

**CFAES** OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

## Hydrangeas for Ohio Gardens

### Blooms Throughout the Year

-Eric Barrett

**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

# Info/Notes/Sharing

**Chart**  
[go.osu.edu/hydrangeas](http://go.osu.edu/hydrangeas)

**Presentation**  
[go.osu.edu/totallybeautiful](http://go.osu.edu/totallybeautiful)

**Factsheet**  
[go.osu.edu/hydrangeafacts](http://go.osu.edu/hydrangeafacts)

\* Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Ohio State University Extension is implied.  
\*\* Next year's flowers that form on old wood are generally formed from August to October.  
\*\*\* All hydrangeas should be planted in well-amended, high organic matter soil with adequate drainage.

By Eric Barrett, OSU Extension. Chart [go.osu.edu/hydrangeas](http://go.osu.edu/hydrangeas) Presentation [go.osu.edu/totallybeautiful](http://go.osu.edu/totallybeautiful) Factsheet [go.osu.edu/hydrangeafacts](http://go.osu.edu/hydrangeafacts)

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### Hydrangeas for Ohio<sup>1</sup>

Species (Type)	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> (Smooth Hydrangea)	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> (Oakleaf Hydrangea)	<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i> (Bigleaf Hydrangea) & <i>Hydrangea serrata</i> (Mountain Hydrangea)	<i>Hydrangea anomala</i> (Climbing Hydrangea)	<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> (Panicle Hydrangea)
Zone	3-9	5-9	5-9	4-7	2-9
Selected Cultivars*	Annabelle®, Invicta®, Incrediball®, Mauve Haze®, Shorty®, Late Bloomer®	II®, Ruby®, Blush, Mini®, Lime Rickey®, Just Like White (L8®)			Wberry™, Pinky Winky®, Tardiva®, Bombshell,
Bloom Interest	Late Summer	August			Late October
Flowers	White to pink, blue to green	White to pink, blue to green			White to pink, blue to green, some reds
Height	3-5'				
Light	Part Sun	Part Sun to Shade	Part to nearly full shade for best results	Sun to Part Shade	Sun to Part Shade
Soils & Fertilization	Highly acidic, pH range 5.0-7.5	Well drained	High organic matter, Acidic soil = blue (pH 5.5) Alkaline soil = pink (pH 6.5) High P due to aluminum	Almost indifferent	Nearly indifferent
Moisture***	Moist	Consistent moisture, but forgiving	Moisture Demanding Afternoon shade!! Consider irrigation	Indifferent, but needs consistent moisture during early years	Consistent moisture, but forgiving. Low moisture causes blooms to fade
Blooms on**	New wood	Old wood	Old wood & New wood	No blooms? Low light, young	New wood
Pruning	Fall/late winter	After flowering	Shape after flowers fade	Only to shape	Can prune to tree form

**Features are listed below the type of hydrangea**

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### My Notes on...Hydrangeas for Ohio...that I like!

	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> (Smooth Hydrangea)	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> (Oakleaf Hydrangea)	<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i> (Bigleaf Hydrangea) & <i>Hydrangea serrata</i>	<i>Hydrangea anomala</i> (Climbing Hydrangea)	<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> (Panicle Hydrangea)
Cultivar Name					
Flowers/Features					
Blooms on...					
Height					
Notes					
Cultivar Name					
Flowers/Features					
Blooms on...					
Height					
Notes					
Cultivar Name					
Flowers/Features					
Blooms on...					
Height					
Notes					

**'flip' side of chart**

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## Use the chart

- An outline for you to use for your garden (and at the garden center!)
- Based on personal experience and the literature
- Other cultivars will grow, these are just suggestions to get started

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# Part I – Understanding Hydrangeas




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## Species (types) of hydrangeas

Hydrangeas for Ohio:

Species (Type)	Hydrangea arborescens (Smooth Hydrangea)	Hydrangea quercifolia (Oakleaf Hydrangea)	Hydrangea macrophylla (Bigleaf Hydrangea) & Hydrangea serrata (Mountain Hydrangea)	Hydrangea anomala (Climbing Hydrangea)	Hydrangea paniculata (Panicle Hydrangea)
Zone	3-9	5-9	5-9 (somewhat 6-9)	4-7	3-8
Selected Cultivars*	Annabelle Grandiflora Invisibelle, Invincibelle II Incrediball	Snow Queen Alice, Gatsby Moon Snowflake (Double) Gatsby Star (Double) Short: Munchkin, Pee Wee	Endless Summer Bushing Bride Twist n Shout Double Delights series Tuff Stuff series	Winter Glow <i>petalalis</i> <i>petalalis</i> Firefly (variegated) <i>glabra</i> (pink)	LimeLight Vanilla Strawberry Little Lamb, Pinky Winky Pink Diamonds, Tardiva Short: Bombshell, Little Lime, Bobo
Bloom Interest	Late May-August	Late May-September	Late June -August	Late June-July	Late July-Late October

Let's review the lines of the chart



Species (Type)	Hydrangea arborescens (Smooth Hydrangea)	Hydrangea quercifolia (Oakleaf Hydrangea)	Hydrangea macrophylla (Bigleaf Hydrangea) & Hydrangea serrata (Mountain Hydrangea)	Hydrangea anomala (Climbing Hydrangea)	Hydrangea paniculata (Panicle Hydrangea)
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Zone  
Read the tag

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Zone	3-9	5-9	5-9 (somewhat 6-9)	4-7	3-8

