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# HYDRANGEA

## Selection, Pruning & Care



# THE BEST HYDRANGEAS FOR YOUR GARDEN

## SMOOTH, HILLS OF SNOW, SNOWBALL (Annabelle type) HYDRANGEA

### Hydrangea arborescens

- Native from New York to Iowa, South to Florida and Louisiana
- Hardy in Zones 3 to 9
- Shade garden, mixed border, dried flowers
- Grows 3-5' tall and wider
- Prefers partial shade, full sun if soil is kept moist
- Moist, well-drained soil preferred
- Fertilize with low nitrogen / organic fertilizer in early spring to improve flowering
- Blooms on NEW GROWTH - **prune during dormant season**
- Soil pH (acidity) does not influence flower color
- **Pruning tips**
  - Prune late winter after the worst of winter has passed / early spring before growth begins
    - Or prune in fall if you prefer a neater appearance over winter
  - Prune all stems back to 12-15", then prune half back to ground level - less floppy
    - Or all stems back to several inches about the ground - floppier growth
- Drying Hydrangea Blossoms
- Annabelle Hydrangeas [YouTube video](#)

- Varieties:
  - Annabelle - large white flowers, 4' tall x 5' wide, tolerates full shade
  - Invincibelle® Spirt II - 4' x 4', pink flowers, improvement of original
  - Invincibelle Lace® - lacecap flowers of plum, purple & white, 4-5' tall & wide, Zones 3-8
  - Invincibelle Sublime™ - 3.5-5' tall & wide, green mophead flowers
  - Invincibelle Garnetta® - 2.5' tall & wide, silvery-pink to ruby-red flowers, blooms a bit later but longer than the others, zones 3-8
  - Invincibelle Mini Mauvette® - 2.5 tall & wide, early rebloomer with pink-mauve mophead flowers
  - Invincibelle Wee White® - 1-2.5' tall and wide, white flowers
  - Incrediball® - 4-5' tall and wide, large round flowers
  - Incrediball® Blush - 4-5' tall and wide, large round silvery-pink flowers

## Diggers Hotline

WISCONSIN'S ONE-CALL CENTER 811.

Diggers Hotline was established in 1976 to increase worker and public safety, prevent damage to underground and overhead facilities, protect the environment and to help ensure continuity of utility and communication services. Wisconsin's one-call center has helped millions of callers obtain information on the location of underground facilities and safe working distances from overhead lines.

### Learn More



## **PANICLE HYDRANGEA**

### **Hydrangea paniculata**

- Hardy in Zones 3 to 8, 9 and 10 on the West Coast
- Screen, hedge, specimen, mixed border
- **Dwarf varieties 3-6' tall and wide**, large varieties to 10'+ tall and wide
- Performs best in full sun and 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
- Proven Winners' Guide includes **size and bloom times of their varieties**
- Pruning tips
  - Minimal pruning needed - prune late winter / early spring if needed
    - Thinning plants to 5-10 primary shoots will encourage larger flowers
    - Pruning to ground level will result in weak, floppy growth
- Panicle Hydrangeas **YouTube video**
- **Growing Panicle Hydrangea**
- **Panicle Hydrangea Varieties:**
  - Limelight - 6-10' tall x 6-8' wide, lime green flowers fading to rose, Zones 3-9
  - Limelight Prime® - 4-6 x 4-5', earlier and brighter blooms on sturdier stems, Zones 3-8
  - Little Lime® - 3-5' tall and wide, lime green flowers fading to rose, Zones 3-8
  - Little Lime® Punch - 3-5' tall & wide, green, white and red flowers all at once, Zones 3-8
  - Quick Fire® - 6-8' tall and wide, earlier bloom, white to pink to rosy red

