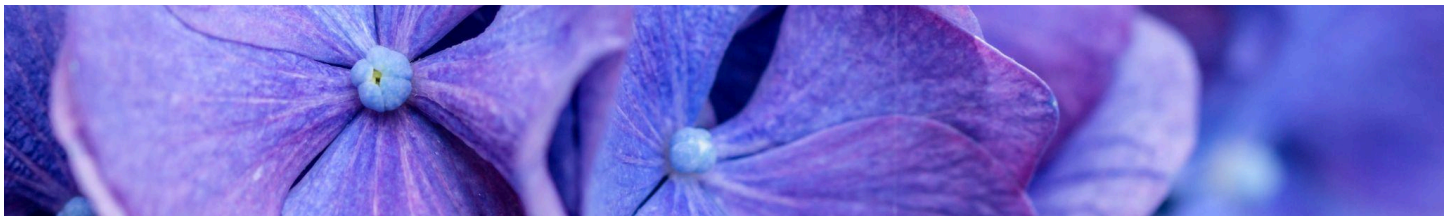


Hydrangeas

A Garden Guide

Hydrangea Care

- The ideal locations have partial shade, with morning sunlight and afternoon shade. Aim for locations with at least 4 hours of sunlight per day. Generally, the more sunlight they are in, the more water plants will need.
- Dig a hole 2-3x as wide as the existing pot, but no deeper than the pot.
- Plant in moist, well-draining soil. Amend 50/50 with Daddy Pete's Lawn & Garden Soil with your existing native soil.
- Use high-quality organic fertilizers such as Espoma Holly Tone® and Happy Frog Acid Loving Fertilizer to nourish your soil and plants. Compost tea is a wonderful plant snack in the spring and summer.
- Hydrangeas have shallow roots and can dry out quickly - but they do not want to have "wet feet" or live in a bog. Make sure they are watered regularly, especially during heat waves and droughts. Adding 2-3" of mulch is helpful for maintaining moisture at the roots.
- Hydrangea flowers change color as they age, but 2 types - *Hydrangea macrophylla* (Big Leaf / Mophead Hydrangea) and *Hydrangea serrata* (Mountain / Tea of Heaven Hydrangea) - can change colors from pink to blue, or blue to pink. This is dependent on the soil pH, which dictates how much aluminum in the soil is available to plants. Start with a good quality soil test to find out your current soil pH. See the chart at the end of this Garden Guide for more information.
- Pruning can ensure bountiful blooms. However, when to prune depends on what type of Hydrangeas you have, and is mentioned in the list below. For any that bloom on old wood, if you are late to get to that task it is better to skip a year lest you accidentally prune off your future flowers.



Types of Hydrangeas

The genus *Hydrangea* contains a wide variety of species and cultivars (50+). Most are introduced, although a few species are native to NC.



Hydrangea anomala (Climbing Hydrangea): Native to wooded valleys and mountains in East Asia. Great for growing on rock walls, gazebos, or other structures. Also can be used as a ground cover. Prefers shade and is slow growing. Attractive in all seasons with peeling bark, bright green leaves, and showy fragrant flowers. Blooms on old wood - prune immediately after they bloom. If you are looking for a long-lived flowering vine that wants to be in the shade, this is an excellent choice. Unusually for Hydrangeas, they are drought tolerant once

established. Can grow 35+'. Hardy to zone 4.

Hydrangea arborescens (Smooth Hydrangea): **WNC Native**. Happiest in part shade and is very effective in mass plantings. Blooms on new wood. Prune to the ground in later winter and will flower in June/July. Sometimes will get a second flowering in September by pruning after the summer flowering. '**Annabelle**' is a long popular cultivar; there is also a lovely series called '**Invincibelle**'. Hardy to zones 3-4.



Hydrangea macrophylla (Bigleaf Hydrangea, Florist Hydrangea, Mophead Hydrangea): Native to East Asia. This species contains many cultivars. Some bloom blue or pink depending upon soil pH. Hortensias (mophead) and lacecaps are the two flower types. This is a very popular group of hydrangeas and new cultivars are constantly being produced (such as the '**Endless Summer**' series and the '**Let's Dance**' series). Plant in part shade or full sun if the soil

is excellent. Prune just after flowering as they bloom on old wood. Best with some winter protection - the buds are sometimes winter killed here and may need to be covered on freezing or frosting spring nights. However, there are new reblooming varieties (**Let's Dance**' series) for those frustrated by 'winter kill' that bloom from spring to fall. These plants love moisture! Hardy to zones 4-5.

Hydrangea paniculata (Panicle Hydrangea, Peegee Hydrangea): Native to East Asia. Large panicle type, with huge blooms (cone shaped inflorescences) in summer and is incredible for drying. Toughest of all the hydrangeas. Does well in full sun or part shade. Can be pruned in late winter / early spring as it blooms on new wood. 'PeeGee' is an old cultivar. Newer ones are 'Pink Diamond', 'Tardiva', 'Limelight', and 'Little Lime'. Hardy to zones 3-4.



