

Reynolds Farms



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A Full-Service Nursery & Country Garden Center

Hydrangea Care

Pruning Young, Newly Planted Hydrangeas

As a young plant, it is best to prune or pinch your plant in order to build a full-bodied plant. If the plant is leggy when you purchase it, shear it back hard by 1/3 from its original size.

Once it puts out an inch or two of growth, pinch the branch tips to remove just the tip, the tip controls the branching. Once removed, the buds below will produce branches. Repeat this process a couple of times during the first growing season.

This may sacrifice the blooms the first year but will result in a well branched, full bodied plant that rewards you with more flowers in subsequent years.

Care by Species

Hydrangea anomala 'Petiolaris' (Climbing Hydrangea)

No need to prune; train on a wall or trellis.

Full sun to part shade

Strong growing vine which climbs by aerial rootlets, it's at its best when grown on the face of a brick wall. Flowers from June to early July with slightly fragrant blooms that are 6-10 inches across. Very adaptable, but thrives in rich, well drained, moist soil. pH adaptable.

Hydrangea arborescens (Smooth Hydrangea)

Prune in late fall or early spring. Flower buds are produced in late spring/early summer. Responds very well to being cut back to about 10" above the ground. This encourages stronger stems and larger flowers.

Full sun to part shade

Grows 4-6' tall 3-4' wide

Most popular cultivar is 'Annabelle' because of the large symmetrical blooms which can reach 14" across. Widely used in the northeast because it blooms on new wood and reliably blooms each year. This cultivar has a tendency to collapse under its own weight and may require staking.

Only use a slow release fertilizer during the first year to establish the plant. Once established do not fertilize. Very adaptable to soil conditions but prefers rich, well-drained, moist soil. pH adaptable.

Hydrangea macrophylla (Big Leaf or Mophead Hydrangeas)

Prune after it has bloomed (mid-July to mid-August). Cease pruning by mid-August to allow time for buds to form prior to winter.

Partial Shade

Grows 1-5' depending on cultivar

Needs high moisture, moisture is a necessity of this plant.

A very popular category because it is the most colorful of all the species. They are categorized into two groups, **mopheads** and **lace caps**. Mopheads are large round clusters of sterile flowers and lacecaps are flat heads containing fertile and sterile flowers.

Hydrangea macrophylla is unique for several reasons. It sets its flower buds in the fall and overwinters them. A hard winter can kill the buds and eliminate flowering. An early fall or late spring frost can also result in a loss of flowers. New varieties like 'Endless Summer', 'Blushing Bride', 'Twist & Shout', and the 'Let's Dance' series have the ability to bloom on new and old wood alike, thus eliminating the danger of losing flowers! Fertilize in early spring by applying a slow release fertilizer. Flower color on most varieties is affected by the pH of the soil. Blue flowers need a more acidic soil and pink flowers need a more alkaline soil, a pH below 7 is acidic, above 7 is alkaline. To turn pink flowers blue, add sulfur to the soil. To turn blue flowers pink, dust lime around the drip line of the plant and water in well.

Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora (Panicle Hydrangea)

Prune in early spring, this type blooms on new wood. Very tolerant of a hard prune. Cutting the plant back by half each year will result in larger flowers and a fuller plant.

Grows 6-8' tall and wide

Full sun to part shade

This is the hardiest species of Hydrangea, commonly referred to as "P.G." for short. This plant is noted for its abundance of sterile blooms. Also offered as a tree form.

Prefers good, loamy soil. Most adaptable of all the Hydrangeas to different soil types.

Very tolerant and hard to kill plant!

Hydrangea quercifolia (Oak Leaf Hydrangea)

Prune in early spring. Blooms are produced on new wood.

Grows 3'-6' tall and wide depending on cultivar.

Full sun to part shade (Does best in part shade)

A great landscape plant. As the name indicates it has an oak shaped leaf. It is noted for its burgundy red fall color. It blooms in late June to early July and flowers open white and fade to a pleasing pink and then a rich brown into winter.

Needs well drained soil, otherwise very tolerant of different soil types.

Fertilize in early spring with a slow release fertilizer.

