

BEST PRUNING PRACTICES

Timing is very important when it comes to pruning hydrangeas. The right time to prune a hydrangea depends on the species, the time of year it sets flower buds, and if the flower buds are formed on old growth stems or on new growth stems. If you prune a hydrangea at the wrong time of year, you will remove the flower buds that will produce blooms in the current or next year.

BIGLEAF HYDRANGEA (flowers on old wood mid-summer through fall) Remove old, dead, or damaged stems in late winter/early spring. Do not prune in summer or fall; doing so will remove next year's blooms. Pruning is best done during the winter months by removing the oldest stems (those that are branched and gray in color). To reduce plant size, prune immediately after flowering by cutting back to a pair of healthy buds.

SMOOTH HYDRANGEA (flowers on new wood in spring) It is not necessary to prune every year. In early spring, remove weak, dead, or crossing branches. You can also prune any time after blooming. To reduce plant size, cut down all stems to the ground in late winter/early spring prior to new stem growth.

PANICLE HYDRANGEA (flowers on new wood in spring) Prune stems before new growth begins in late winter or early spring, or right after blooming. It is not necessary to prune every year. Pruning hard in late winter will encourage vigorously growing new stems.

OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA (flowers on old wood mid-summer) Remove weak, dead, or winter-damaged stems in late winter/early spring. For overgrown plants, cut them back after flowering in June/July by no more than one-third of the number of stems.

CLIMBING HYDRANGEA (flowers on old wood mid-summer) Little to no pruning is required. For minor shaping, prune right after the vine has finished flowering. If the vine has become spindly, rejuvenate it by heavily pruning when the plant is close to coming out of dormancy in late winter or early spring. If flowering branches are pruned off, you will remove blooms for that year.

MOUNTAIN HYDRANGEA (flowers on old wood) Remove weak, dead, or winter-damaged stems in late winter/early spring. Remove old flowering stems as soon as the blooms fade in summer. To reduce plant size, cut back stems by one-third around the end of August.

ALL HYDRANGEAS HAVE SIMILAR CULTURAL NEEDS, REQUIRING:

- **Moist but well-drained soil** (hydrangeas will not tolerate wet feet – ever!)
- **Some sun each day.** Hydrangeas look and flower best with at least 4 hours of sun, ideally in the morning. Panicle hydrangeas are the most sun-tolerant and can take full sun in northern climates.
- **Plenty of water, especially as they are getting established.** Hydrangeas have shallow roots, so they dry out quickly. A 2-3" thick layer of shredded bark mulch is a useful addition to any hydrangea planting.

COLOR

All hydrangeas undergo some color change as their flowers age. It is not the pH of the soil that is responsible for this change – it is actually the presence of aluminum in the soil that does it. White varieties of big-leaf hydrangea will not change color. It is easier to change a hydrangea from pink to blue than from blue to pink, but both endeavors involve making chemical applications in specific amounts at specific times. A soil test is necessary to determine the next step. Adding pennies or nails in the soil will not change the flower color!

THE FARM AT GREEN VILLAGE RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING HYDRANGEA CARE PRODUCTS:

Espoma Holly-tone

Grow plants with more vibrant blooms and deeper green color. Long-lasting, slow-release feeding.



Espoma Soil Acidifier

Turns hydrangeas blue by lowering soil pH



Espoma Garden Lime

Turns hydrangeas pink by raising soil pH



GUIDE TO HYDRANGEAS TYPES & CARE INFO



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GUIDE TO HYDRANGEAS



THE 6 MAIN TYPES OF HYDRANGEAS COMMONLY GROWN IN NORTH AMERICA

BIGLEAF

Hydrangea macrophylla

Also known as florist's hydrangea, hortensia, mophead, or lacecap

Morning sun with afternoon shade

Hardy to USDA Zone 5

Flowers on: Old wood

Proven Winners® varieties: *Cityline*® series, *Let's Dance*® series, *Parapl*™



SMOOTH

Hydrangea arborescens

Also known as Annabelle hydrangea

Morning sun with afternoon shade

Hardy to USDA Zone 3

Flowers on: New wood

Proven Winners® varieties: *Incrediball*®, *Invincibelle*®, *Spirit*, *White Dome*®



PANICLE

Hydrangea paniculata

Also known as peegee hydrangea

Full sun to part shade

Hardy to USDA Zone 3

Flowers on: New wood

Proven Winners® varieties: *Bobo*®, *Fire Light*™, *Limelight*, *Little Lime*™, *Little Lamb*, *Pinky Winky*®, *Quick Fire*®



OAKLEAF

Hydrangea quercifolia

Full sun to part shade

Hardy to USDA Zone 5

Flowers on: Old wood

Proven Winners® varieties: *Gatsby*™ series



CLIMBING

Hydrangea petiolaris

Part to full shade

Hardy to USDA Zone 4

Flowers on: Old wood



MOUNTAIN

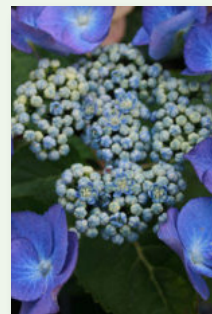
Hydrangea serrata

Full sun to part shade

Hardy to USDA Zone 5

Flowers on: Old wood

Proven Winners® varieties: *Tuff Stuff*™, *Tiny Tuff Stuff*™



FLOWERING

The trickiest thing about hydrangeas is that different types have different flowering habits:

Panicle and smooth hydrangeas flower on new wood (growth created in the current season). Flower buds on these hydrangeas form after the plant leafs out in spring, and open a few months later in summer. As a result, these plants flower reliably each year, no matter how cold the winter was.

Bigleaf, mountain, oakleaf, and climbing hydrangeas flower on old wood (growth created in the previous season). Flower buds on these hydrangeas begin to form in late summer and must remain undisturbed all through the fall, winter, spring, in order to flower the following summer. As a result, these plants will not flower if:

- **They are pruned at the incorrect time.** Lack of blooming may be an indicator of how you pruned it the previous year. Certain hydrangeas that are pruned in early summer or late winter will not flower the following season. Overpruning tends to result in further dieback, and results in flowering after an additional season. Avoid pruning your hydrangeas except during early spring, when dead wood is more obvious.
- **They are browsed by deer,** which eat the flower buds.
- **They are damaged by weather.** Winter weather isn't actually the problem; rather, it is in spring, when several days of warm temperatures are followed by a sudden freeze, that flower buds are most likely to be damaged.

Reblooming hydrangeas, also known as remount hydrangeas, are types of bigleaf and mountain hydrangeas that have the unique ability to flower on both old and new wood. Even if the buds are damaged in winter weather, the plant can still flower on wood it produces that season.