



Hydrangeaceae (*Hydrangea*)

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Hydrangeaceae is a family of fast-growing deciduous shrubs grown mainly for their large showy flowers. The flower head may be panicle (cone-shaped), round or flattened florets, ranging in color from pink to blue, lavender to purple, white or green. There are many cultivars of *Hydrangea* including standard size, dwarf or tree form. Varieties include: Bigleaf (*H macroplylla*), Panicle (*H paniculate*), Oakleaf (*H guercifolia*), Smooth (*H arborensens*), Climbing (*H petiolaris*) and Mountain (*H serrata*).

*Note *Hydrangea* cultivars have a range in cold hardiness, size and sun tolerance. When choosing this shrub, it is important to consider these factors. Long-lasting flowers are good in fresh or dried arrangements.

Type	Perennial flowering shrub
Hardiness Zone	3 - 9
Sun	Full sun to full shade - varies by cultivar
Bloom Time	Summer to fall
Height	2' - 12'
Spread	3' - 12'
Tolerance	Cold tolerant varieties available
Attracts	Birds, butterflies and other pollinators
Additional Features	Not deer or rabbit resistant, visual interest in winter

Soil and Site Recommendations

- Drainage: well-drained soil
- Soil pH: determines flower color in the Bigleaf variety: Acidic (pH > 6.0) produces pink flowers; Alkaline (pH 5.0-5.5) produces pink/purple flowers
- Type: amend with organic matter
- Placement considerations: may be used as a specimen plant, shrub border or hedge

Planting Recommendations

- Type: purchase plant or divide existing root clump
- When to plant: spring to fall
- Planting depth: top of the root ball should be level with surrounding soil
- Mulching: annually
- Spacing: 3 feet minimum between plants
- Division/transplant tips: divide root clump in spring

Maintenance

- Watering: medium (once or more per week)
- Fertilization: several times per growing season
- Pinching/deadheading: not necessary
- Annual maintenance: pruning depends on variety: smooth and panicle – late winter or early spring; All other varieties after blooming

Common Problems

Disease: some susceptibility to powdery mildew and leaf spot

Insects: aphids and mites, occasionally

Resources

www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/hydrangea/>

<https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/growing-hydrangeas>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu>

<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening>

Questions or problems: What's wrong with my plant for information on garden pests and diseases:

<http://apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/plant/>

Visit us at crowingmastergardeners.org, on Facebook @CWCMasterGardeners and on Instagram @cwcmastergardener.



Panicle Hydrangea: Strawberry Sundae



Bigleaf Hydrangea: BloomStruck