

## **HARDY HYDRANGEAS**

The hydrangea is an attractive large leaf plant that can be used for foundation plantings, shrub borders or as specimen plants in the garden. If you are looking for a beautiful blooming shrub with flowers that last, this is it. As a bonus, caring for them is very easy. Most only need occasional light pruning.

Hydrangea blooms are made up of clusters of small flowers. The size, color and shape of the flowers vary from variety to variety. Hydrangea blooms contain showy sterile flowers and less conspicuous fertile flowers. They also vary as to season of bloom. As a group, they are all considered resistant to insect and disease problems, although they may have an occasional bout of fungal leaf spot, aphids or scale.

## **WHITE OR CREAMY HYDRANGEAS**

### **Annabelle**

*Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle' Also known as a Snowball hydrangea (or smooth hydrangea), Annabelles have huge, symmetrical blooms in June and July. Hardy to Zone 3, it can grow 4-5 feet tall and 3-5 feet wide. It is probably the showiest hydrangea in the garden with creamy white blooms that are often more than 8 inches across. Annabelle prefers rich, well-drained soil that stays consistently moist. It is tolerant of a wide range of soil pH and does best in partial shade. If it is planted in full sun, be sure to provide adequate moisture or the leaves will droop. Annabelle blooms on new wood and needs to be pruned back to within a foot or two of the ground each spring just as the new buds begin to emerge on the lower stems.

### **Bobo**

*Hydrangea paniculata* 'ILVOBO' This dwarf hydrangea is engulfed by large white flowers in summer. The flowers are held upright on strong stems and continue to grow and lengthen as they bloom. It forms a rounded shape that will grow 2.5-3 feet tall and spread 3-4 feet. Grows well in part to full sun. 'Bobo' flowers form on new wood and can be pruned in late winter/early spring. Adaptable to many soils and likes with moderate moisture required. Hardy to Zone 3.

### **Early Evolution**

*Hydrangea paniculate* 'AJ14' Extremely compact with a height and spread of 2 feet. Does best in filtered sun to partial sun. The most unique hydrangea on the market, the blooms of the Early Revolution create a sea of color earlier than most other hydrangeas. Blooms start lime-white and turn to pure white and blush. As the blooms age they end in a dark pink color. Hardy to Zone 4.

### **Incrediball**

*Hydrangea arborescens* 'Incrediball' Grows 4-5 feet wide and tall. An improvement with giant blooms and has roughly 4 times as many flowers as 'Annabelle'. Cut back in early spring to promote flowering on summer wood. Hardy to Zone 4.

### **Invincible Limetta**

*Hydrangea arborescens* 'NCHAB' Dwarf variety with lush green flowers and very strong stems. Limetta grows 3-4 feet high and wide. Strong rebloomer keeps on blooming until frost. Prune in early spring, just as the new growth begins to emerge on the stems. Remove any dead wood and cut the entire plant back by about one-third its total height. This helps to preserve the strong woody base while also encouraging new growth for the best blooming. A minimum of six hours of sun for the strongest stems and the most abundant flowers. Hardy to Zone 3.

## **Invincible Wee White**

*Hydrangea arborescens* 'NCHA5' This smooth hydrangea has the potential to revolutionize landscaping. It grows only 1-2.5 feet high and wide. Covered in pure white mophead flowers from summer to fall. Pruning is very simple for Invincible Wee White hydrangea: just cut the whole plant back by about one-third its total height each spring, just as the new growth begins to appear on the stems. This serves to preserve the woody base while encouraging new growth for maximum blooms. A minimum of six hours of sun for the strongest stems and the most abundant flowers. Hardy to Zone 3.

## **Limelight**

*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight' While it is closely related to Pee Gee hydrangea, Limelight is hardy to Zone 4. It differs from Pee Gee by blooming later and having exquisite bright lime-green flowers. It forms a rounded shrub that will grow 6-8 feet tall and 6 feet wide. Be sure to give it plenty of space to grow. Limelight grows well in partial shade to full sun. It is stunning when grown tucked under large, open shade trees where it will provide late summer and early fall bloom. 'Limelight' flowers form on new wood and should be pruned in early spring. It thrives in a well-drained loamy soil and tolerates a wide range of pH.

