



Hydrangea Care

Hydrangeas are one of the most desirable flowering shrubs for mid to late season color in the garden. Their lasting, large blossoms are excellent for fresh and dry floral arrangements or just to enjoy in a container, foundation planting or as a specimen plant. A hydrangea's size, growth habit, color, and type of flower vary from variety to variety. *Please see varieties available from Petitti's listed on the back of these care instructions.*

Hydrangea Families & Flower Types:

Hydrangea arborescens - Smooth Hydrangea, white to cream to pink, "Snowball" type such as, 'Annabelle', 'Invincibelle Spirit' & 'Incrediball', flowers on new wood so prune heavily, down to 6", late winter/early spring.

Hydrangea macrophylla - Bigleaf Hydrangea, the most common in the landscape, both "Lacecap" and "Mophead" types available, blooming blue (low soil pH) or pink (high soil pH), changeable in color, where older varieties' flowers form on old wood, new, repeat blooming varieties produce blooms on old and new wood.

Hydrangea paniculata - Panicle Hydrangea, cream to rose pink "grape cluster" blooms, tolerant of full sun, heat, commonly grafted into tree forms, very cold hardy. Flowers form on new wood, prune heavily late winter.

Hydrangea anomala subsp. petiolaris (true Climbing Hydrangea) and ***Schizophragma hydrangeoides*** (Japanese Hydrangea Vine) with "Lacecap" flowers, clinging vines growing up to 30'+, blooms June-July.

Hydrangea quercifolia - Oakleaf Hydrangea, cream panicle, "grape cluster" type flower blooming June-July with bold foliage texture and beautiful fall color, flowers forming on old wood. Look for the 'Gatsby Series'.

Hydrangea serrata - Mountain Hydrangea, similar to *H. macrophylla* but cold hardy stem and buds, reblooming.

General Care:

Hydrangea require well-drained, evenly moist soil in **part shade (4-6 hours of direct sunlight)**, eastern exposure is best. *H. paniculata* varieties possess the best sun and heat tolerance growing well in full sun (6+ hours), but most others may experience severe wilting, burnt foliage and/or bleached flowers. Hydrangeas prefer thorough watering, approximately 1" of water each week or more as needed through drought periods. Mulching 1-2" over the root base of the hydrangea will also be beneficial to keep the soil moist and suppress weed growth. Fertilize with a slow release, granular fertilizer like Espoma Plant-tone once in the spring and again in mid-summer. Change the color of your *H. macrophylla* to blue by applying **Aluminum Sulfate** or Espoma Soil Acidifier fall & early spring, plus use an acidic fertilizer such as Holly-tone (soil pH 5.0-6.5). Use **Garden Lime** along with a neutral fertilizer for pink flowers (soil pH 6.5-7.5). For purple blooms find that "happy medium". If it is a lack of blooms that is your concern, try applying **Triple Phosphate** or a high phosphorus plant food to force more flowers. We recommend spraying **Plantskydd** on your hydrangeas to protect them from deer browsing.

Winter Protection:

Winter protection is necessary for *H. macrophylla* and *H. quercifolia*, being that these species produce their abundant flowers primarily on old wood. Protect your hydrangea in late fall after the leaves drop with 4-6" of winter mulch, and by wrapping the stems in burlap or spraying them with Wilt-Pruf. This will protect the older wood and buds that are being produced (starting in August) for the next growing season's bloom cycle.

Pruning:

In the mid-summer thru fall, Hydrangeas need to be dead-headed, removing the spent flower and a short stalk down to the next leaf set or new bud growth. Cut long stems for flower arranging or drying before August. On *H. macrophylla* and *H. quercifolia* little pruning is necessary. If needed, prune heavily in the early spring removing only winter damaged, weak growth down to the uppermost buds being produced. With the other Hydrangeas (*H. paniculata* and *H. arborescens*) you can prune heavily in late winter or early spring, down to 6-12" or back to any node producing new growth. Any mature hydrangea would benefit from the removal of 1/4 of their oldest branches down to the ground to improve air circulation and strengthen existing growth.

Petitti Hydrangea Varieties:

