

HYDRANGEA

HUMBER NURSERIES 'GREEN THUMB GUIDE'

Hydrangeas are a genus of long-lived flowering shrubs and climbers. They can be grown in almost any type of soil but perform best in rich, well-drained soil, high in organic matter. Hydrangeas are very moisture dependent, particularly the large-leaved varieties, and may wilt and require additional irrigation in the hottest part of the day. Consider planting in semi-shaded areas and using mulch to conserve moisture.

SMOOTH HYDRANGEA ●

Hydrangea arborescens (100 cm) Zone 2

A very hardy native species, with smooth leaves and a suckering habit, leading to the formation of a larger plant. The popular variety '**Annabelle**' produces large white flowers on new growth in summer. These persist until the following spring and add unique winter interest to the garden. Very large flowers can be produced by pruning last year's growth, but larger blooms will cause the stems to bend under heavy weight (and even more so in the rain). If not pruned, the shrub will produce smaller blooms and less stem support will be required.



Annabelle
Hydrangea



Climbing Hydrangea

CLIMBING HYDRANGEA ●

Hydrangea anomala petiolaris (11 M) Zone 5

A woody self-clinging vine with handsome, glossy dark green foliage and excellent shade tolerance. The white lace-cap flowers are produced in summer and stand well out from the plant, producing an excellent show. Also ideal as a ground cover with dense foliage scrambling over banks, tree stumps or rocks.

JAPANESE HYDRANGEA VINE ●

Schizophragma hydrangeoides (10 M) Zone 6

Very similar to Climbing Hydrangea except that the vine is flatter in habit and does not develop a protruding woody framework. '**Moonlight**' has unique blue-green mottled foliage and '**Roseum**' has white flowers flushed with pink.



Oakleaf Hydrangea

OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA ●

Hydrangea quercifolia (1.5 M) Zone 6

A beautiful native species valued for its unique oak-like foliage that becomes brilliant crimson in fall. They also have large showy white panicle flowers in summer, which persist until the following spring adding winter interest to the garden. Flowers are produced on previous year's growth. Several varieties are available.

BIG LEAF HYDRANGEA ☀️

Hydrangea macrophylla (1.5 M)

Zone 6

This is the species from which the majority of popular cultivated hydrangeas derive. The flower heads are of two types: mop-head or lace-cap (see illustrations) and both are very showy in the garden. Many varieties are available in blue, white, pink or red. All grow well in average garden soil although purer colours can be obtained by making the soil more acidic for blue types and alkaline for better shades of red and pink. For good blue flowers, incorporate liberal amounts of peat moss into the soil plus 250 grams of Aluminum Sulphate per square meter and always use a fertilizer that has been formulated for acid-loving plants (e.g. 30-10-10). For the strongest shades of red or pink, sweeten the soil with horticultural lime and fertilize with a balanced fertilizer for flowering plants (e.g. 15-30-15). White flowers are not affected by acidity or alkalinity.

Two exciting new varieties, 'Endless Summer' and 'Blushing Bride', flower on both new and old growth and consequently will bloom even after a severe winter.



Mophead Flower



Lace-cap Flower

SAWTOOTH HYDRANGEA ☀️

Hydrangea serrata (1 – 1.5 M)

Zone 5

A sub-species of, and quite similar to, Big Leaf Hydrangea except that the leaves have 'saw-tooth' edges and the flowers are slightly smaller and appear earlier. Flowers of both species are produced from buds that were set the previous year. In our climate they require winter protection. The usual advice is to leave the spent flowers on the plant over winter to protect the top-most buds. Save as much stem as possible by mounding with soil and cut back to the top-most pair of healthy buds in spring.

PANICLE HYDRANGEA ☀️

Hydrangea paniculata (3 M) Zone 4

A hardier and taller species valuable because they are easy to grow - and since they flower on the current season's growth late in the season, are not subject to late spring frosts. Many varieties are available including the ever-popular 'Peegee' with late summer large white conical flowers maturing to pink and persisting through winter.



Peegee 'Panicle' Hydrangea

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