

HYDRANGEA HELP

Spectacular flowers make the Hydrangea a landscape favorite. They are also a source of frustration for homeowners when they do not bloom. Improper pruning or winter damage on Macrophylla or Serrata Hydrangeas is the primary reason why your Hydrangea may not bloom. The name Hydrangea is from the Greek "Hydro"(water) and "Aggeion" (vessel) referring to the cup shaped seed capsules. There are many species and varieties of Hydrangeas ... these are the primary groups:

1. **H. MACROPHYLLA** (*big-leaf hydrangeas*)

Big leaf with "mophead" flowers. Colorful blue, pink, red-pink, lavender blooms. Highly desired and noted for the ability to alter bloom color by adjustment to the soil pH. (Pink in alkaline soil and blue in acidic soils.) Macrophyllas are the most popular of Hydrangeas for their desired colorful blooms. They are also the source of frustration if pruned improperly (they produce blooms on the previous year's growth) or if over wintering buds on the stem are exposed or frozen during the winter or early spring. This results in a plant during the spring and summer season with foliage growth but no flowers. Today there are Macrophylla Hydrangeas that bloom on "old" (previous year's growth) and "new" growth (this year's) making them more reliable bloomers. An example would be Endless Summer Hydrangeas.

2. **H. SERRATA** (*saw-tooth lacecap hydrangeas*)

Also known as Lacecaps, with flat round "disks" of individual florets. The "disks" of individual florets on these Lacecaps can be as large as 4 to 8 inches in diameter. Important to note that the culture and care (pruning and winter protection) is similar to H. Macrophylla. Native to the mountains of Japan and Korea thus adapted to colder climates. Fall color is another feature of this plant.

3. **H. PANICULATA** (*panicle hydrangeas*)

Hardy! Blooms on the same year's wood so pruning is not a problem and they bloom reliably. White blooms on hardy plants like Pee Gee, Kyushu, Tardiva, Lime Light and Pink Diamond Hydrangeas. Can grow as tall as 6 feet tall but respond well to pruning so you can prune in late fall when done blooming or early spring. Blooms July thru September with "Panicle" shaped flowers which are ideal for cutting and drying.

4. **H. QUERCIFOUA** (*oakleaf hydrangeas*)

"Oakleaf" Hydrangeas with large panicles of cone shaped flowers that start white turning to pink. Foliage resembles a large oak leaf with beautiful fall color! Prune only if needed to keep size in check as with Paniculata Hydrangeas.

5. **H. ABORESCENS** (*smooth hydrangeas*)

The "Annabelle" Hydrangeas. Easy to grow with big and bold snowball flowers. Gradually change from green to pure white. Can be treated like a perennial, cut to the ground from late fall through early spring.

6. **H. ANOMOLA PETIOLARIS** (*climbing hydrangeas*)

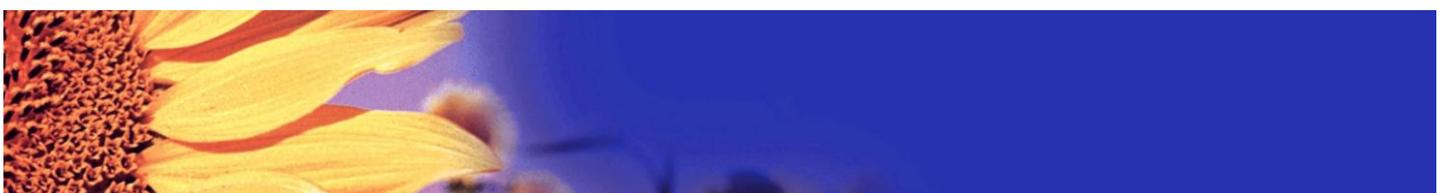
Climbing vine Hydrangeas with white flowers and vigorous stems that will cling to walls, trellises or structures. Easy to grow, prune as needed.

Simply put, all one basically needs to know to achieve successful blooming is by asking does this variety flower on old growth like Macrophylla (last Year's stems), or new growth like Paniculata (this year's stems)?