Name	Size	Description
<i>H. anomala</i> subsp. <i>petiolaris</i> Climbing Hydrangea	20-60'	Dark, glossy foliage w/ white lacy, 6" flowers in June-July, slow growing, trouble free, clinging vine, but may take a few years to develop a good bloom cycle. <i>Schizophragma hydrangeoides</i> -Japanese hydrangea vine is similar.
<i>H. arborescens</i> - Smooth 'Annabelle'	4x5'	Huge, 12" snowball flowers from June to Sept., cut back entire shrub to 6-18" in early spring. No staking is required when planted close together (3') to support each other.
'Incrediball', 'Incrediball Blush'	4x5'	Almost identical to 'Annabelle', but possesses an improved, sturdier branching habit
'Invincibelle Spirit' 'Invincibelle Spirit II', 'Ruby'	3x4'	Spectacular rose pink form of 'Annabelle', repeat blooming, same easy care, blooms better as it matures, proceeds support the Breast Cancer Research Foundation
<i>H. macrophylla</i> - Bigleaf 'Abracadabra Star'	3x4'	Large pink & white to hot pink lace-cap flowers bloom on black, shiny, smooth stems excellent for cutting, dark green foliage
'All Summer Beauty'	3x4'	Improved form of 'Nikko Blue', repeat bloomer, flowering on new & old wood, more sun tolerant, winter hardy w/ minimal protection, changing flower color depending on soil pH
'Bloomstruck'	3x4'	3-5" blooms, reblooming, bright red stems, heat tolerant, an 'Endless Summer' relative
'Blue Cassel'/'Pink Cassel'	4x4'	Enormous lace-cap blooms (blue or pink) cover the entire plant, start late summer to fall, an exclusive Petitti introduction with tremendous vigor, flowers on new & old wood
'Cityline Berlin'	2x2'	Dwarf, neat & tight habit bred for containers & garden, rich pink blooms w/green accents
'Cityline Mars'	2x2'	Dwarf, neat & tight habit bred for containers & garden, rich pink blooms w/green accents
'Cityline Rio'	2x2'	Dwarf, neat & tight habit bred for containers & garden, strong purple-blue mopheads
'Cityline Vienna'	2x2'	Dwarf, neat & tight habit bred for containers & garden, strong purple-blue mopheads
'Double Delights Expression'	3x4'	Showy, double waterlily blooms in deep pink (or blue), repeat flowering
'Double Delights Perfection'	3x4'	Showy, fully double blooms in deep pink (or blue), repeat flowering, strong stems
'Double Delights Wedding Gown'	3x4'	Showy, fully double & lacey blooms in white & cream, repeat flowering, strong stems
'Endless Summer'	3x3'	8" blue or pink blooms produced consistently on old and new wood thru the summer.
'Glowing Embers'	3x4'	The closest to red you can get! Beautiful shades of deep rose, fluorescent pink with repeat blooms, a second set of flower shoots produced late summer, aka 'Alpenglow'
'L.A. Dreamin'	4x5'	Pink, Blue, Purple blooms all on the same plant without changing soil pH!
'Let's Dance Blue Jangles'	2x3'	Very compact, reblooming on old & new wood, vivid blue or pink, cold hardy
'Let's Dance Rhythmic Blue'	2x3'	Extra-large, full, vibrant blue, early & often repeat blooming, sturdy habit
'Let's Dance Starlight'	3x4'	Vivid, repeat blooming lace-cap type with glossy foliage, disease resistance, easy care
'Pink Beauty'	4x4'	Large, cream to pink blossoms with striking burgundy foliage and stems throughout the summer. Very distinctive in the landscape. Beautiful scarlet fall color.
'Pistachio'	3x4'	5" wide, unusual bi-color pistachio green & deep pink blooms, repeat blooming
'Red Sensation'	3x4'	Large, light red, reblooming flowers over shiny green foliage
'Tilt-a-Swirl'	3x4'	Deep pink to red & green bicolor, repeat blooms, changing color, excellent cold hardiness
<i>H. paniculata</i> - Panicle 'Bobo'	3x3'	Dwarf, compact, sturdy stems covered with large, white panicle flowers that lengthen as they bloom, mature flowers turn pink in fall
'Bombshell'	3x3'	Dwarf form of 'Pee Gee' with a tight, strongly branched habit, creamy-white to soft pink
'Fire and Ice'	4x4'	Beginning in July with dense, cream blooms, maturing to pink then burgundy by fall
'Fire Light'	4.5x6'	Huge, creamy panicles turn vivid rosy red early in summer, hardy, sturdy habit
'Grandiflora' or 'Pee Gee'	4x5'	Most common tree form, (15' tall), w/ dense, cream conical flowers, slight weeping habit
'Honeycomb'	8x5'	Giant plumes of lacey, fragrant, white to blush blooms with super strong, upright stems
Lavalamp Series 'Flare'	2x3'	Very compact habit & showy, white to bright red-pink bicolor, lacy panicle blossoms
'Limelight'	6x6'	Light, lime green, conical flowers w/ bright green foliage, use as a specimen or backdrop.
'Little Lime'	3x4'	Petite version of 'Limelight', same soft lime blooms, same easy care, same performance
'Little Quick Fire'	3x5'	Dwarf form of 'Quick Fire', early blooming, white blooms turn pink-red in summer
'Mega Mindy' Tree	6-15'	Fast growing, large, white blossoms turn deep pink-red, sturdy, upright growth
'Phantom'	6x6'	Huge blossoms, non-fading, creamy-white, cut back to 12" in March to keep compact
'Pink Diamond'	6x5'	Another variety used in tree forms, starting white, deepening to rose flowers quickly
'Pinky Winky'	6x6'	12-16" long blooms are bi-color pink and white mid-summer through fall, good cut flower
'Quick Fire'	5x4'	Earliest blooming, starts in June & continues into late summer turning white to deep rose
'Snow Mountain'	8x12'	Tree form, 'Kyushu' improved, showy, white panicle blooms on a strong, vase shape
'Sweet Summer'	4x4'	Covered in full, dense blooms starting lime, cream then pink on strong stems, great in pots
'Vanilla Strawberry'	6x5'	Large, full conical blossoms start cream, then strawberry red to burgundy & repeat
'Zinfin Doll'	6x6'	Similar to 'Pinky Winky' but fuller, showier, earlier blooming, bicolor white & pink
<i>H. quercifolia</i> - Oakleaf 'Snow Queen'/'Gatsby Series'	5x5'	Creamy, conical blooms, with excellent, leathery foliage texture and rich crimson to burgundy fall color. Protect for winter.
<i>H. serrata</i> - Mountain 'Tuff Stuff'/'Tiny Tuff Stuff'	2x3'/ 18-24"	Very hardy, repeat blooming lace-cap flowers that can change from pink to blue, reliable, easy to grow, no winter protection needed

*Availability of Hydrangea are subject to change and varieties may vary by location.