## **Little Lime**

*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Jane' a dwarf form of 'Limelight' it has the same great flowers but about a third of the size. Soft lime-green flowers mature to pink and burgundy. It will grow 3-4 feet wide and tall. Does well in part shade to sun. Blooms on new wood. Prune in late winter to early spring. Hardy to Zone 3

## **NON-WHITE HYDRANGEAS**

### **Berry White**

*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Renba' A new introduction of panicle hydrangea, the Berry White reaches a height and width of 6'-7' and 4'-5,' respectively. Transitioning from a white bloom to dark pink as the season continues beginning in July. Strong stems are topped with bountiful, cone-shaped blooms. Color and shades of bloom will vary with location.

### **Blue Enchantress**

*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Monmar' Striking ruby-black stems support large mophead flowers on this exquisite reblooming hydrangea. Grows 3-5 feet tall and wide. Likes partial shade to partial sun. Blue in acidic soils and pink in more alkaline soils. Can be lightly trimmed in early spring. Blooms on new and old wood. Some winter protection is a good idea.

### **Endless Summer® Bloomstruck**

*Hydrangea arborescens* 'PIIHA-II' BloomStruck grows 3-4 feet wide and tall. This beauty blooms on old and new growth with perfectly rounded flowers averaging 3-5 inches across. Flowers are rose-pink, or violet-blue in acidic soil. Does well in partial shade. Prune in late winter or early spring. Hardy to zone 4.

### **Endless Summer® Original**

*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Bailmer' Endless Summer blooms on both old and new wood. The flowers are pink in alkaline soils, and blue in acid soils. In our climate, Endless Summer will grow to 3'-5' high and wide. Blooms should show by late July. Some winter protection is a good idea; light pruning in early spring to shape the plant may remove some buds, but the plant will bloom on new wood.

### **Endless Summer® Summer Crush**

*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Bailmaçfive' Summer Crush is stepping away from the typical blues and pinks of the Endless Summer collection and will excite the eye with bursts of raspberry red and neon purple blooms. Reaching a height between 1.5'-3,' it's size and color definitely make this a contending patio plant. Most wilt resistant of the Endless Summer series. Hardy to Zone 4.

### **Endless Summer® Twist-n-Shout**

*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'PIIHM-I' Twist-n-Shout grows 3-4 feet wide and tall. It has lacey deep-pink centers surrounded by gorgeous blossoms of pink. Will blossom periwinkle blue in acid soils. Twist-n-Shout does best in an eastern exposure with protection from afternoon sun. Light pruning in early spring. It blooms on both old and new wood. Hardy to Zone 4.

### **Invincible Mini Mauvette**

*Hydrangea arborescens* 'NCHA7' A never -before - seen color in a deep mauve-violet. Blooms on strong stems summer through fall. Mini Mauvette grows 2.5-3 feet high and wide. Prune in early spring, just as the new growth begins to emerge on the stems. Remove any dead wood and cut the entire plant back by about one-third its total height. This helps to preserve the strong woody base while also encouraging new growth for the best blooming. A minimum of six hours of sun for the strongest stems and the most abundant flowers. Hardy to Zone 3.

### **Invincible Ruby**

*Hydrangea arborescens* Invincibelle Ruby grows 3-4 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide. Prune in early spring, just as the new growth begins to emerge on the stems. Remove any dead wood and cut the entire plant back by about one-third its total height. Can be grown in full sun. Hardy to Zone 3.

### **Little Lime Punch**

*Hydrangea paniculate* 'SMNHPH' Growing 3-5 feet in height and spread, Little Lime Punch with wow you with its usefulness and beauty in the landscape. Blooms emerge lime green but mature from the bottom up with hues of white, light pink, and rich Hawaiian Punch red. Blooms on new wood so prune in early spring. Hardy to Zone 3.

