

Hydrangeas are among the easiest shrubs to grow in the Pacific Northwest garden. They are hardy to 0° F (or lower) and like full sun to partial shade and humus-rich soil. Fertilize in spring with a standard rose and flower fertilizer such as E. B. Stone or Espoma. Keep them well-watered during our summer dry season for best flower production.

The most common hydrangea species are *Hydrangea macrophylla*, *H. arborescens*, *H. paniculata*, *H. quercifolia*, and *H. serrata*. *H. macrophylla*, the big-leaf hydrangea, is the classical blue, pink, or white mophead or lacecap hydrangea. If you just say hydrangea, you're probably thinking of this one. It usually grows as a large, rounded shrub and produces one prolonged flush of flowers in midsummer. Dwarf and reblooming forms are now available. *H. serrata* is its slightly smaller lacecap cousin.

Soil pH (acidity or alkalinity) determines the flower color and intensity for many of the *Hydrangea macrophylla* and *serrata* varieties. Sky's hydrangea list specifies the color changes to be expected for each cultivar, as do our plant tags. Our Northwest winter rains tend to turn soils more acidic over time, so flower color can change after planting. Acid soil tends to turn flowers blue or to intensify blue shades. Aluminum sulfate can be used to acidify the soil at a rate of 4 oz. (1/2 cup) per square yard. Water in well after applying. Liming tends to make soil more alkaline, which makes flowers pinker. Potassium nitrate is recommended to intensify pink and red shades; use 1 teaspoon per foot of plant height.

The other species do not change color according to soil pH. Smooth hydrangea (*H. arborescens*) produces dome-shaped clusters of white flowers on an upright shrub; green and pink forms are now available. It is the most cold-hardy. Panicle/peegee hydrangea (*H. paniculata*) typically grows as a large, spreading shrub with panicles (long cone-shaped clusters) of flowers that are commonly green, white, or buff, often aging to pink or red. Many varieties now offer bicolor or tricolor blooms. Flowers typically last into fall. *H. quercifolia*, the oakleaf hydrangea, is characterized by its rounded form, large oak-shaped leaves and excellent bronze to red-purple fall foliage color. It requires better drainage than other varieties. Its panicle flowers are typically white, often aging to pink. Sky also sometimes carries white-flowering deciduous or evergreen climbing hydrangeas.

Prune shrubby hydrangeas in late winter or early spring. Prune out dead branches and deadhead (cut off spent flowers). Every third year or so, completely remove some of the oldest branches. **For bigleaf, serrata, and oakleaf varieties, be sure to cut back only to just above a pair of plump buds:** those are next year's flowers, and you don't want to remove them! Smooth and panicle hydrangeas can be pruned harder. Climbing hydrangeas need only be pruned to remove spent flowers or to shape them. **The size of most shrubby hydrangeas cannot be managed by pruning; if your hydrangea is too big, you may need to relocate it and select a smaller cultivar.**

## Hydrangeas

CULTIVAR NAME	COLOR AS A PINK	COLOR AS A BLUE	DESCRIPTION/NOTES	PLANT SIZE
<b>H. MACROPHYLLA (MOPHEAD &amp; LACECAP TYPES)</b>				
<b>Akadama</b>	Deep pink		Mophead	4-5'
<b>Blue Bird (H. serrata)</b>	Medium pink	Deep blue	Lacecap; 4" flowers	4-5'
<b>Blue Wave</b>	Mauve to pink	Lilac to dark blue	Lacecap; 6-8"	4-5'
<b>Double Down</b>	Violet-pink, darker centers	Rich blue, darker centers	<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead, double	3-5'
<b>Eclipse (dark purple foliage)</b>	Cranberry red	Deep purple	<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	3-5'
<b>Elizabeth Ashley</b>	Rich pink, with green eye	Blue to purple, with green eye	Mophead; large	3-4'
<b>Endless Summer</b>	Deep pink	Deep blue	<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	3-5'
<b>(Endless Summer) Bloomstruck</b>	Rose pink	Violet to dark blue	<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	3-5'
<b>(Endless Summer) Blushing Bride</b>	White aging to pale pink	White aging to pale blue	<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	3-6'
<b>(Endless Summer) Pop Star</b>	Deep rich pink	Deep blue to violet inner, paler outer	<b>Repeat bloomer,</b> lacecap	18-36"
<b>(Endless Summer) Summer Crush</b>	Raspberry red	Deep periwinkle	<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	18-36"
<b>(Endless Summer) Twist-n-Shout</b>	Deep pink inner, pale pink outer	Blue inner, pink outer	<b>Repeat bloomer,</b> lacecap	3-5'
<b>Felicity</b>	Loose frilly flowers like an open bouquet; rosy pink turning lilac, green & cream, all at once.		<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> modified lacecap	4-5'
<b>Kimono</b>	White edged cherry red		<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	3'
<b>Let's Dance ¡Arriba!</b>	Vivid deep pink	Rich violet-purple	<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	24-36"
<b>Let's Dance Blue Jangles</b>	Vivid pink	Deep blue	<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	12-24"
<b>Let's Dance Sky View</b>	Medium Pink	Periwinkle blue to violet	<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	24-36"
<b>Magical (or Everlasting) Amethyst</b>	Pink w/green edges; ages lime	Violet w/green edges; ages lime	<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	3-4'