**Size:** 3-4' tall by 3-4' wide  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 5-9  
**Sun/shade:** full sun to part shade  
**Soil:** average garden soil  
**Moisture:** moist, but well drained  
**Diseases and pests:** none known  
**Landscape use:** foundations, cutting gardens, wildlife gardens, borders, foundations, small urban garden  
**Floral use:** pot crops and cut flowers

**Tags can be misleading.**  
**In zone 5, H. macrophylla is root hardy. ...but...Buds are highly susceptible to winter injury.**  
**Powdery Mildew?**  
**Is this a signal to you?**

Selected Cultivars*	Annabelle, Invicibelle®, I®, Ruby®, Incredible®, Blush, Mini Mauvette®, Lime Rickey®, Hayes Starburst Shortest: Wee White (18")	Snow Queen, Alice Gatsby Moon®, Gatsby Star® (Double) Snowflake (Double) Short: Munchkin, Pee Wee	Endless Summer® series Blushing Bride Twist n' Shout Double Delights™ series Tuff Stuff™ series	Winter Glow subsp. petiolaris subs. petiolaris Firefly (variegated) glabra (pink)	Limelight Vanilla Strawberry™ Little Lamb, Pinky Winky™ Pink Diamond, Tardiva Short: Bobo®, Bombshell, Little Lime®
This is not a comprehensive list.					

**Cultivars**

## Bloom Interest, Features, Height

Bloom Interest	Late May-August	Late May-September	Late June -August	Late June-July	Late July-Late October
<b>Features</b>	Flowers mature to lime green	Cinnamon bark Excellent red fall foliage	May need to provide shelter from drying winter winds	Peeling Bark, Clinging vine, Slow to establish	New cultivars have strong stems, upright flowers
<b>Flowers</b>	White, Ivory, Pink Fade to light green	White, Ivory, green tints Pink edges on double Fade to pink, red, green	Blue, Pink, Purple Multi colored Fade to greens/blues	White, Ivory Lacecaps Pink tones in spp. glabra	White, Ivory, lime green pink Fade to green, some
<b>Height</b>	3-5'	4-9'	3-6'	60-80"	2-20'

**Bark - Flower life - Faded flowers - Fall color**

Cluster plantings to give the look of constant blooms:

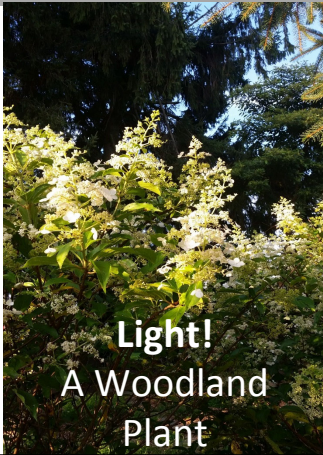
Examples of co-plantings based on bloom time:	
arborescens (spring)	paniculata (late summer)
quercifolia (Spring)	macrophylla (all summer)
arborescens (spring)	anomala (early summer)
macrophylla (all summer)	paniculata (late summer)



## Light – Location counts!

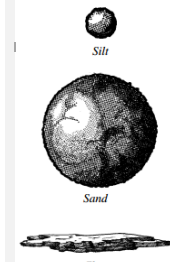
Light	Part Sun to Shade	Part Sun to Shade	Part to 'nearly' full shade for best results	Sun to Part Shade	Sun to Part Shade Full shade limits flower
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- Shade is a must, but species dependent
- Best bet – partial shade
- **Full sun can bleach and scorch the flowers.**
- **Overexposure to sun and/or too little water will cause the leaves to droop.**



**Light!**  
A Woodland Plant

Soils & Fertilization pH range 5.0-7.5	Higher organic matter, well drained	Well drained	High organic matter, Some cultivars: Acidic soil = blue (5.5 ↓) Alkaline soil = pink (6.5 ↑)	Almost indifferent	Nearly indifferent
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Soil particle sizes. The larger sand particles allow water to drain quickly through soil. Clay particles tend to pack more closely together, causing water to drain more slowly.

Diameter of fine sand is 1,000x larger than largest clay particle!


## Prepare the Soil

- Loam is **required**
- Perfect mix of all three soil components – Sand, Silt, Clay
- Balanced drainage
- Balanced water holding capacity
- Clay? – You must prepare before planting. Ignoring soil is a recipe for failure!

## Moisture

Moisture***	Moisture extends flower life	Consistent moisture, but forgiving	Moisture Demanding Afternoon shade! Consider irrigation	Indifferent, but needs consistent moisture during early years	Consistent moisture, forgiving. Low moisture causes blooms to fade
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- Consistent moisture!
- Moisture is...
  - Based on soil type
  - Depends on amount of shade
- Plants should be watered thoroughly during prolonged dry spells.
- Require moist, well-drained soil



Shallow rooted evergreen trees will out compete for moisture!

\*\*\* All hydrangeas should be planted in well-amended, high organic matter soil with adequate drainage.





