

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 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 HEIGHT
H. MACROPHYLLA & SERRATA (MOPHEAD & LACECAP TYPES)				
Akadama	Deep pink		Mophead	4-5'
(My Beautiful) Akito (dark jade green foliage)	Bright white aging green; dense heads with ruffled petals		Mophead	3'
All Summer Beauty	Rose pink to lavender	Bright blue	Repeat bloomer; mophead	3-5'
Altona	Deep pink to purple	Rich blue	Mophead, fringed petals, long bloom	4-5'
Blue Bird (H. serrata)	Medium pink	Deep blue	Lacecap; 4" flowers	4-5'
Blue Wave	Mauve to pink	Lilac to dark blue	Lacecap; 6-8"	4-5'
Centennial Ruby	Ruby red aging blackened red		Repeat bloomer; mophead	3-4'
Corsage	Pink to purple	Blue	Lacecap, very double flowers	4-5'
Eclipse (dark purple foliage)	Cranberry red	Deep purple	Repeat bloomer; mophead	3-5'
Elizabeth Ashley	Rich pink with green eye	Blue to purple with green eye	Mophead; large	3-4'
Endless Summer	Deep pink	Deep blue	Repeat bloomer; mophead	3-5'
(Endless Summer) Bloomstruck	Rose pink	Violet to dark blue	Repeat bloomer; mophead	3-5'
(Endless Summer) Blushing Bride	White aging to pale pink	White aging to pale blue	Repeat bloomer; mophead	3-6'
(Endless Summer) Dream Cloud	White, sometimes aging pink		Repeat bloomer; mophead	3-4'
(Endless Summer) Pop Star	Deep rich pink	Blue to violet edged paler	Repeat bloomer, lacecap	18-36"
(Endless Summer) Summer Crush	Raspberry red	Deep periwinkle	Repeat bloomer; mophead	18-36"
(Endless Summer) Twist-n-Shout	Deep pink edged paler	Blue edged pink	Repeat bloomer, lacecap	3-5'
Firefly	Cherry red edges, cream eye		Repeat bloomer; mophead	3-5'
Fuji Waterfall (H. serrata) (AKA Fuji no Taki)	White, double long-stemmed florets, cascading effect		Lacecap with long-stemmed florets	3-8'
Golden Sunlight (H. serrata) (yellow new foliage)	White aging medium pink	White aging blue	Lacecap; 4-6"	4-5'

Hydrangeas

CULTIVAR NAME	COLOR AS A PINK	COLOR AS A BLUE	DESCRIPTION/ NOTES	PLANT HEIGHT
Hi™ Fire	Deep rich red, white eye	Rich purple, blue eye	Mophead	3-5'
Inspire	Pink; stary double florets		Mophead	4'
Lanarth White	White edged pale pink	White edged pale blue	Lacecap; 6-8"	4-6'
Lemon Wave (foliage yellow and green)	White edged pale pink	White edged pale blue	Lacecap; 6-8"	3-4'
Lemon Zest (foliage chartreuse to yellow)	Pink	Blue	Mophead	4-5'
Let's Dance ¡Arriba!	Vivid deep pink	Rich violet-purple	Repeat bloomer; mophead	24-36"
Let's Dance Blue Jangles	Vivid pink	Deep blue	Repeat bloomer; mophead	12-24"
Let's Dance Can Do (Blooms along branches, not just tip; very floriferous)	Strawberry pink	Lavender	Repeat bloomer; lacecap	3-4'
Let's Dance Sky View	Medium Pink	Periwinkle blue to violet	Repeat bloomer; mophead	24-36"
Magical (or Everlasting) Amethyst	Pink edged green, ages lime	Violet edged green; ages lime	Repeat bloomer; mophead	3-4'
Nigra (striking black stems)	Dusty rose	Medium blue	4-6" mophead	4-5'
Nikko Blue	Light pink	Medium blue	8-10" mophead	4-6'
Pistachio (Next Generation)	Red edged green with blue & white eye		Repeat bloomer; mophead	2-3'
Preziosa (H. serrata)	White to pale pink w/rose edges		Lacecap	4-5'
Seaside Serenade Cape Cod	Pink w/white eye	Blue to violet w/white eye	Repeat bloomer; mophead	3-4'
Seaside Serenade Cape Lookout	Pale green; turns pure white, then white tinted pink		Repeat bloomer; mophead	3-4'
Seaside Serenade Fire Island	White edged cherry, aging to pink		Repeat bloomer; mophead	3-4'
Seaside Serenade Hamptons	Rich pink with darker pink edge		Repeat bloomer; mophead	3-4'
Seaside Serenade Hanalei Bay	Deep magenta, frilled, with white to green eye		Repeat bloomer; mophead	3-4'
Seaside Serenade Kitty Hawk	Pale green, turns soft pink	Pale green turns blue or lavender	Repeat bloomer; mophead	4'

