

Hydrangeas for Ohio¹

| Species (Type) | Hydrangea arborescens (Smooth Hydrangea) & Hydrangea radiata (Silver-leaf Hydrangea) | <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> (Oakleaf Hydrangea) | Hydrangea macrophylla (Bigleaf Hydrangea) & Hydrangea serrata (Mountain Hydrangea) | Hydrangea anomala (Climbing Hydrangea) | Hydrangea paniculata (Panicle Hydrangea) |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| Zone | 3-9 | 5-9 | 5-9 (somewhat 6-9) | 4-7 | 3-8 |
| Selected Cultivars* | Invicibelle®, Ruby®, Incrédiball®, Blush, Mini Mauvette®; Lime Rickey® Hayes Starburst, Invincibelle Lace® <small>This is not a comprehensive list, simply an idea starter.</small> | Snow Queen, Alice Gatsby Moon®, Gatsby Star® (Double) Snowflake (Double) Short ~4' max: Munchkin, Pee Wee, Ruby Slippers | Endless Summer® series Twist n Shout Double Delights™ series Tuff Stuff™ series Plum Passion Improved Chiri-san Sue | Winter Glow subsp. <i>petiolaris</i> subsp. <i>petiolaris</i> Firefly (variegated) <i>glabra</i> (pink) | Limelight (large), Vanilla Strawberry™, Pinky Winky® Pink Diamond, Tardiva, numerous... Short: Bobo®, Little Quick Fire®, Little Lime Punch® |
| Bloom Interest | Late May-August | Late May-September | Late June -August | Late June-July | Late July-Late October |
| Features & Notes | Flowers mature to lime green; radiata leaves have silver underside, pollinator magnet | Cinnamon bark Excellent red/purple/dk. orange fall foliage | Macrophylla winter protection. After leaf drop, cut above 3rd bud from soil surface. Cover with mulch. | Peeling Bark, Clinging vine, Slow to establish, unique as a ground cover | New cultivars have strong stems, upright flowers |
| Flowers | White, Ivory, Pink/red hues. Fade to light green. Radiata - ivory w/yellowish | White, ivory, green tints Pink edges on double Fade to pink, red, green | Blue, Pink, Purple Multi colored Fade to greens/blues | White, ivory Lacecap Pink tones in spp. <i>glabra</i> | White, ivory, lime green, pink Fade to green, some reds |
| Height | cast. 1.5-5' | 4-9' | 3-6' | up to 60' | 2-15+' |
| Light | AM sun and PM shade best. 6hrs for strong stems | AM Sun PM shade a must 4 faded flower color. | AM sun PM shade for lasting blooms. Wilting = too much sun. | Part Sun to Shade, AM sun and PM shade best | AM Sun PM shade for color fading in flowers. Some cultivars take more sun without browning flowers. |
| Soils & Fertilization pH range 5.0-7.5 | Higher organic matter, well drained | Higher organic matter, well drained | High organic matter, Acidic soil = blue (↓5.5) Alkaline soil = pink (↑6.5) High P ties up aluminum | Well drained soils | Well drained soils. Heavy wet soils cause roots to surface |
| Moisture*** | Consistent moisture for flower longevity | Consistent moisture for flower longevity | Moisture Demanding. Consistent mulching to conserve moisture | Indifferent, but needs consistent moisture during early years | Consistent moisture, but forgiving. Low moisture = blooms brown faster |
| Blooms on** | New wood | Old wood | Old wood Old & New wood | Old wood No blooms? Low light, young | New wood |
| Pruning | Fall/spring cut to ~6" for x-large blooms. No prune for more small blooms. Thin new shoots for larger blooms. | After flowering if needed for shaping or rejuvenating. | Late fall, cut above 3 rd bud. Mulch for winter. Spring prune dead stems after leaves emerge. | Only to shape or remove odd stems extending away from vine | Can prune to tree form. Cut low/thin for largest flowers. Try shorter cultivars for less pruning |

* Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Ohio State University Extension is implied.

**Next year's flowers that form on old wood are generally formed from August to October.

***All hydrangeas should be planted in well-amended, high organic matter soil with adequate drainage.

My Notes on...Hydrangeas for Ohio...that I like!

| | Hydrangea arborescens (Smooth Hydrangea) | <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> (Oakleaf Hydrangea) | Hydrangea macrophylla (Bigleaf Hydrangea) & Hydrangea serrata | Hydrangea anomala (Climbing Hydrangea) | Hydrangea paniculata (Panicle Hydrangea) |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cultivar Name | | | | | |
| Flowers/Features | | | | | |
| Blooms on... | | | | | |
| Height | | | | | |
| Notes | | | | | |
| Cultivar Name | | | | | |
| Flowers/Features | | | | | |
| Blooms on... | | | | | |
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