Blooms on**	New wood	Old wood	Old wood Old & New wood	Old wood No blooms? Low light, young	New wood
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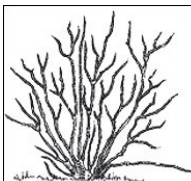
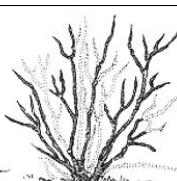
## Blooms on

- Old Wood – Sets flower buds in August for next spring
- New Wood – Sets flower buds in spring for that year
- Both – Stems left in fall have flower buds set in August. New growth will set buds as well. (i.e. – Endless Summer series)


## Pruning

Species Type	Hydrangea arborescens (Smooth Hydrangea)	Hydrangea quercifolia (Oakleaf Hydrangea)	Hydrangea macrophylla (Bigleaf Hydrangea) & Hydrangea serrata (Mountain Hydrangea)	Hydrangea anomala (Climbing Hydrangea)	Hydrangea paniculata (Panicle Hydrangea)
Pruning	Fall/spring – Cut to 6-8" Ensures large blooms next season; Thin shoots in spring for largest blms.	After flowering	Shape after flowers fade Cut dead stems back in mid-spring	Only to shape	Prune to upright shrub for landscape Cut low or thin for large flowers

- For Oakleaf and paniculata, try thinning vs. complete cut back
- Depends on the look you want

Before Pruning                      After Pruning


Penn State Extension


Animals
Plants & Pests
Natural Resources
Community & Business
Food

Penn State > Extension > Pest Management > Plant Diseases > All Fact Sheets > Hydrangea Diseases

### Plant Diseases


#### Hydrangea Diseases

Disease	Symptoms	Pathogen/Cause	Management
Botrytis Blight	Petals turn brown and fall. Leaf spots form, especially where faded petals have fallen. Flower buds are killed before opening.	Botrytis cinerea	Space plants to insure good air circulation. Maintain low humidity. Avoid watering late in the day. Remove crop debris. Apply a fungicide to protect plants.
Cercospora Leaf Spot	Tan spots with reddish-brown halos develop on leaves.	Cercospora	Water in a manner that keeps moisture off the leaves. Apply a fungicide to protect plants.
Powdery Mildew	Yellow areas form on leaves. These may become purplish. White, cottony fungal growth forms on the lower surface of the leaf.	Erysiphe polygoni	Apply a fungicide as soon as any mildew is observed.
Virescence	Flowers are green and may be stunted. Leafy shoots grow from the flower parts. Plants decline and die.	Phytoplasma	Discard infected plants. Maintain good insect control.
Viruses	Leaves may be mottled, have yellow spotting, dead flecks, line or ringspot patterns. Plants may be distorted or	Hydrangea ringspot, tomato ringspot, impatiens	Plant virus-indexed cuttings. Maintain good insect and mite control. Destroy infected plants.




Cercospora leaf spot. Pronounced "Ser-kos-pora"

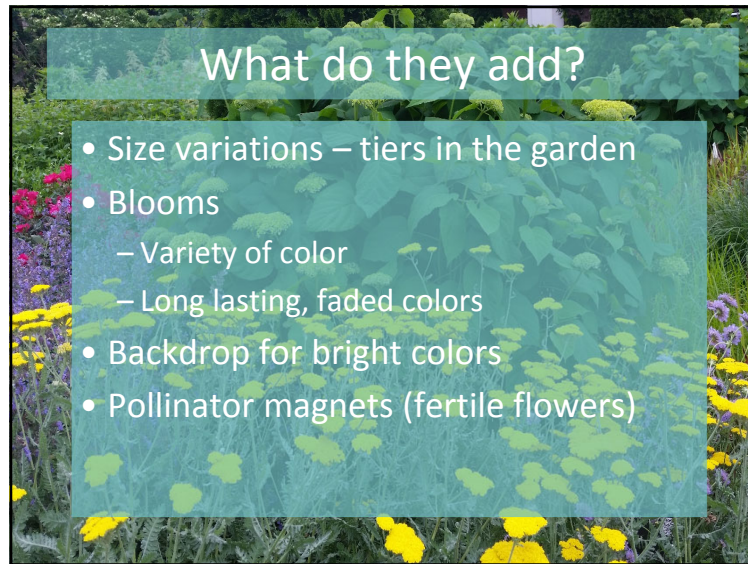
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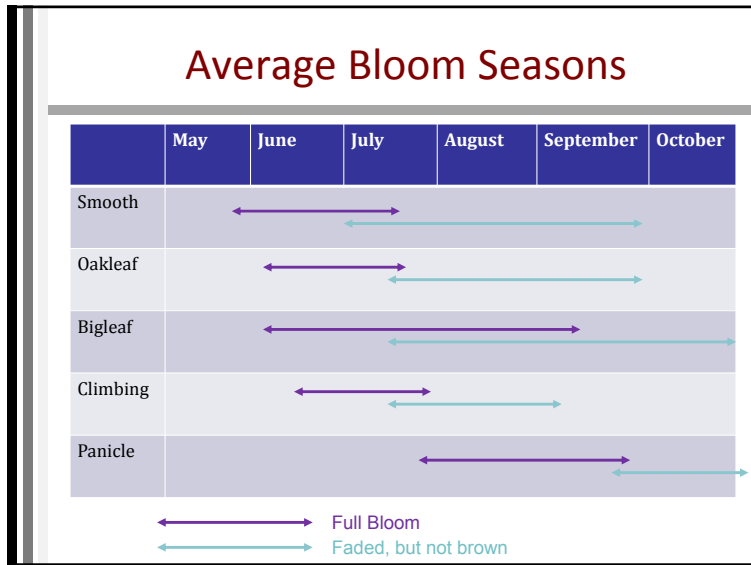
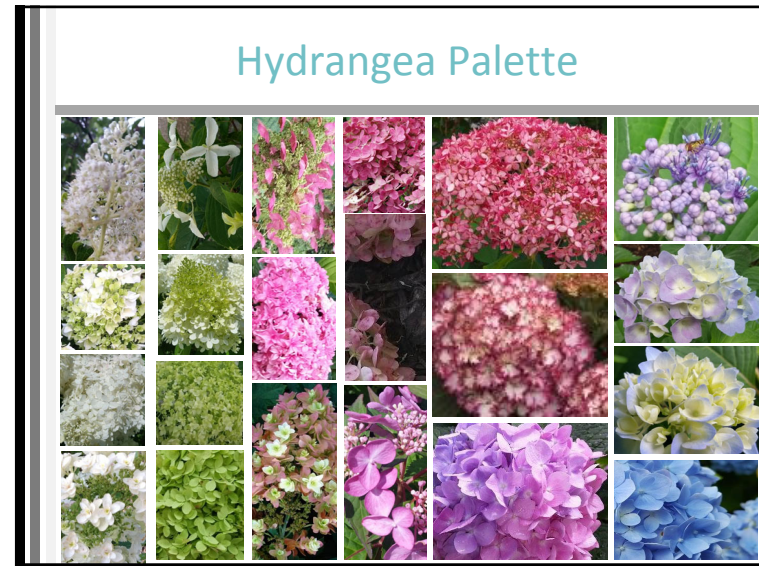
## Part II - Hydrangea in the Landscape



