

# HYDRANGEAS DEMYSTIFIED

## Which hydrangea do you grow?

There are six main types of hydrangeas commonly grown in North American gardens.

**Hydrangea Fun Fact** There are about 49 species of hydrangeas. Four species are native to North America, including smooth hydrangea and oakleaf hydrangea.

LET'S DANCE® BIG EASY® Hydrangea



### Bigleaf

(also known as florist's hydrangea, hortensia, mophead, or lacecap)  
*Hydrangea macrophylla*

- Hardy to USDA zone 5
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune, may benefit from winter protection

Proven Winners® varieties:  
ABRACADABRA® Star, CITYLINE® series, EDGY® Hearts, LET'S DANCE® reblooming series

FIRE LIGHT® Hydrangea



### Panicle

(also known as peegee hydrangea)  
*Hydrangea paniculata*

- Hardy to USDA zone 3
- Bloom on new wood: prune in late winter/early spring

Proven Winners® varieties:  
BOBO®, FIRE LIGHT®, 'Limelight', LITTLE LIME®, 'Little Lamb', PINKY WINKY®, QUICK FIRE®, LITTLE QUICK FIRE®, ZINFIN DOLL®

INVINCIBELLE LIMETTA® Hydrangea



### Smooth

(also known as Annabelle hydrangea)  
*Hydrangea arborescens*

- Hardy to USDA zone 3
- Bloom on new wood: prune in late winter/early spring

Proven Winners® varieties:  
INCREDIBALL® series, INVINCIBELLE® series, LIME RICKEY®

Hydrangea petiolaris



### Climbing

*Hydrangea petiolaris*

- Hardy to USDA zone 4
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune

TUFF STUFF® Hydrangea



### Mountain

*Hydrangea serrata*

- Hardy to USDA zone 5
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune

Proven Winners® varieties:  
TUFF STUFF™ series

GATSBY PINK® Hydrangea



### Oakleaf

*Hydrangea quercifolia*

- Hardy to USDA zone 5
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune, may benefit from winter protection

Proven Winners® varieties:  
GATSBY series

## Color

All hydrangeas undergo some color change as their flowers age, but only bigleaf and mountain hydrangeas can change their color in a predictable, controllable way. It is not solely the pH of the soil that is responsible for this change – it is actually the presence of aluminum in the soil.

- Certain varieties of bigleaf hydrangeas cannot change color. The rich red blooms of CITYLINE® Paris hydrangea are a good example. Similarly, white varieties of bigleaf 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 application in specific amounts at specific times. A soil test is necessary to determine the best course of action. If you decide to try to change the flower color, shop for products carefully and read all directions.
- Pennies, nails, aluminum foil, or coffee grounds in the soil will not change the color!

## Growing Tips for Success

- Plant in moist but well-drained soil (hydrangeas will not tolerate wet feet – ever!)
- Some sun each day is ideal. Most people think of hydrangeas as shade plants, but they look and flower best with at least four 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 two to three inch layer of shredded bark mulch is a useful addition to any hydrangea planting.

**Hydrangea Fun Fact** Hydrangeas are notoriously water-needy, but the "hydra" part of their name actually refers to the seed capsules' resemblance to ancient Greek water-carrying vessels.



# WHY ISN'T MY HYDRANGEA BLOOMING?



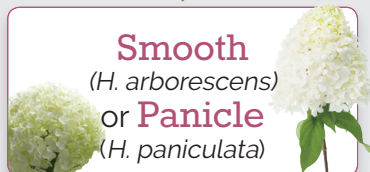
Which hydrangea do you grow?  
(see reverse to identify)

## Smooth

(*H. arborescens*)

## or Panicle

(*H. paniculata*)



How long ago  
did you plant it?

< 2 years

Needs more  
time to  
develop a  
root system.  
Mulch and  
keep well  
watered;  
it will bloom  
in time.

2+ years

How much  
light does it  
get?

4+  
hours

Did you  
cut it  
back?

Yes

When?

Fall

Deer  
damage  
or low  
light

< 4  
hours

Needs  
more  
sun

No

Deer  
damage  
or low  
light

Late  
spring/  
summer

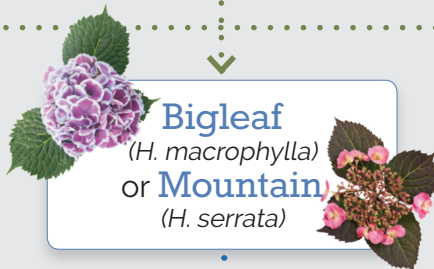
Buds removed -  
blooming may be  
delayed or not occur.  
Prune in late winter or  
early spring.

## Bigleaf

(*H. macrophylla*)

## or Mountain

(*H. serrata*)



Did you cut it back?

Yes

Oops!  
You cut off  
the flower  
buds. Avoid  
pruning.

No

Do you live  
in a cold  
climate?

Yes

Flower buds  
were killed by  
cold. Move to a  
more protected  
spot; protect  
plant on spring  
nights when  
frost or freeze  
threatens.

No

Too  
much  
shade  
or deer  
damage

But it's a reblooming  
hydrangea!

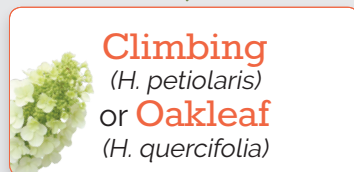
Not all reblooming  
hydrangeas are equal  
- some need to reach  
a certain height to set  
new wood buds. Let's  
Dance® reblooming  
hydrangeas were  
developed to bloom  
sooner.

## Climbing

(*H. petiolaris*)

## or Oakleaf

(*H. quercifolia*)



How old is the plant?

< 5 years

These plants  
tend to need  
to be more  
mature to  
flower well.  
Give them  
more time.

5+ years

Did you cut  
it back?

Yes

Oops!  
You cut off  
the flower  
buds. Avoid  
pruning.

No

Deer  
damage  
or low  
light

Still have questions about  
hydrangeas or other Proven  
Winners ColorChoice Shrubs?  
We're here to help you be  
successful in the garden! Visit  
[www.provenwinners.com/  
feedback](http://www.provenwinners.com/feedback).

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