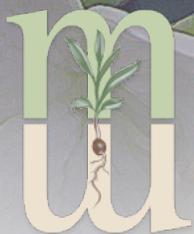


WHY WON'T MY HYDRANGEA BLOOM & OTHER PROBLEMS



melindamyers.com



NO FLOWERS ON HYDRANGEA

BIGLEAF HYDRANGEA

Hydrangea macrophylla

Hardy in Zones 6 to 9

- Blooms on old growth
- Proper watering and yearly fertilizations help promote flowering
- Wait until after flowering to do minimal pruning

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 4th

- ➔ 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

About ATC

ATC was formed in 2001, as the first multi-state, transmission-only utility in the United States. Unlike most other utilities, we have a single focus: transmission.

Our high-voltage transmission lines enable utilities to move power from a variety of different sources and locations to substations and lower-voltage lines that serve communities.

While we are required to keep trees and brush out of transmission rights-of-way, we do understand they are an important part of the landscape. Since 2013, we've donated over \$425,000 to support community planting projects and establish quality pollinator habitat within transmission rights of way.

Visit atcllc.com to learn more.



Helping to keep the lights on,
businesses running and communities strong®

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 Mir-acid - 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

- Blooms on old wood
 - Minimal pruning needed
 - ◆ Remove dead wood when discovered
 - ◆ Prune after flowering in need / want to control the size
 - Select hardier varieties

About Grow Smart®

ATC's Grow Smart® program encourages planting low-growing, native perennials within the transmission rights-of-way. This flowering vegetation can thrive within the rights-of-way, making utility corridors ideal for pollinators who benefit from the contiguous flight path.

Once established, the native vegetation beautifies the right-of-way and provides exceptional habitat for other species, while also maintaining the safety and reliability of the electric grid.

ATC is uniquely positioned to help establish habitat for pollinators because of the 9,921 miles of transmission line right-of-way we manage. Approximately 40% of our rights-of-way have been identified as having suitable pollinator habitat.

Visit atc-GrowSmart.com for low-growing, native plant suggestions.



CLIMBING HYDRANGEA

Hydrangea petiolaris

Hardy in Zones 4 to 7 (8)

- Can take 5 or more years to reach maturity and begin flowering

OTHER REASONS HYDRANGEAS WON'T BLOOM

- Excessive nitrogen
- Too much shade
- Weather
- Hydrangea Hasn't Flowered After Pruning

FLOPPY GROWTH ON HYDRANGEA

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

- Pruning tips
 - Prune late winter after the worst of winter has passed / early spring before growth begins
 - ◆ OR prune in fall for a neater appearance over winter
 - Prune all stems back to 12-15", then prune half back to ground level - less floppy
 - ◆ OR prune all stems back to several inches above the ground = floppier growth
 - Pruning Annabelle Hydrangea
 - Renewal Pruning Overgrown Shrubs
- Varieties with sturdier stems
 - ◆ Invincibelle Spirit II - 4' x 4', pink flowers, improvement of original
 - ◆ Incrediball - 4-5' tall and wide, large round flowers
- Summer Blooming Hydrangeas



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*, 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, 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.

PANICLE HYDRANGEA

Hydrangea paniculata

Hardy in Zones 3 to 8, 9 and 10 on the West Coast

- Blooms on new growth
- Select right size variety for space to minimize need to prune
 - **Small Scale Panicle Hydrangeas**
- 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
 - **How to Prune Your Panicle Hydrangea in Fall**

OTHER PROBLEMS

• **FLOWERS TURN BROWN EARLIER THAN NORMAL**

- Hot, dry weather

• **LEAF EDGES TURN BROWN**

- Scorch - lack of water, too much sun
 - ✦ **Leaf Browning, Scorch on Hostas and Other Shade Plants**

• **JUGLONE TOXICITY (BLACK WALNUT TREES)**

- **Black Walnut Toxicity, Grow Juglone Resistant Plants**
- Morton Arboretum in Illinois reports *Hydrangea arborescens* is tolerant of juglone
- Kansas State says hydrangeas are sensitive to juglone

• **HYDRANGEA DISEASES AND INSECT PESTS**

◦ **Leaf spots and botrytis blight**

- ✦ Botrytis blight affected flowers and infected petals fall on leaves, which begin spotting
 - Problem in cool, humid weather
 - Sanitation
 - **Eco-friendly Control of Botrytis and Phytophthora Blights on Peonies**
- ✦ Other leaf spot diseases
 - Sanitation
 - May want preventative fungicide if infection previous year and wet weather in forecast

○ Powdery mildew

- ◆ Aesthetic issue not a risk to plant health
 - More common in shaded, overcrowded plantings
 - Sanitation to reduce future infections
 - Horticulture oil like Summit Year-Round Spray Oil
 - Organic control option, read and follow label directions
 - ◆ Eco-friendly Powdery Mildew Control

○ Root rot

- ◆ Can happen to oakleaf hydrangea
- ◆ Prevent with proper siting and care
- ◆ Avoid drought stress and waterlogged soils

○ Aphids and Mites

- ◆ Strong blast of water
- ◆ Wait for lady beetles to eat aphids
- ◆ Insecticidal soap or lightweight horticulture oil

○ Japanese Beetles

- ◆ Adults feed on leaves - reports of damage to oakleaf and panicle hydrangeas
- ◆ Tolerate the damage - the plants will survive
- ◆ Knock them into a can of soapy water
- ◆ NEW BeetleGone!® *Btg* (*Bacillus thuringiensis galleria*) - organic
- ◆ Controlling Japanese Beetles

○ Black Vine Weevils

- ◆ Adults take bite out of leaf margin - not harmful
- ◆ Eggs laid 3-4 weeks
- ◆ Larvae feeds on roots
- ◆ Adults and larvae overwinter in soil
- ◆ Pathogenic nematodes can be used to control larvae

○ Deer

- ◆ Fencing
- ◆ Scare tactics
- ◆ Plantskydd rain resistant repellent

FOR MORE ON SELECTION AND CARE OF HYDRANGEAS

Watch my FREE webinar *Selecting the Best Hydrangea for My Landscape*

- [Webinar link](#)
- Access code: L&z&sw6n
- [Download handout](#)

Seminar is underwritten by [ATC](#) and [Grow Smart](#)

Then, join me...

November 11th

6:30 pm CST

Brighten Dreary Days by Forcing Bulbs into Bloom

This virtual seminar is free, but registration is required.

[Register here](#)

Seminar is underwritten by [We Energies](#)

November 18th

6:30 pm CST

Growing Holiday Plants to Brighten Your Home & Relieve Stress

This virtual seminar is free, but registration is required.

[Register here](#)

Seminar is underwritten by [We Energies](#)

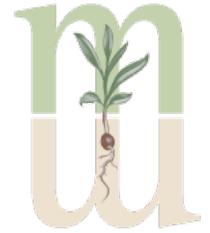


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Birds & Blooms magazine

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- Midwest Lawn Guides
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- Month-by-Month Gardening in Minnesota & Wisconsin
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