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## Create a blooming chart!

Eric's Garden

Month	Plant 1	Plant 2	Plant 3	Plant 4
January	holly	Sycamore	Rose of sharon	Weeping cherry
February	Pansies	Sycamore	Rose of sharon	Weeping willow
March	Daffodil	crocus	Forsythia	Redbud
	late Tulip	Flowering Almond	Crabapples	Lilac
April	Dogwood	Flowering Almond	Crabapples	Saucer Magnolia
	late Rhododendron	Azaleas	Snowball	Ground vinca
May	Rhododendron	Azaleas	Snowball	Locus trees
	late Rhododendron	Peonies	Iris	Columbine
June	Gaillardia (blanket)	Peonies	Coreopsis	Columbine
	late Gaillardia (blanket)	Purple coneflower	Coreopsis	Shasta daisy
July	Black-eyed susan	Purple coneflower	Hydrangea	Shasta daisy
	late Black-eyed susan	Purple coneflower	Hydrangea	Bee balm
August	Black-eyed susan	Purple coneflower	Hydrangea	Bee balm
	late Black-eyed susan	Purple coneflower	sedum	Bee balm
September	mums	Purple coneflower	sedum	Crabapples
	late mums	Oakleaf hydrangea	Japanese barberry	Crabapples
October	Special fall color deciduous trees	Oakleaf hydrangea	Japanese barberry	Hydrangea Paniculata
November	Ornamental grasses	Holly	Saucer Magnolia	Red fruit of dogwood
December	Red twig dogwood	Sweetgum	Sycamore	hydrangea

Notice things that you may not have thought of as visually interesting in the winter. Also, note that some things are not listed as long as their entire blooming season. If you have a good number of a certain plant (like my 100 purple coneflowers), you can list them for a longer time.

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**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY** **The Ohio State Phenology Calendar**  
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Home Weather Glossary Summary Change Date & Zip 4/9/2019 44406 Go

View Full Calendar

### Happening in Canfield

Speckled Alder <sup>52</sup>  first bloom	Northern Lights Forsythia <sup>58</sup>  first bloom	Japanese Pieris <sup>65</sup>  first bloom	The GDD for 4/9/2019  is: 70	Red Maple <sup>75</sup>  full bloom	Star Magnolia <sup>85</sup>  first bloom	White Pine Weevil <sup>84</sup>  adult emergence
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### Using this calendar

- European Fruit Lecanium Scale<sup>76</sup> Event's GDD
- Name of what's being affected by event. May be a plant, insect, or chemical. Plants appear in darker gray, insects in medium gray, and chemicals in lighter gray.

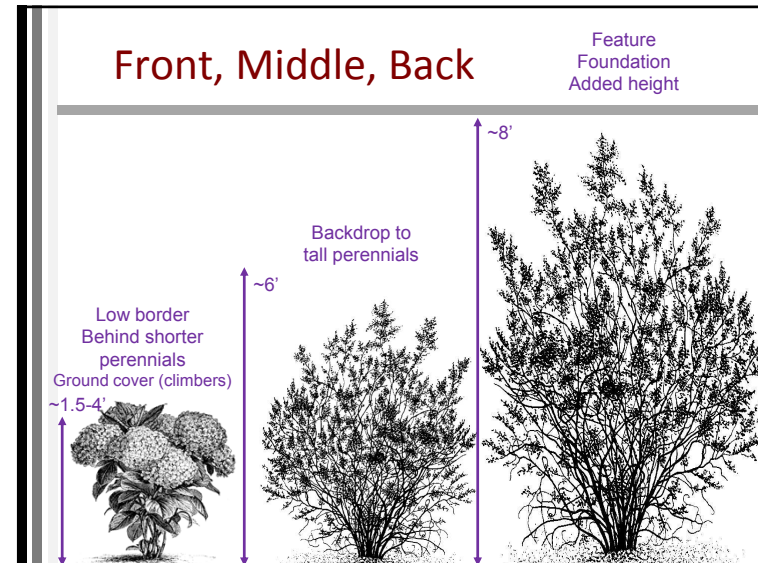


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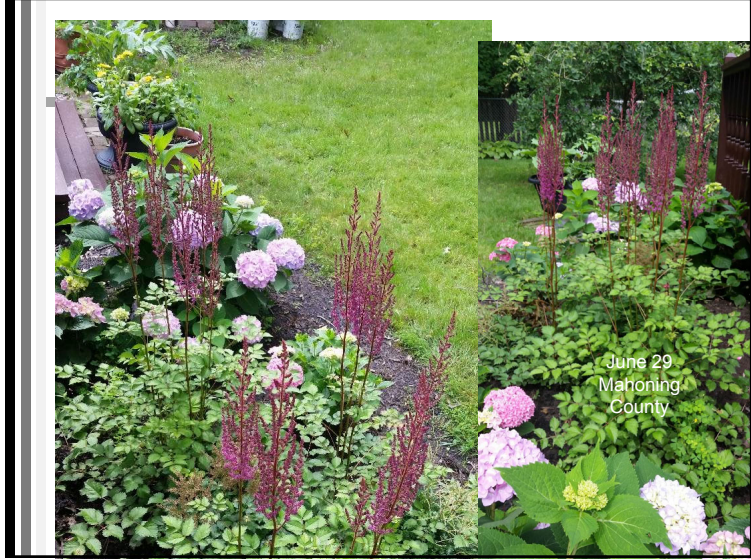


