. Will cling to any structure, wall, fence, tree or trellis

*Availability of Hydrangea are subject to change and varieties may vary by location.