Hydrangeas

CULTIVAR NAME	COLOR AS A PINK	COLOR AS A BLUE	DESCRIPTION/NOTES	PLANT HEIGHT
Seaside Serenade Martha's Vineyard	Vibrant pink-red		Repeat bloomer; mophead	3-4'
Seaside Serenade Newport	Deep pink	Blue-violet	Repeat bloomer; mophead	3-4'
Seaside Serenade Outer Banks	Mid pink	Mid blue	Repeat bloomer; lacecap	4'
Seaside Serenade Pebble Beach	Raspberry purple	Electric blue to purple	Repeat bloomer; mophead	3-4'
Shinonome (H. serrata)	Pale pink aging darker	Sky blue aging pink in fall	Lacecap; 3-6"; long double starry florets	3-4'
Spike	Strong pink	Sky blue to purple	Mophead; very ruffled flowers	5'
Star Gazer (Double Delights)	Pink edged white	Blue edged white	Repeat bloomer; lacecap, double	4'
'Tuff Stuff' (H. serrata)	Reddish pink	Lavender blue	Repeat bloomer; lacecap	2-3'
Wedding Gown (AKA Dancing Snow)	Double white lacecap flowers		Repeat bloomer, lacecap	2-3'
OTHER HYDRANGAEA SPECIES				
SPECIES/ CULTIVAR NAME	FLOWER COLOR/DESCRIPTION		NOTES	HEIGHT
H. ANGUSTIPETALA (NARROW LEAF HYDRANGAEA) – lacecap type				
H. angustipetala	White & chartreuse		Lacecap; very early; scented	3-5'
H. ARBORESCENS (SMOOTH HYDRANGAEA) – mophead type				
H. arborescens 'Annabelle'	White; 10-12" ball		Long-blooming	5-6'
H. arborescens Seaside Serenade 'Bar Harbor'	White; 10-12" ball		Long-blooming	4'
H. arborescens 'Bubblegum'	Bubblegum pink; 6-8" ball		Long-blooming	3-4'
H. arborescens 'Green Dragon'	6-8", pale green edged white; bees love		Lacecap	4-5'
H. arborescens 'Incrediball'	White; 12" ball			4-5'
H. arborescens 'FlowerFull'	White, 10" dome; very floriferous		Strong stems	4-5'
H. arborescens 'Invincibelle Wee White'	Blush pink flowers age pure white		Repeat bloomer	12-30"

Hydrangeas

SPECIES/ CULTIVAR NAME	FLOWER COLOR/DESCRIPTION	NOTES	HEIGHT
H. ASPERA (ROUGH-LEAF HYDRANGEA) – large fuzzy leaves, lacecap type			
H. aspera ‘Spinners’	Lilac edged pale lilac, aging to purple edged mauve	Lacecap	6-8’
H. aspera ‘Villosa’	Blue-violet edged pink	Lacecap	6-8’
H. INVOLUCRATA (BRACTED HYDRANGEA) – distinctive “drumstick” flower buds, fuzzy leaves			
H. Involucrata ‘Kaitlyn’	Pale pink to lilac edged white	Repeat bloomer, lacecap	5-6’
H. PANICULATA (PEEGEE or PANICLE HYDRANGEA)			
H. paniculata ‘Berry White’	White aging to raspberry red	Rounded panicles	6-7’
H. paniculata ‘Bobo’	Creamy white aging to pink		3’
H. paniculata ‘Diamond Rouge’	White aging to pink then wine red		4-5’
H. paniculata ‘Early Evolution’	Lime turning to white, salmon, and eventually dark pink	Very early blooming; loose panicles	24-30”
H. paniculata ‘Fire Light’	White aging to rich pink-red	Longest blooming	5-6’
H. paniculata ‘Fire Light Tidbit’	Pale green aging to white, then pink, then rich red	Longest blooming, into October	2-3’
H. paniculata ‘Limelight’	Lime aging to white then pink		6-8’
H. paniculata ‘Limelight Prime’	Lime green aging to white, then raspberry pink	Blooms earlier than ‘Limelight’	4-6’
H. paniculata ‘Little Hottie’	Snow white aging pink	Tolerates heat	3-5’
H. paniculata ‘Little Lime’	Lime aging to white then pink	Rounded panicles	3-5’
H. paniculata ‘Little Quick Fire’	White aging to deep pink-red	Early blooming	3-5’
H. paniculata ‘Mojito’	Lime green aging blush pink	Rounded panicles	3-4’
H. paniculata ‘Phantom’	Creamy white aging soft pink	Very large panicles	6-8’
H. paniculata ‘Pinky Winky’	White blushing pink from base		6-8’
H. paniculata ‘Quick Fire’	White aging to deep pink-red	Early blooming	6-8’
H. paniculata ‘Spring Sizzle’	White aging to warm deep red	Very early blooming	4-6’
H. paniculata ‘Strawberry Sundae’	Cream turning to pink, then strawberry; all colors at once	Dwarf version of Vanilla Strawberry	4-5’
H. paniculata ‘Tiny Quick Fire’	White aging to deep pink-red	Very early, very small	18-36”
H. paniculata ‘Vanilla Strawberry’	Cream turning to pink, then strawberry; all colors at once		6-8’

Hydrangeas

SPECIES/ CULTIVAR NAME	FLOWER COLOR/DESCRIPTION	NOTES	HEIGHT
H. QUERCIFOLIA (OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA)- noted for colorful fall foliage			
H. quercifolia 'Jetstream'	White aging raspberry-red	Upright flowers	5-6'
H. quercifolia 'Lil Annie'	White aging pink	Upright flowers	3-4'
H. quercifolia 'Munchkin'	White aging pink	Upright flowers	3'
H. quercifolia 'Pee Wee'	White		3-4'
H. quercifolia 'Ruby Slippers'	White aging deep pink	Very large flowers	3-4'
H. quercifolia 'Snow Queen'	White aging pink		4-6'
CLIMBING HYDRANGEAS			
H. anomala petiolaris (Climbing Hydrangea)	White, flat, 6-7" lacecap flowers	Deciduous foliage	To 20'
H. anomala petiolaris 'Miranda'	White, flat, 6-7" lacecap flowers	Yellow-edged deciduous foliage	10-12'
H. integrifolia (Evergreen Climbing Hydrangea)	White lacecap flowers	Glossy green foliage	12-15'