# *Adding Hydrangeas to the Landscape*

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## Part III

### *The five types of Hydrangeas*

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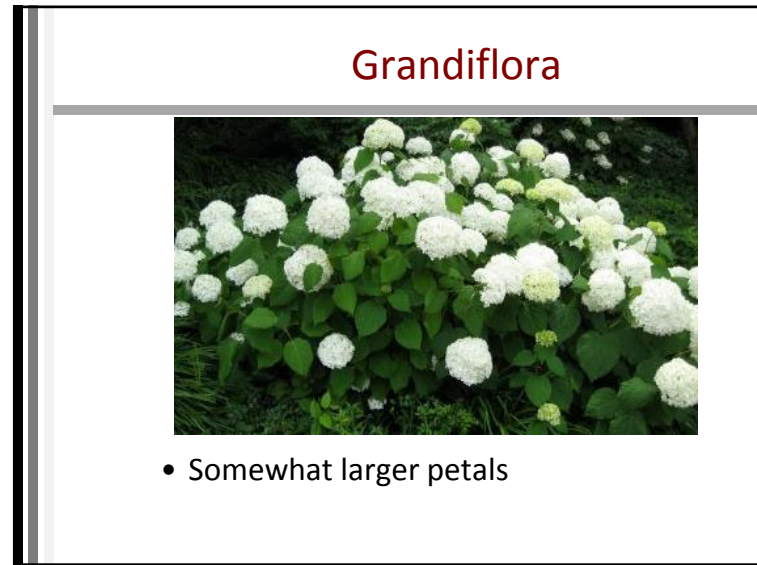
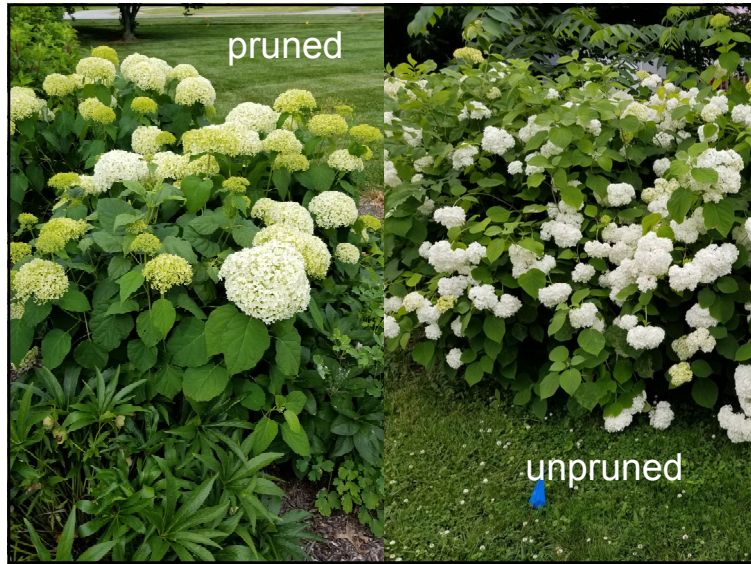
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## *Arborescens*

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## Arborescens

- I consider this the easiest to grow!
- Native to North America
- Easy to propagate
- Treat it like a perennial - Cut to ground in late fall/early spring
  - Unless you want scraggly blooms
  - Selective pruning in early spring
  - Less stems = Larger blooms
- Early bloomer





## Indrediball®



- Largest blooms from limiting number of stems

## Invicibelle



- Pink
- Somewhat picky
- No hot sun, proper soil, more moisture, but good drainage

## Invincibelle Spirit-I®



## Invincibelle Spirit-II®





Mine – 5" across



Invincibelle  
Wee White®  
Smooth  
hydrangea



Invincibelle®  
Ruby  
Smooth  
Hydrangea







'Hayes  
Starburst'  
Smooth  
Hydrangea



Invincibelle  
Mini  
Mauvette®  
2.5-3



Incrediball®  
Blush  
Smooth  
Hydrangea

Proven Winners® ColorChoice®



Lime  
Rickey®

© Spring Meadow Nursery, Inc.


