



melinda myers

Hydrangeas: Selection, Planting & Care

www.melindamyers.com

Smooth, Hills of Snow, Snowball (Annabelle type) Hydrangeas

Hydrangea arborescens

- Shade garden, mixed border, dried flowers
- Grows 3 to 5' tall and wider
- Prefers Partial shade, full sun if soil is kept moist
- Moist, Well-drained soil preferred
- Fertilize with low nitrogen/ organic fertilizer early spring to improve flowering
- Soil pH (acidity) does not influence flower color
- Blooms on new growth – prune during dormant season
- Varieties
 - Annabelle – large white flowers, 4' tall x 5' wide, tolerates full shade
 - Invincibelle – This is the exception
 - Incrediball – Large round flowers. 5' tall and wide
- Pruning Tips
 - Prune late winter after the worst of winter has passed /early spring before growth begins (You'll enjoy the winter interest & increased hardiness
 - OR prune in fall for a neater appearance over winter
 - Prune all stems back to 12 to 15" above the ground, then prune half of these back to ground level for less floppy growth
 - OR All stems back to several inches above the ground – results in floppier growth

Panicle Hydrangea

Hydrangea paniculata

- Screen, hedge, specimen, mixed border
- Dwarf varieties 3 to 6' tall & wide, Large varieties up 10'+ tall & wide
- Performs best in full sun will tolerate partial shade
- Moist, Well-drained soil preferred
- Soil pH (acidity) does not influence flower color
- Blooms on new growth – prune during dormant season if needed
- Varieties
 - Bobo - 2 to 3' x 3 to 4' wide, compact mounded plant with lots of long lasting large white flowers that eventually fade to a purplish pink (available in 2016)
 - Limelight – 6 to 10' x 5 to 6' wide, lime green flowers fading to rose
 - Little Lime – 3 to 5' tall and wide. Lime green flowers fading to rose
 - Little Lamb – 6 to 8' x 4 to 6' wide, large fluffy white flowers (available in 2016)
 - Pinkie Winky – 6 to 8' x 5 to 6' wide, large, white & pink flowers fade to dk pink
 - Quickfire – 6 to 8' tall and wide – earlier bloom, white to pink to rosy red
 - Tardiva – 8 to 12' x 5 to 7' wide – late bloom, lacy white flowers fades to purplish- pink
 - Vanilla Strawberry- 6 to 8' x 4 to 5' wide – large white flowers fade to pink and then a strawberry red
- Pruning Tips
 - Minimal Pruning Needed
 - Thinning plants to 5 to 10 primary shoots will encourage larger flowers
 - Pruning to ground level will result in weak floppy growth Prune in late winter after the worst of winter has passed /early spring before growth begins

Bigleaf Hydrangea

Hydrangea macrophylla

- Shrub or mixed border
- Grows 3 to 6' tall & wide
- Grow in full sun with moist soil, afternoon shade
- Moist, Well-drained soil preferred
- Soil pH (acidity) influences flower color
 - Blue flowers in acidic soil
 - Aluminum sulfate (per label directions spring through July)
 - Pink flowers in alkaline soil
- Blooms on old growth – Those at Pasquesi bloom on old and new growth
 - Improve Flowering on Endless Summer & Twist and Shout
 - Moist, not wet soil spring through summer
 - One application of Milorganite fertilizer in spring. It contains plant available – non leaching phosphorous (P). Plus as the microorganisms release the nutrients from Milorganite they also release some of the P bound to our soil – P promotes flowering
- Varieties
 - Endless Summer – 3 to 4' tall & wide, spherical blooms on old and new wood
 - Twist and Shout – 3 to 4' tall & wide, lace cap flowers on old and new wood
- Pruning
 - Allow plants to stand for winter
 - Remove winter-killed stems (this may be all of them to the ground)
 - No further pruning is usually needed in our area

Oakleaf Hydrangea

Hydrangea quercifolia

- Shade garden, four season interest, hedge, mixed border
 - Deep green oak shaped leaves
 - Bronze, maroon and purple fall color
 - Cinnamon colored exfoliating bark
- Grows up to 8 feet tall and wide
- Grow in partial shade or sun
- Moist, Well-drained soil preferred
- Blooms on old wood
- Varieties
 - Alice – 5 to 8' tall & wide, large 10-14" white flowers fading to pink then brown Bronze, maroon, purple fall color & orange exfoliating bark
 - Pee Wee – 3 to 4' x 2.5 to 3' wide, compact, less suckering, flowers white, fade to pink, then brown - Bronze, maroon, purple fall color & orange exfoliating bark
- Pruning – Minimal
 - Remove deadwood
 - Prune after flowering if need/want to control the size

For more pruning information check out my [Great Courses How to Grow Anything: Make Your Trees and Shrubs Thrive DVD set](#) and see my [Month-by-Month Gardening](#) books and [Getting Started Garden Guides](#).