- Little Quick Fire® - 3-5' tall and wide, white fading at different time to pink then red, z 3-8
- Quickfire Fab® - 6-8' x 5-6', early with bigger blooms white-pink to red
- Fire Light® - 6-8' tall & wide, white to vivid red, z 3-8
- Fire Light® Tidbit - 2-3' x 3', flowers white to pink & red, Zones 3-8
- Pinky Winky® - 6-8' tall x 5-6' wide, large white and pink flowers fade to dark pink, 3-8
- Pinky Winky Prime® - is a bit bigger
- Vanilla Strawberry™ - 6-7' tall x 5-6' wide, large white flowers to pink to strawberry red, Zones 3-8
- Strawberry Sundae® - 4-5' x 3-4', white to pink to strawberry red flowers, Zones 3-8
- Berry White® - 6-7' tall x 4-5' wide, white to dark pink flowers, Zones 3-8
- Little Hottie® - 4-5 tall & wide, more heat tolerant, green-white to pink flowers, Zones 3-8
- Candelabra™ - 4-6', smaller leaves more drought tolerant and disease resistant, sturdy stems hold flowers upright, white flowers late summer turn rosy red, stems are bright red, Zones 3-8
- Flare™ - 2-3' tall & wide, white gradually turning reddish-pink from the bottom up, Zones 3-8
- Bombshell - 3' x 3-4', lots of flowers summer to fall, heat tolerant, Zones 3-8
- Bobo® - 2-3' tall x 3-4' wide, long lasting large white flowers to purplish pink
- Early Evolution, 2'x2', flowers lime-white to white, then blush, finish dark pink, Zones 4-9
- **Proven Winners Panicle Hydrangea Size & Bloom Comparison**



### **About Melinda**

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including *Can't Miss Small Space Gardening*, the *Midwest Gardener's Handbook 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* released 2022, and *Jackson and Perkins' Beautiful Roses Made Easy*. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program airing on over 115 TV and radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda also hosts the internationally distributed Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and Instant Video, including the latest *Food Gardening for Everyone* DVD set. She is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine, writes the twice monthly "Gardeners' Questions" newspaper column and a nationally-distributed gardening column. She appears regularly as a guest expert on national and local television and radio shows.

Visit Melinda's website,  
**[melindamyers.com](http://melindamyers.com)**



## **BIGLEAF HYDRANGEA**

### *Hydrangea macrophylla*

- Hardy in Zones 6 to 9, repeat blooming varieties Zones 4 to 9
- Shrub or mixed border
- Grows 3-6' tall and wide
- Grow in full sun with moist soil, afternoon shade
- Moist, well-drained soil preferred
- Soil pH (acidity) influences flower color - blue in acid, pink in alkaline
- Embrace the natural color - easiest and best for the environment
  - **Blue flowers in alkaline soil** - aluminum sulfate (per label directions spring thru July)
- Blooms on old growth - bloom on old and new growth
  - **Improve flowering on Endless Summer and Twist-n-Shout**
    - Moist, not wet soil spring through summer
    - One application of Milorganite fertilizer in spring
    - **Increase Flowering on Hydrangeas**
- Varieties:
  - **Endless Summer** - 3-4' tall and wide, spherical blooms on old and new wood, Zones 4-9
    - Blushing Bride - large white flowers age to pinkish blush, earlier rebloom
    - Bloomstruck® - hardier, red stems, glossy green leaves
    - Summer Crush® - good reports from MN, raspberry red flowers, dark green leaves turn burgundy in fall
    - Twist-n-Shout® - 3-4' tall and wide, lace cap flowers on old and new wood
    - Pop Star® - 1.5 - 3' tall & wide, quick rebloomer, lacecap flowers, Zones 4-9
  - Eclipse® - 3-5', dark purple leaves, repeat blooming, mophead flowers, Zones 5-9
  - **Grateful Red**® - 2-3 x 2-3, almost red mophead flowers, repeat bloomer, Zones 4-9
  - Wee Bit Innocent™ - 2' x 2.5', pastel blues, pink and purple round double florets, Zones 5-9, (2025)
  - Mountain *Hydrangea serrata* x Bigleaf *H. macrophylla* cultivars:
    - Let's Dance Can Do® - 3-4' x 3', forms flower buds all along the stem, lace cap flowers, Zones 4-9
    - Let's Dance ¡Arriba!® - 2-3' x 2-3', fast growing rebloomer, vibrant mophead flowers, Zones 4-9
    - Let's Dance Lovable™ - 3-4' tall & wide, mophead flowers, repeat bloomer, Zones 5-9
  - Mountain Hydrangea (*Hydrangea serrata*)
    - Tuff Stuff Ah-Ha - 2-3 tall & wide, pink or blue "waterlily-like" double florets, Zones 5-9
    - Tuff Stuff Top Fun™ - 2-3' tall & wide, lacecap flowers, burgundy stems, Zones 4-9
    - Tiny Tuff Stuff™ - 1.5-2' tall & wide, lacecap flowers with double sepals, Zones 5-9
  - Cascade Hybrid Hydrangea - blooms on old wood
    - Fairytrail™ Bride - 4' x 4', trailing growth habit, white frilly lacecap flowers, Zones 6-9
    - Fairytrail™ White - 4' tall x 4-5' wide, trailing growth habit, white mophead flowers, Zones 6-9, (2025)
    - Fairytrail™ Green - 4' tall x 4-5' wide, trailing growth habit, green flowers, Zones 6-9, (2025)

