

# WHICH HYDRANGEA DO YOU GROW?

Though there are 50+ species of hydrangeas found worldwide, only six main types are commonly grown in North American gardens. Each one has its unique characteristics and care requirements, so knowing which one(s) you have is key to success.

## BIGLEAF *Hydrangea macrophylla*

- Pink, red, purple, or blue globe-shaped flowers; glossy green leaves
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune, may benefit from winter protection
- Full sun - part shade
- Also known as florist's, hortensia, mophead, or lacecap

## CLIMBING *Hydrangea petiolaris* | *Hydrangea hydrangeoides* (formerly *Schizophragma hydrangeoides*)

- White disc-shaped flowers, stems need support of a tree or structure to climb
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune
- Part shade

## MOUNTAIN *Hydrangea serrata*

- Pink, red, purple, or blue flowers, usually disc-shaped; glossy green leaves
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune
- Full sun - part shade

## COLOR

All hydrangeas undergo some color change as their flowers age, but only bigleaf and mountain hydrangeas can change their color in a predictable, controllable way. It is not solely the pH of the soil that is responsible for this change – it is actually the presence of aluminum in the soil.

- Certain varieties of bigleaf hydrangeas cannot change color. The rich red blooms of Cityline® Paris hydrangea are a good example. Similarly, white bigleaf varieties, like Fairytrail Bride® hydrangea, will not change color.
- It is easier to change a hydrangea from pink to blue than from blue to pink, but both endeavors involve making chemical application in specific amounts at specific times. A soil test is necessary to determine the best course of action. If you decide to try to change the flower color, shop for products carefully and read all directions.
- Pennies, nails, aluminum foil, or coffee grounds in the soil will not change the color!

## GROWING TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Plant in moist but well-drained soil (hydrangeas will not tolerate wet feet – ever!) It's a myth that hydrangeas require acidic soil; they actually tolerate a wide range of pH levels, from acidic to slightly alkaline.
- Some sun each day is ideal. Most people think of hydrangeas as shade plants, but they look and flower best with at least four hours of sun, ideally in the morning. Panicle hydrangeas are the most sun tolerant and can take full sun in northern climates.
- Provide plenty of water, especially as they are getting established. Hydrangeas have shallow roots, so they dry out quickly. A two to three inch layer of shredded bark mulch is a useful addition to any hydrangea planting.

## OAKLEAF *Hydrangea quercifolia*

- White conical flowers; large, oak-shaped leaves
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune, rarely needs winter protection
- Full sun - part shade

## PANICLE *Hydrangea paniculata*

- White conical flowers that turn pink or red
- Bloom on new wood: prune in late winter/early spring
- Full sun - part shade
- Also known as peegee

## SMOOTH *Hydrangea arborescens*

- White, pink, or green flowers, usually globe-shaped
- Bloom on new wood: prune in late winter/early spring
- Full sun - part shade
- Also known as 'Annabelle' hydrangea



Scan the QR code for more details on all Proven Winners® ColorChoice® hydrangeas.



# WHY ISN'T MY HYDRANGEA BLOOMING?

Which hydrangea do you grow?

**SMOOTH**

-or-

**PANICLE**

**CLIMBING**

-or-

**OAKLEAF**

**BIGLEAF**

-or-

**MOUNTAIN**

How long ago did you plant it?

< 2 years

2+ years

Needs more time to develop a root system. Mulch and keep well watered; it will bloom in time.

How much light does it get?

< 4 hours

4+ hours

Needs more sun

Did you cut it back?

When?

Yes

No

Fall

Late spring/summer

Deer damage or low light

Buds removed - blooming may be delayed or not occur. Prune in late winter or early spring.

How old is the plant?

< 5 years

5+ years

These plants tend to need to be more mature to flower well. Give them more time.

Did you cut it back?

Yes

No

Deer damage or low light

Oops! You cut off the flower buds. Avoid pruning.

Did you cut it back?

Yes

No

Oops! You cut off the flower buds. Avoid pruning.

Do you live in a cold climate?

Yes

No

Flower buds were killed by cold. Move to a more protected spot; protect plant on spring nights when frost or freeze threatens.

Too much shade or deer damage

But it's a reblooming hydrangea!

Not all reblooming hydrangeas are equal - some need to reach a certain height to set new wood buds. Let's Dance® reblooming hydrangeas were developed to bloom sooner.