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*quercifolia* Oakleaf

  
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Snowflake



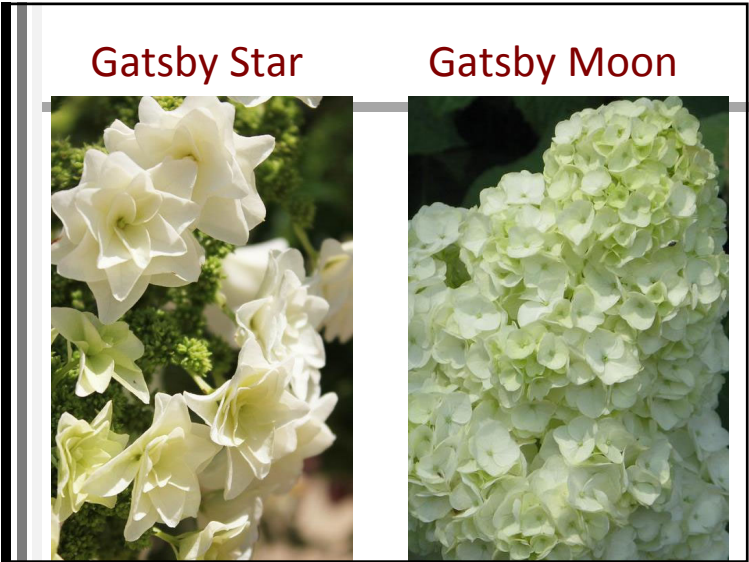
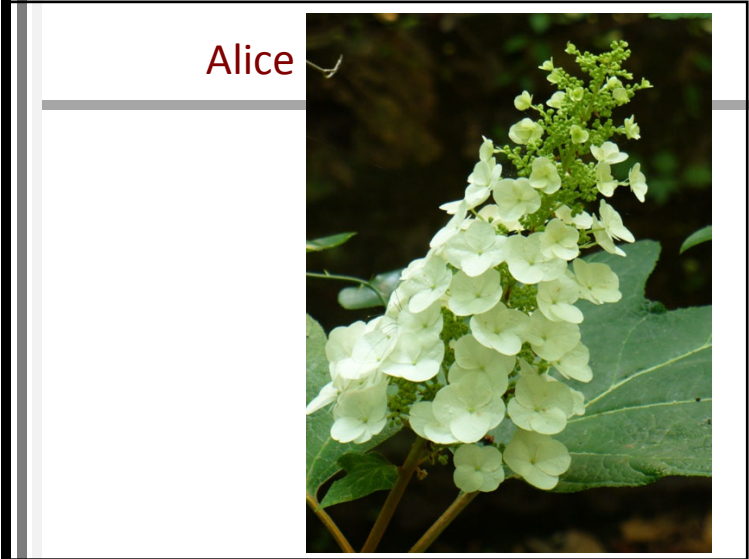
September



Aging Snowflake bloom  
in perfect site (dappled shade)










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*macrophylla* Big Leaf  
*seratta* Mountain

  
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**Nikko Blue**  
The Mother of Modern Big Leaf



## Pink & Blue in Zone 5?

- This means the roots are hardy to zone (**root hardy**)
- If bloom ONLY on old wood, flowering is unlikely or sporadic in zone 5
  - Yes, some of you are lucky...
- *Hydrangea serrata* (Mountain Hydrangea) IS related to *macrophylla* and is somewhat hardier

## Endless Summer



## Endless Summer



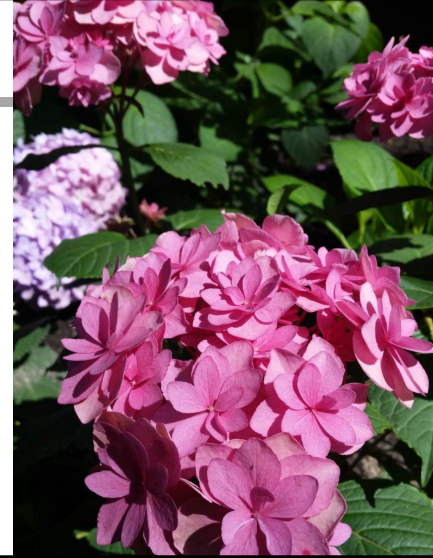
## Blushing Bride & Bloomstruck



Peace (similar to Double Delights)



Double Delights  
'Perfection'



Twist-n-Shout®









Hydrangea serrata Tuff Stuff™ Red



Tuff Stuff  
Ah-Ha®



Twirligig™  
Mountain  
Hydrangea

May 12,  
2015





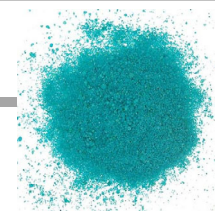


## Blue or Pink?



- Soil pH and corresponding available aluminum.
- At **lower pH** levels (acid soils), aluminum is more readily available - flowers become **blue**.
- At higher **pH ranges** (more alkaline soils), aluminum is less available - flowers are **pink**.
- Changing soil pH is a gradual process and requires a soil test for accuracy.
  - Blue: \_\_\_\_\_ wettable sulfur per 10 square feet and water-in
  - Pink: \_\_\_\_\_ dolomitic lime per 10 square feet and water-in
  - **Raising pH takes longer than lowering. It may be next year before a noticeable change to pink flowers.**

## Fertilization



- Fertilize:
  - Mother's Day
  - Memorial Day
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July
  - Labor Day (maybe...)

### Common formulations. IS there a best one?

24-8-16      15-30-15      0-10-10

Hint - Excess P ties up aluminum

**Soil Test is a MUST!**

## Winter Care?

- Lack of winter/spring protection may be the reason you are not seeing earlier flowers
- Your Options
  - May prune back some before protecting
  - Cover with mulch (like a rose)
  - Cover with a container, tub, etc
- **MUST** cover for April frosts!
- These are all **SECONDARY** to proper soil conditions!

## endlesssummerblooms.com

### Overwintering:

If you live in an area with freezing temperatures, it is a good idea to protect your plants from freezing winter temperatures. Since [Endless Summer® Hydrangeas](#) bloom on last year's growth ("old wood") as well as the current season's growth ("new wood"), you will get the most flowers by protecting the flower buds on the old wood. To do this, do NOT prune or cut back your shrubs after August 1st. Leaving the fall blooms on your plants over the winter provides winter interest, and ensures you aren't removing buds that will become flowers in the spring and summer. Leaves, wood mulch and/or straw are good options to insulate your plants. Mound the mulch or leaves around your plants at least 12" high to protect the flower buds that will bloom early next year.