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- **Pruning tips**
  - Allow plants to stand for winter
    - Those in mild climates, wait until after flowering to prune
    - Remove winter-killed stems (this may be all of them) to the ground in cold areas
- Bigleaf Hydrangeas **YouTube video**
- **Growing Bigleaf Hydrangeas**

***Those in colder climates mulch to protect flower buds for winter***

- Plants often die back to the ground - no old wood to bloom
- Mulch to protect flower buds that have formed
  - Terminal bud - several layers that will become leaves and flowering portion in center
  - Some additional flower buds form lower portion of the stem
  - Flower buds are plump
  - Leaf buds are more pointed and narrow
- Prune out dead wood and hope for the best

***Tim Boebel's tips for growing bigleaf hydrangeas in Zone 5 and colder***

- **Hydrangeas in the North, Getting Blooms in Colder Climates**
- He has an extensive list of hardier varieties that tend to form flower buds lower on the plant
  - **Step 1 - Prune around July 4<sup>th</sup>**
    - Remove 1/4 of the shortest stems back to 1 or 2 nodes (2-10" above the ground)
    - Remove any other crowded stems
    - Leave stems with plump flower buds
  - **Step 2a - Fall prune - ONLY in cold climates**
    - After first frost
    - Prune half the stems back
      - \* Above flower buds you can protect
      - \* Not those you pruned in July
  - **Step 2b - Mulch**
    - Cover stems with trimmings

- Supplement with evergreen boughs or straw
- **Step 3a - Remove mulch**
  - After last frost
    - \* Earlier, if warm spring
  - Carefully, so you don't damage flower buds
  - Wait for buds to swell before pruning out dead wood
- **Step 3b - Fertilize**
  - He recommends:
    - \* High nitrogen, fast-release, like Miracid, monthly through July
    - \* Slow-release dried blood - once in spring
  - I suggest trying **Milorganite** - once in spring
    - \* Slow release, contains iron, 85% organic matter...

***Improve flowering on repeat blooming bigleaf hydrangeas***

- Endless Summer, Twist-n-Shout and other repeat blooming varieties
- Hardy in Zones 4 to 9
  - Keep soil moist, not wet, spring through summer
  - One application of **Milorganite** fertilizer in spring
    - **Encourage Your Endless Summer Hydrangea to Bloom**
    - **Increase Flowering on Hydrangeas**
- Move bigleaf hydrangeas into unheated garage for winter in colder regions
- Water whenever soil is thawed and dry
  - **Overwintering Container Planters**



## OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA

### Hydrangea quercifolia

- Native to Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana
- Hardy in Zones 5 to 9
- 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' tall and wide
- Grow in partial shade or sun
- Moist, well-drained soil preferred
- Varieties:
  - Alice - 5-8' tall & wide, larger 10-14" flowers, white, to pink to brown
  - Snowflake - 5-8' tall & wide, 12-15" double white flowers, fade to brown
  - Snow Queen - 6'tall, upright 6-8" flowers age pink, deep red-bronze fall color
  - Snowcicle - 4-6' tall & wide, 12-14" double white to soft rose then green to brown, somewhat drooping
  - Gatsby Gal® - 5-6' tall & wide, white blooms fade to blush then brown, Zones 5-9
  - Gatsby Pink® - 6-8 tall & wide, flowers white to pink then brown, Zones 5-9
  - Gatsby Moon® - 6-8' tall & wide, double white florets change to green, z 5-9
  - Jetstream™ - 5-6 x 4-5, white flowers age to pink
  - Ruby Slippers - 3-4' tall & wide, white flowers turn deep rose, mahogany-red fall color
  - Munchkin - 3-4' tall & wide, white aging to pink then brown flowers, rich mahogany fall color
  - Pee Wee - 2-3' tall & wide, compact, less suckering, flowers white to pink to brown

- Pruning tips
  - Minimal - blooms on OLD WOOD
    - Remove deadwood
    - Prune AFTER FLOWERING if need / want to control size
- Growing Oakleaf Hydrangea
- Ultimate Guide to Oakleaf Hydrangeas

## CLIMBING HYDRANGEA

### Hydrangea petiolaris

- Hardy in Zones 4 to 8
- Four season interest, white flowers (be patient, can take years to establish and begin flowering), yellow fall color, exfoliating bark
- Grow in sun to shade
- Moist, well-drained soil preferred
- Train on masonry, allow to spill over wall, NOT wood siding
- Varieties
  - Firefly - variegated leaves
  - Miranda - dark green leaves with yellow margins

**Contact Diggers Hotline or your local underground utility locating service BEFORE you start digging - It's a FREE service**

In Wisconsin file online at [diggershotline.com](http://diggershotline.com) or anywhere in the U.S., including Wisconsin, call 811 at least 3 business days before putting the first shovel in the ground. Once your request is received, Diggers Hotline (or your local locating service) contacts all the appropriate underground utilities. The utility's locators will mark the location of the underground utilities in the work area. Avoid digging near the marks to reduce the risk of damage, personal injury or even death.





## **UPCOMING APPEARANCES & WEBINARS**

*Check often as more appearances and webinars continue to be added.*

### **March 14<sup>th</sup> Webinar**

*How to Select Rain Garden Plants*

### **March 20<sup>th</sup> Webinar**

*Maximize the Beauty and Your Enjoyment in Any Small Space*

### **March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

REALTORS Home & Garden Show

*Designing with Four Season Foliage -*

*High Voltage Color Gardens Without the Flowers*

*Incorporating Native Plants into the Landscape for You and the  
Pollinators*

*More Information*

### **March 27<sup>th</sup> Webinar**

*How to Start a Garden for Beginners*

### **April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Franklin Public Library

*Garden Trends*

*More Information*

### **April 10<sup>th</sup> Webinar**

*Container Gardening Throughout the Year*

### **April 11<sup>th</sup> Webinar**

*Seven Steps to Managing Water Where It Falls in Your Yard*

### **April 20<sup>th</sup>**

Pasquesi Home and Gardens

*The Why and How of Pruning Hydrangeas and Other Shrubs*

*More Information*

### **April 27<sup>th</sup>**

Ridges & Rivers Book Festival

*First Steps to Creating an Eco-friendly, Low Maintenance Landscape*

*More Information*

### **April 28<sup>th</sup>**

Ebert's Greenhouse Village

*Flowering Trees and Shrubs for Your Garden*

*More Information*

### **May 1<sup>st</sup> Webinar**

*Ornamental Fruits and Vegetables*

MORE WEBINARS & APPEARANCES

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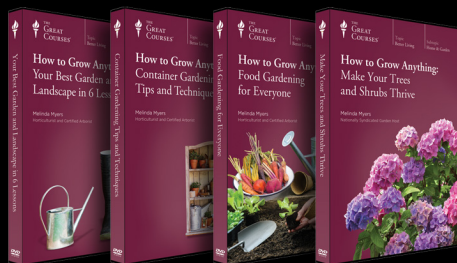
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