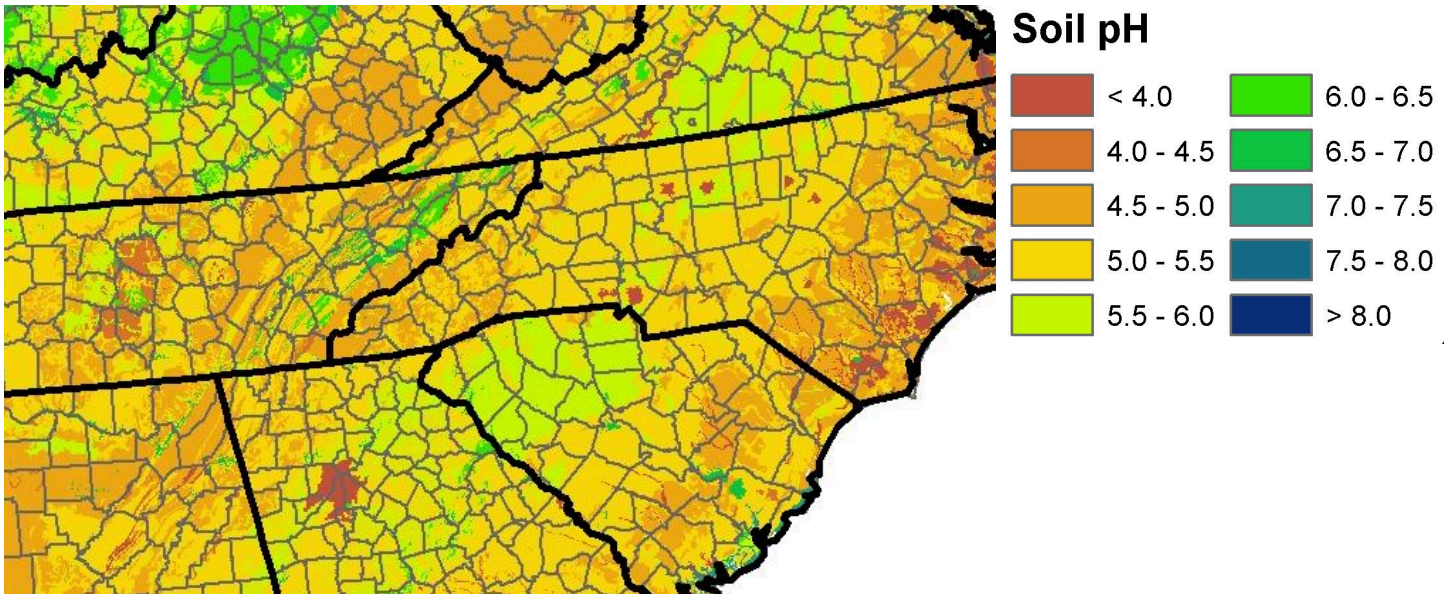
Hydrangea quercifolia (Oakleaf Hydrangea): NC Native. Prefers part shade or sun if excellent soil with ample moisture. Prune after flowering. Excellent for fresh cut and dried flowers. Nice in all seasons with peeling bark, large oak-shaped leaves with good fall color, and showy flower panicles up to 12" in length. 'Snow Queen', 'Snowflake', 'PeeWee', and 'Sikes Dwarf' are a few cultivars. Hardy to zone 5.

Hydrangea serrata (Mountain Hydrangea, Tea of Heaven): Native to Korea and Japan. Generally smaller than most other types of Hydrangeas, these delicate plants prefer a cool summer location, partial shade or filtered light, and ample moisture. The edible foliage has been used to make a sweet herbal tea. Blooms on old wood - prune immediately after flowering. The 'Tuff Stuff' series is known for reblooming - no pruning necessary, improved cold resistance, and generally more resilient nature. Hardy to zones 5- 6.



Hardiness zones - Plants are rated on how well they can handle cold temperatures.

Zone 7	0° F
Zone 6	-10° F
Zone 5	-20° F
Zone 4	-30° F
Zone 3	-40° F



Thank you to Oregonstate.edu for the soil pH map

Soil pH and Bloom Colors - It can take some time to change the soil pH.

Soil pH	Bloom Color
5 - 5.5	Blue flowers
5.5 - 6	Mix of blue, pink, & purple flowers
6	Pink flowers

- To change from pink to blue, drop the soil pH using Espoma Soil Acidifer.
- To change from blue to pink, raise the soil pH using Espoma Garden Lime.
- Please note there may be exceptions with the Big Leaf Hydrangeas. For example, those with white blooms, and the red blooms of Cityline Paris, won't change color.

Version 1.2 Feb. 25