In the spring, do not remove the mulch too fast; wait until all danger of frost has passed before uncovering to ensure beautiful blooms from old and new wood. The "old wood" buds will provide early season color and the blooms forming on current season growth will typically occur roughly six weeks later and last through the end of the season. If your hydrangeas are planted in a container, bring the entire container into your garage or a cool basement for the winter months, and follow the same steps as garden-planted hydrangeas. Container plants will not require as much mulch, but should be lightly watered throughout the winter months since they will not receive moisture from snow and rain.





## Success


- For most success in Ohio
  - Shade to part shade
  - Consistent moisture
- When it comes to macrophylla
  - Soil conditions must be 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Plan to watering (min 1" per week)
  - Some form of winter wind protection to preserve blooms on old wood (although many bloom on new wood)
  - Spring protection from late frosts
  - Heavy feeders




## No Blooms! Failure?


No simple answer

- Cultivar – old vs. new wood
- Location
- Pruning
- Winter protection
- Fertilization - Too much N!
- **Water/Shade**




CFAES

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## *anomala* Climbing



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## Hydrangea anomala petiolaris





## Climbing Hydrangeas

- *Hydrangea anomala*
  - Stains, but doesn't get into mortar
  - Slower grower at first
  - Faster after 3 years
- North side? Protected?
  - Mine back at the home farm was killed by the April wind/freeze in 2007, otherwise they are generally easy to grow and keep!
  - This has NOT happened since then!

## *Petiolaris* Firefly



## spp. *Glabra* 'Crug Coral' "Connoisseur plant"





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*paniculata* Panicle




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tardiva



Bombshell



Compact  
2-3'  
lime



Little Lime





Vanilla Strawberry™ (red stems!)



Some like this because flower stems weaken in winter and fall off!



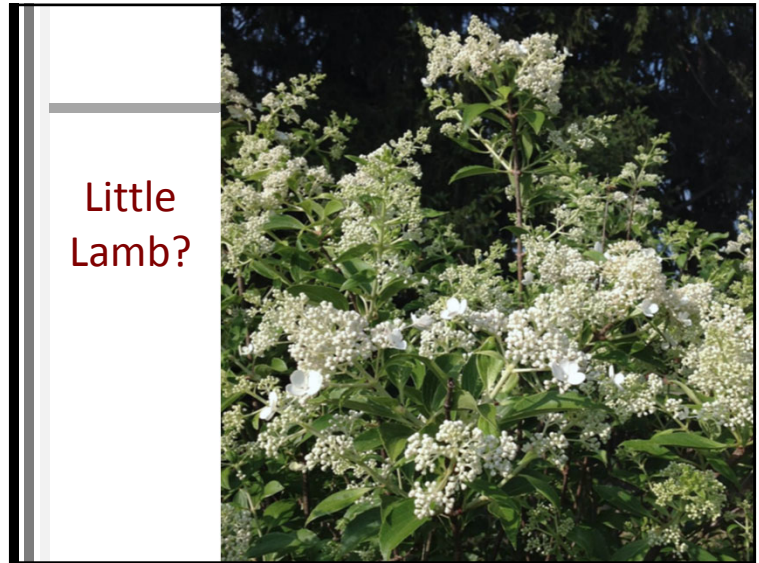
October!  
Purple by Thanksgiving



Great Star®









## Limelight



If you prune to 24" or less at the end of the year...



Flower heads over 12" tall and 12" wide

Strong stems, but 10-20% will break in late summer downpours!

## Tree Form




## 'Phantom'

A remarkable panicle hydrangea with the largest flower heads of any of its species - up to 15 inches long. The conical color-changing blooms unfold midsummer as a creamy white, then graduate to a blushing, soft pink as the summer progresses. A heavy bloomer with sturdy-stemmed flowers that do not flop. Deciduous. 6-8' tall and wide






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***Success?!?!***

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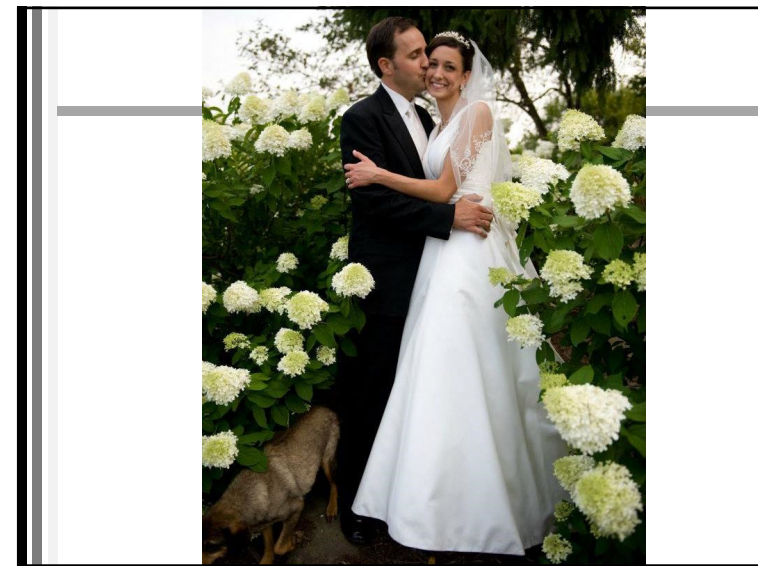
**Planting**

- Even after soil, etc – the site will make you or break you!
  - Air & Sunlight
  - Morning Sun, dappled afternoon shade
- Loosen Roots
- Crown at soil line, not ↓↑



**“Thrival”**

- For most – no problem!
- Bigleaf - If you don't plan...
  - You might get lucky
  - But, you'll most often be disappointed if you are looking for pink and blue!
- Visit other gardens to see what they are able to grow successfully
- Start with everything but *macrophylla*, then add them slowly
  - Old wood bloomers?
  - New wood bloomers!