### **Little Quick Fire**

*Hydrangea paniculata* 'SMHPLQF' Early blooming about a month before other hydrangeas. White flowers transform to pink red. Little Quick Fire grows 3-5 feet and 4-7 feet wide. It blooms on new wood. Prune in late winter or early spring. Does well in sun to part sun. Hardy to Zone 3.

### **Pink Splendor**

*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'MonPKSP' Rapid grower reaching 4 feet for a height and spread. A fantastic compact, repeat bloomer with extra-dark green leaves contrasting a pink bloom. Perfect for foundations, borders, and long blooming cut flowers. Blooms on new wood so prune in early spring. Hardy to Zone 4.

### **Quick Fire**

*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Bulk' A new early blooming paniculata hydrangea with conical flowers similar to 'Tardiva' this plants flowers emerge white, then quickly mature to a rich deep pink. The plant grows 6 to 8 feet tall and 4 to 6 feet wide. Quick Fire blooms on new wood so prune in early spring. Hardy to Zone 3.

### **Seaside Serenade® Cape Lookout**

*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'HORTMABLO' Rapid grower with a height of 3-1/2 feet and a 3-foot width. Strive to place this plant in filtered sun to partial shade. Pale green blooms emerge turning to white and aging to a pink hue. Dark foliage contrasts with light bloom and presents bronze fall coloring. Hardy to Zone 4.

### **Seaside Serenade® Cape May**

*Hydrangea serrata* 'SMHSMK2MT' Quickly growing to a height and spread of 3 feet. Does best in filtered sun or partial sun. Sturdy stems boast large lacecap blooms which will be blue in acidic soil and pink in neutral to alkaline soil. Great for borders with serrated leaves that have hints of red and burgundy in the sun. Hardy to Zone 4.

### **Seaside Serenade® Fire Island**

*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Hortfire' Fire Island grows 3-1/2 feet tall and 3 feet wide. Does best in partial shade or filtered sun. A new selection from Monrovia, Fire Island is compact with petite white ruffled blooms with rose colored edges. Sturdy stems are surrounded by deep leathery green foliage making this plant excellent for mass plantings or fresh cuttings. Hardy to Zone 4.

### **Seaside Serenade® Newport**

*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Hortmani' Newport grows to a height and width of 3-4 feet. Does best in partial shade to partial sun. Another selection exclusive to Monrovia, Newport sports sturdy stems holding blooms that change with soil pH. Higher acidic soils promote blue-violet blooms and alkaline soils, pink. Newport is one unique gem for mass plantings, fresh cuttings, or containers. Hardy to Zone 4.

### **Strawberry Sundae**

*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Rensun' Strawberry Sundae grows 4-5 feet tall and 3-4 feet wide. It is similar to Vanilla Strawberry but is smaller in stature. Does well in part shade to sun. Flowers change from creamy white to pink and finally strawberry red. Flowers on new wood, prune in late winter to early spring. Hardy to Zone 4.

### **Vanilla Strawberry**

*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Renhy' Vanilla Strawberry grows 6-7 feet tall and 4-5 feet wide. Enormous flowers panicles are a blend of vanilla and strawberry, held upright on red stems. Flowers emerge white in mid-summer, change to pink and finally to strawberry red. Flowers on new wood, prune in early spring. Hardy to Zone 4.

### **CLIMBING HYDRANGEAS**

*Hydrangea anomala subsp. petiolaris* Climbing hydrangeas are for the patient, optimistic gardener. They are slow to start, sometimes taking several years to get going. Once the roots are well-established, they are vigorous, vining up stucco, brick, fences or trees with glossy, bright green leaves and creamy white flowers in June and July. Climbing hydrangeas require rich, well-drained soil and do well in partial shade. They will eventually grow 15-25 feet in length and require winter protection of the root system (a foot of straw, leaves or hay). Climbing Hydrangea blooms on old wood so it needs to be pruned right after blooming in the fall.

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