



Hydrangea

Hydrangea anomala petiolaris - Climbing Hydrangea

- ☞ **Description:** An exceptional woody vine that produces lovely white lacy flowers in late June to early July. This plant is a self climber that has the ability to attach itself to just about any surface. The climbing hydrangea is slow growing when initially planted but grows vigorously once established reaching up to 80 feet in height.
- ☞ **Culture:** Plant in rich, moist soil that is well-drained; this is a great shade plant that also thrives in full sun.
- ☞ **Pruning:** This plant requires little, if any, pruning. If some shoots grow out of bounds just trim them back in the summer.

Hydrangea arborescens - 'Annabelle' Smooth Hydrangea

- ☞ **Description:** A 3' to 5' by 3' to 5', suckering, woody, native shrub that flowers white in June thru September.
- ☞ **Culture:** An adaptable plant that does best in moist, rich, well-drained soil. This plant will tolerate lots of shade and works well in a woodland setting. It will, however, grow in full sun if supplied with sufficient moisture.
- ☞ **Pruning:** Smooth Hydrangeas bloom on new wood and therefore may be pruned any time of the year except before they are about to bloom; often treated as a cut-back shrub in severe winters.

Hydrangea macrophylla - Bigleaf Hydrangea

- ☞ **Description:** This is the most recognized of all hydrangeas. Grown for its showy flowers, mop-head and lace-cap, the Bigleaf Hydrangea is not only cultivated as an ornamental landscape plant but is also forced by florists and sold as an indoor potted plant in the early spring. The flowers of the Bigleaf Hydrangea are highly diversified in form and color depending on cultivar and soil pH. Plants can grow 3-6' high with an equal spread.
- ☞ **Culture:** Plant in full sun to part shade in moist, well-drained soil amended with plenty of organic matter. Flower color is dependent upon the pH of the soil in which it is grown: blue if acid (use garden sulfur); pink if alkaline (use garden lime); white flowering varieties stay white regardless of soil pH. Severe winters can often damage tender flower buds. You may protect the flower buds in the winter by wrapping the plant in burlap.
- ☞ **Pruning:** Pruning *H. macrophylla* stimulates the production of vigorous young shoots required for future flower production. No more than one-third of the older wood should be cut to the base of the plant in early spring to encourage new shoots. If one-third of the oldest wood is cut back each year for three years, you will have rejuvenated the entire shrub and reduced the total height by one-third. Do not remove the previous year's flower heads until early spring as they provide some winter protection to the current year's flower buds. When dead heading cut below old flower head to a strong pair of bud.

Hydrangea paniculata 'Grandiflora' -- Peegee Hydrangea

- ☞ **Description:** This is an old-fashioned hydrangea commonly planted for its impressive display of large white flowers in mid- to late-summer. Peegee Hydrangeas have ivory colored, elongated (up to 12 – 18") flower heads that gradually turn to an antique-pink as they mature on the stem. This is a low branched, single or multi-stemmed, small tree or large shrub with arching branches that can grow up to 10 feet in height with an equal spread.
- ☞ **Culture:** Grows best in full sun or part shade and prefers loamy, moist, well-drained soil.
- ☞ **Pruning:** Pruning may be done in late winter or early spring as flowers are borne on the current season's growth. This plant should be dead-headed in early fall as flowers are starting to turn brown.

Hydrangea quercifolia -- Oakleaf Hydrangea

- ☞ **Description:** Reaching 4-8' high by 4-8' wide, this hydrangea is primarily grown for its oak-leaf shaped foliage and excellent fall color as well as lovely early summer flowers. Flowers are borne at the end of the branches in showy erect panicles. They begin as white and progress to a purplish-pink as they age on the plant. This plant will sucker from the base.
- ☞ **Culture:** Plant *H. quercifolia* in a protected area in moist, well drained soil. This plant will thrive in partial to deep shade; mulch to keep root zone moist and cool. Often suffering winter dieback when grown in an exposed site, terminal buds may be damaged in which case no flowers will be produced.
- ☞ **Pruning:** Prune in early spring to remove any dead wood. Winter damaged branches may be cut back to below the point of injury. Prune immediately after flowering to shape plant.