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## Use the chart!

### Zone, Light, Soil, Moisture

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### Hydrangeas for Ohio<sup>1</sup>

Species (Type)	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> (Smooth Hydrangea)	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> (Oakleaf Hydrangea)	<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i> (Bigleaf Hydrangea) & <i>Hydrangea serrata</i> (Mountain Hydrangea)	<i>Hydrangea anomala</i> (Climbing Hydrangea)	<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> (Panicle Hydrangea)
Zone	3-9	5-9	5-9 [somewhat 6-9]	4-7	3-8
Selected Cultivars* <small>This is not a comprehensive list.</small>	Annabelle, Invincelle®, II®, Ruby®, Incredible®, Blush, Mini Mauvette®, Lime Rickey®, Hayes, Starburst Short: Wee White (L8)	Snow Queen, Alice Gatsby Moon®, Gatsby Star® (Double) Snowflake (Double) Short: Munchkin, Pee Wee	Endless Summer® series, Blushing Bride, Twist n Shout, Double Delights™ series, Tuff Stuff™ series	Winter Glow subsp. <i>petiolaris</i> Firefly (variegated) <i>glabra</i> (pink)	Limelight, Vanilla Strawberry™, Little Lamb, Pinky Winky®, Pink Diamond, Tardiva Short: Bobo®, Bombshell, Little Lime®
Bloom Interest	Late May-August	Late May-September	Late June -August	Late June-July	Late July-Late October
Features & Notes	Flowers mature to lime green	Cinnamon bark. Excellent red fall foliage	Winter protection may be needed.	Peeling Bark, Clinging vine, Slow to establish	New cultivars have strong stems, upright flowers
Flowers	White, ivory, pink, red/purple hues. Fade to light green	White, ivory, green tints. Pink edges on double. Fade to pink, red, green	Blue, Pink, Purple. Multi colored. Fade to greens/blues	White, Ivory. Lacerap. Pink tones in spp. <i>glabra</i>	White, ivory, lime green, pink. Fade to green, some reds
Height	3-5'	4-9'	3-6'	60-80'	2-20'
Light	Part Sun to Shade	Part Sun to Shade	Part to 'nearly' full shade for best results	Sun to Part Shade	Sun to Part Shade. Full shade limits flowers
Soils & Fertilization pH range 5.0-7.5	Higher organic matter, well drained	Well drained	High organic matter, Acidic soil = blue (4.5-5) Alkaline soil = pink (7.6-5) High P ties up aluminum	Almost indifferent	Nearly indifferent
Moisture***	Moisture extends flower life	Consistent moisture, but forgiving	Moisture Demanding. Afternoon shade!! Consider irrigation	Indifferent, but needs consistent moisture during early years	Consistent moisture, but forgiving. Low moisture causes blooms to fade
Blooms on**	New wood	Old wood	Old wood. Old & New wood	No blooms? Low light, young.	New wood
Pruning	Fall/Spring - Cut to 2-6". Ensures large blooms next season; Thin shoots in spring - largest blooms	After flowering	Shape after flowers fade. Cut dead stems back in mid-spring	Only to shape	Can prune to tree form. Cut low or thin for largest flowers

\* Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Ohio State University Extension is implied.  
\*\* Next year's flowers that form on old wood are generally formed from August to October.  
\*\*\* All hydrangeas should be planted in well-amended, high organic matter soil with adequate drainage.

<sup>1</sup> By Eric Barrett, OSU Extension. Chart [go.osu.edu/hydrangeas](http://go.osu.edu/hydrangeas) Presentation [go.osu.edu/totallybeautiful](http://go.osu.edu/totallybeautiful) Factsheet [go.osu.edu/hydrangeafacts](http://go.osu.edu/hydrangeafacts)


Smooth	Oakleaf	Bigleaf	Climbing	Paniculata
Invincelle Mini Mauvette (2.5-3')	Ruby Slippers (3-4')	Tiny Tuff Stuff (mountain) – only 1-2'	Use as a groundcover	Bobo (2.5-3')
Invincelle Wee White (1-2.4')	Pee Wee (4-5')	Tuff Stuff (2-3')		Little Quick Fire (3-5')
Limetta (2.5-3')	Little Honey (3-4')	Twirligig (2-3')		Bombshell (2-3')
		Tuff Stuff (2-3')		

**1.5-4'**



Smooth	Oakleaf	Bigleaf	Climbing	Paniculata
'Hayes Starburst' (4-5')	Snow Queen (4-5')	Endless Summer (3-5')		Fire Light (4.5-6')
White Dome (4-6')	Snowflake (4-6')	Blue Billow (4-5')		Little Lamb (4-6')
Incrediball (4-5')				Little Lime (3-5')
Invincibelle (4-5')				

4-6'



Smooth	Oakleaf	Bigleaf	Climbing	Paniculata
	Alice (12-15')		Firefly	Strawberry Vanilla (6-7')
			Winter Glow	Pinky Winky (6-8')
				Quick Fire (6-8')
				Limelight (6-9')

Over 6'