Hydrangea varieties in groups 1 and 2 above bloom on previous year's stems and should NOT be pruned in fall or spring. They should be planted in a protected area of the landscape. The north or east side of the house works well. Otherwise protect the plant in the winter with burlap screen or fencing mounded with straw, pine needles, bark or oak leaves. Don't use maple leaves, they mat and suffocate the plant. Remove protection in May. Consider using new varieties like Endless Summer that bloom on both old and new wood.

Hydrangea varieties in groups 3, 4, 5, and 6 bloom on this season's growth and can be pruned or cut back from late fall into early spring. An exception may be group 4 "Oakleaf" Hydrangeas. Even though they bloom on new season's growth, you'll have better success when treated like Hydrangeas in groups 1 and 2. Hydrangeas prefer a cool, moist soil. Don't let them dry out but provide good drainage. Soil with a high organic content is beneficial, fertile & remains moist while providing drainage. Mulch around the base of plant is helpful. Remember their name... "Hydra" (water) and "Macrophylla" (big leaf) is an indication they don't like to dry out. Standing in water in a poorly drained soil is also a problem. That's why working in liberal amounts of organic material into the soil is a good idea. Good soil is a proper proportion of water, air and minerals for healthy roots.

We recommend feeding with Flowertone in early spring and again in June. If you wish to change the flower color on a Macrophylla Hydrangea add Hydra Blue (aluminum sulfate) to make the soil more acid and add lime to raise the pH to make the flowers pink. Consider getting a soil test to check the current pH levels of your soil.



HYDRANGEA DESCRIPTIONS

CULTIVAR

All Summer Beauty *macrophylla*
Alpen GiflW *macrophylla*
Annabelle *arborescens*
Beni-Gaku *macrophylla*
Blue Wave *macrophylla*
Blue Lace *serrata*
Cardinal Red *macrophylla*
Glowing Embers *macrophylla*
Lemon Wave *macrophylla*
Merritts Beauty *macrophylla*
Nikko Blue *macrophylla*
Oakleaf Sikes Dwarf *quercifolia*
Oakleaf Alice *quercifolia*
pee Gee Pee Wee *paniculata*
Pee Gee Tardiva *paniculata*
Pia *macrophylla*
Pink Beauty *macrophylla*
Pink Diamond *paniculata*
Pink Parfait *macrophylla*
Prezipsa *serrata*
Sister Theresa *macrophylla*
Teller White *macrophylla*
Tokyo Delight *macrophylla*
Varigated *macrophylla*
Oakleaf Snow Queen *quercifolia*

3 ~ 5 ft. Round / Mophead
 3 - 5 ft. Round / Mophead
 3 - 4 ft. Round / Snowball
 3 - 4 ft. Round / Lace Cap
 3 - 5 ft. Round / Lace Cap
 3 - 4 ft. Round / Lace Cap
 3 - 5 ft. Round / Mophead
 3 ~ 5 ft. Round / Mophead
 3 - 5 ft. Round / Lace Cap
 3 - 5 ft. Round / Mophead
 3 - 5 ft. Round / Mophead
 3 - 4 ft. Upright / Pinicles
 6 - 10ft. Round / Pinicles
 3 - 4 ft. Upright, Pinicles
 6 - 8 ft. Upright / Lacy
 3 - 4 ft. Round / Mophead
 3 - 5 ft. Round / Mophead
 6 - 8 ft. Upright' 8-12" Conical
 4 - 5 ft. Round / Large Mophead
 3 X 3 ft. Round / Snowball
 3 - 5 ff. Round / Mophead
 3 - 5 ft. Round / Lace Cap
 3 - 5 ft. Round / Lace Cap
 3 - 5 ft. Round / Lace Cap
 7 - 10ft. Round / Pinicles

FLOWER COLOR

Blue Dark
 Red
 White
 White with Red
 Blue
 Blue
 Red.
 Red to D.ark Pink
 White with Green-White Foliage
 Red
 Blue
 White
 White
 White
 Pink
 Pink
 White to Pink
 Pink
 Blush Pink
 White
 White
 White to Pink
 Mauve with White-Green Foliage
 White to Pink