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<b>Magical (or Everlasting) Revolution</b>	Multiple colors at once—pink, blue, and purple aging to green		<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	3-4'
<b>Nikko Blue</b>	Light pink	Medium blue	8-10" mophead	4-6'
<b>Pistachio (Next Generation)</b>	Red edged green with blue & white eye		<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	2-3'
<b>Preziosa (H. serrata)</b>	White to pale pink w/rose edges		Lacecap	4-5'
<b>Seaside Serenade Cape Cod</b>	Pink w/white eye	Blue to violet w/white eye	<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	3-4'
<b>Seaside Serenade Cape Lookout</b>	Pale green; turns pure white, then white tinted pink		<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	3-4'
<b>Seaside Serenade Fire Island</b>	White edged cherry, aging to pink		<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	3-4'
<b>Seaside Serenade Hamptons</b>	Rich pink with darker pink edge		<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	3-4'
<b>Seaside Serenade Kitty Hawk</b>	Pale green, turns soft pink	Pale green turns blue or lavender	<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	4'
<b>Seaside Serenade Martha's Vineyard</b>	Vibrant pink-red		<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	3-4'
<b>Seaside Serenade Newport</b>	Deep pink	Blue-violet	<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> mophead	3-4'
<b>Seaside Serenade Outer Banks</b>	Mid pink	Mid blue	<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> lacecap	4'
<b>H. serrata 'Tuff Stuff'</b>	Reddish pink	Lavender blue	<b>Repeat bloomer;</b> lacecap	2-3'
<b>OTHER HYDRANGAEA SPECIES</b>				
SPECIES/ CULTIVAR NAME	FLOWER COLOR/DESCRIPTION		NOTES	SIZE
<b>H. HYBRID (CASCADE HYDRANGAEA) – grows horizontally, with flowers all along the branches</b>				
<b>H. XXX Fairytrail Bride</b>	White, lacecap		Great for containers; flowers at every node	4' X 4'
<b>H. ARBORESCENS (SMOOTH HYDRANGAEA) – mophead type</b>				
<b>H. arborescens 'Annabelle'</b>	White; 10-12" ball		Long-blooming	5-6'
<b>H. arborescens 'Incrediball'</b>	White; 12" ball			4-5'
<b>H. arborescens 'FlowerFull'</b>	White, 10" dome; very floriferous		Strong stems	4-5'
<b>H. arborescens 'Invincibelle Wee White'</b>	Blush pink flowers age pure white		<b>Repeat bloomer</b>	12-30"

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SPECIES/ CULTIVAR NAME	FLOWER COLOR/DESCRIPTION	NOTES	SIZE
<b>H. PANICULATA (PEEGEE HYDRANGEA)</b>			
<b>H. paniculata 'Berry White'</b>	White aging to raspberry red	Rounded panicles	6-7'
<b>H. paniculata 'Diamond Rouge'</b>	White aging to pink then wine red		4-5'
<b>H. paniculata 'Early Evolution'</b>	Lime turning to white, salmon, and eventually dark pink	Very early blooming; loose panicles	24-30"
<b>H. paniculata 'Fire Light'</b>	White aging to rich pink-red	Longest blooming	5-6'
<b>H. paniculata 'Fire Light Tidbit'</b>	Pale green aging to white, then pink, then rich red	Longest blooming, into October	2-3'
<b>H. paniculata 'Limelight'</b>	Lime aging to white then pink		6-8'
<b>H. paniculata 'Limelight Prime'</b>	Lime green aging to white, then raspberry pink	Blooms earlier than 'Limelight'	4-6'
<b>H. paniculata 'Little Hottie'</b>	Snow white aging pink	Tolerates heat	3-5'
<b>H. paniculata 'Little Lime'</b>	Lime aging to white then pink	Rounded panicles	3-5'
<b>H. paniculata 'Little Quick Fire'</b>	White aging to deep pink-red	Early blooming	3-5'
<b>H. paniculata 'Mojito'</b>	Lime green aging blush pink	Rounded panicles	3-4'
<b>H. paniculata 'Phantom'</b>	Creamy white aging soft pink	Very large panicles	6-8'
<b>H. paniculata 'Pinky Winky'</b>	White blushing pink from base		6-8'
<b>H. paniculata 'Quick Fire'</b>	White aging to deep pink-red	Early blooming	6-8'
<b>H. paniculata 'Strawberry Sundae'</b>	Cream turning to pink, then strawberry; all colors at once	Dwarf version of Vanilla Strawberry	4-5'
<b>H. paniculata 'Vanilla Strawberry'</b>	Cream turning to pink, then strawberry; all colors at once		6-8'
<b>H. QUERCIFOLIA (OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA)- noted for colorful fall foliage</b>			
<b>H. quercifolia 'Jetstream'</b>	White aging raspberry-red	Upright flowers	5-6'
<b>H. quercifolia 'Munchkin'</b>	White aging pink	Upright flowers	3'
<b>H. quercifolia 'Ruby Slippers'</b>	White aging deep pink	Very large flowers	3-4'
<b>H. quercifolia 'Snow Queen'</b>	White aging pink		4-6'
<b>CLIMBING HYDRANGEAS</b>			
<b>H. anomala petiolaris (Climbing Hydrangea)</b>	White, flat, 6-7" lacecap flowers	Deciduous foliage	To 20'
<b>H. anomala petiolaris 'Miranda'</b>	White, flat, 6-7" lacecap flowers	Yellow-edged deciduous foliage	10-12'
<b>H. integrifolia (Evergreen Climbing Hydrangea)</b>	White lacecap flowers	Glossy green foliage	12-15'

