HYDRANGEA SELECTION, PRUNING & CARE

CORONA®
SEASON AFTER SEASON

melindamyers.com

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

Annabelle Hydrangeas YouTube video

- 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
- Varieties
  - ✦ Annabelle - large white flowers, 4' tall x 5' wide, tolerates full shade
  - ✦ Invincibelle Spirit II - 4' x 4', pink flowers, improvement of original
  - ✦ Invincibelle Ruby - 3-4' x 2-3', ruby red and silvery pink blooms
  - ✦ 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
- 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 all stems back to several inches about the ground - floppier growth
- Drying hydrangea blooms

Corona Tools

When there's work to be done, there's no doubt about the name on the tool – CORONA®.

Born of a need for reliability, our tools serve the demands of professionals and serve to inspire those looking for professional results. A Corona tool in the shed is an investment in years of reliable performance. A Corona tool in hand is the means to forge a truly proud outdoor space. For us, it's a promise of the highest standards in utility, quality and craftsmanship. For you, it's the means to accomplish the job done with confidence.

Founded in the 1928, Corona is a leading brand manufacturing professional tools built for strength and durability and homeowner garden tools that provide feature-rich benefits like comfort, control and easier cutting.

Corona's proven designs, quality manufacturing processes and unparalleled customer service make it the best choice in tools for contractors, agricultural professionals and avid gardeners alike.

As an attendee, Corona has provided a limited time offer to purchase tools directly and save **20% + FREE SHIPPING**.

Visit **shop.coronatoolsusa.com** and **use code: SINCE1928**

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PANICLE HYDRANGEA

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

Panicle Hydrangeas YouTube video

Growing Panicle Hydrangea audio tip

- 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
- Varieties
  - ✦ Bobo - 2-3' tall x 3-4' wide, long lasting large white flowers to purplish pink
  - ✦ Bombshell - 3' x 3-4', lots of flowers summer to fall
  - ✦ Limelight - 6-10' tall x 5-6' wide, lime green flowers fading to rose
  - ✦ Little Lime - 3-5' tall and wide, lime green flowers fading to rose
  - ✦ Little Lamb - 6-8' tall x 4-6' wide, large fluffy white flowers
  - ✦ Pinky Winky - 6-8' tall x 5-6' wide, large white and pink flowers fade to dark pink
  - ✦ Quickfire - 6-8' tall and wide, earlier bloom, white to pink to rosy red
  - ✦ Little Quickfire - 3-5' tall and wide, white fading to pink-red flowers
  - ✦ Strawberry Sundae - 4-5' x 3-4', white to pink to strawberry red flowers
  - ✦ Vanilla Strawberry - 6-8' tall x 4-5' wide, large white flowers to pink to strawberry red
  - ✦ Berry White - 6-7' tall x 4-5' wide, white to dark pink flowers
  - ✦ Tardiva - 8-12' tall x 5-7' wide, late bloom, lacy white flowers fade to purplish-pink
- 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

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.

Visit Melinda's website,
melindamyers.com

BIGLEAF HYDRANGEA

Hydrangea macrophylla
Hardy in Zones 6 to 9, repeat blooming varieties Zones 4 to 9

Bigleaf Hydrangeas YouTube video

Growing Bigleaf Hydrangeas audio tip

- 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
  - 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
    - 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
  - Let's Dance Series - Rave - deep pink in alkaline soil and violet in acidic soil, developed by Proven Winners in Michigan, glossy foliage
  - Grateful Red - only blooms on new wood, McKay Nursery WI
  - *Hydrangea serrata* - from mountainous area suppose to be more hardy
    - Tuff Stuff Ah-Ha - Proven Winners
- 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

Always Call 811 Before Putting the First Shovel in the Ground

Always call 811 or in Wisconsin you can also file online at DiggersHotline.com at least 3 business days before putting the first shovel in the ground. Once your request is received they will 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 prevent damage and personal injury or even death.

DIGGERS HOTLINE®

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

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

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OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA

Hydrangea quercifolia
Native to Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Lousiana
Hardy in Zones 5 to 9

Growing Oakleaf Hydrangea audio tip

- 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 and wide, large 10-14” flower panicles, white to pink then brown
  - ✦ Snowflake - 5-8’ tall and wide, 12-15” flower panicles that appear doubled
  - ✦ Snow Queen - 6’ tall, upright 6-8” flowers age pink, deep red-bronze fall color
  - ✦ Ruby Slippers - 3-4’ tall and wide, white flowers turn deep rose, mahogany-red fall color
  - ✦ Pee Wee - 2-3’ tall and wide, compact, less suckering, flowers white to pink to brown
  - ✦ Sike’s Dwarf - 2-3’ tall and wide, 3-4” flowers
  - ✦ Little Honey - yellow foliage turns orange-red infall, 5-6” flower clusters
  - ✦ Munchkin - 3-4’ tall and wide, rich mahogany red fall color
- Pruning tips
  - ○ Minimal - blooms on OLD WOOD
    - ■ Remove deadwood
    - ■ Prune AFTER FLOWERING if need / want to control size

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

UPCOMING APPEARANCES & WEBINARS

Check often as more information and webinars continue to be added.

September 23rd Webinar

Pollinator-Friendly Perennials for Difficult Situations

September 25th In-Person

Green Bay Botanical Garden

25th Birthday Celebration

Ask the Plant Doctor Question & Answer Session

September 30th Webinar

Shade Gardening for Beauty and Pollinator Appeal

October 9th In-Person

Sanger House Gardens

Everything You Need to Know About Hydrangeas

October 27th Webinar

Pruning Tips for Shrubs

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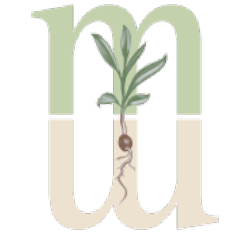

Melinda's Garden Moment nationally syndicated TV and Radio segments

Birds & Blooms magazine

Books

- *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*
- *Small Space Gardening*
- *Midwest Lawn Guides*
- *Minnesota & Wisconsin Getting Started Garden Guide*
- *Month-by-Month Gardening in Minnesota & Wisconsin*
- *Michigan Getting Started Garden Guide*
- *Month-by-Month Gardening in Michigan*
- *Month-by-Month Gardening in Iowa*

The Great Courses' *How to Grow Anything* DVD Series

- *Food Gardening for Everyone*
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