

It's Nature's Way - Andi Ross

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Hip Hip Hydrangeas! Hydrangea ID & Care

MA ZONE HARDY HYDRANGEA SPECIES: * Native to USA

Smooth Hydrangea* (*Hydrangea arborescens*) Zone 3 Hardy, Part Sun to Part Shade

Deeply lobed oak-like leaves that turn fall colors; white or pink mostly globe flower heads; irregular clumping habit; breeding goal-larger flower heads, stronger stems, brighter pinks, reblooming, smaller habit

Oakleaf Hydrangea* (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) Zone 5 Hardy, Sun to Part Shade

Medium to large matte, elliptical leaves with serrated edges; exfoliating bark; small cone shaped flower heads, start white turning to pink/brown; irregular, rangy arching habit; breeding goals-brighter pinks and red flower heads, smaller habit

Panicle Hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculate*) Zone 3 Hardy, Sun to Part Sun *most sun tolerant hydrangea species

Smaller matte, elliptical leaves with fine serrated edges; medium to very large panicle/coned shaped flower head, most start white turning pink; mounded to rangy habit; also trained as tree form; breeding goals-brighter pinks and reds, more multi-coloring, better fade, smaller habit.

Mountain Hydrangea (*Hydrangea serrata*) Zone 5 Hardy, Part Sun to Part Shade *best early morning and/or late afternoon

Smaller shiny, elliptical leaves with course serrated edges; upright clumping habit, blue or pink mostly lace-cap flower heads; breeding goals-reblooming, brighter colors smaller habit

Bigleaf (French) Hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) Zone 6(5) Hardy, Part Sun to Part Shade * best morning and later afternoon sun (no midday sun!) Hardest to grow/but most popular!

Large matte leaves, elliptical with course serrated edges, mophead or lace cap flower heads in blues, mostly pinks, purples, white, also multicolored; habit -canes from crown; breeding goals-reblooming, more and brighter colors, collection for marketing, smaller habit

Climbing Hydrangea (*Hydrangea Anomala Petiolaris*) or Japanese (false) Hydrangea Vine (*Schizophragma hydrangenoides*) Zone 5 Hardy, Part Sun to Part Shade

Small shiny elliptical leaves with serrated edges, loose like lace-cap flower head, vine habit; little breeding

IDENTIFYING HYDRANGEAS BY BLOOMS TYPES: * Native to USA

MOP HEADS - Smooth Hydrangea* (*Hydrangea arborescens*) or Bigleaf/French Hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*)

LACE CAPS – Bigleaf/French Hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) or Mountain Hydrangea (*Hydrangea serrata*)

CONE SHAPED - Panicle Hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculate*) or Oakleaf Hydrangea* (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)

LOOSE CAP - Climbing Hydrangea (*Hydrangea Anomala Petiolaris*) or Japanese (false) Hydrangea Vine (*Schizophragma hydrangenoides*)

MOP HEADS:

Smooth Hydrangea* Smooth Hydrangea* - buds set on **new wood**; **can be** pruned in the late winter/early spring

Bigleaf/French Hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) – buds set on **old wood**; **can be** pruned after they bloom

LACE CAPS:

Bigleaf/French Hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) - buds set on **old wood**; **can be** pruned after they bloom

Mountain Hydrangea (*Hydrangea serrata*) - buds set on **old wood**; **can be** pruned after they bloom

CONE SHAPED:

Panicle Hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculate*) - buds set on **new wood**; **can be** pruned in the late winter/early spring

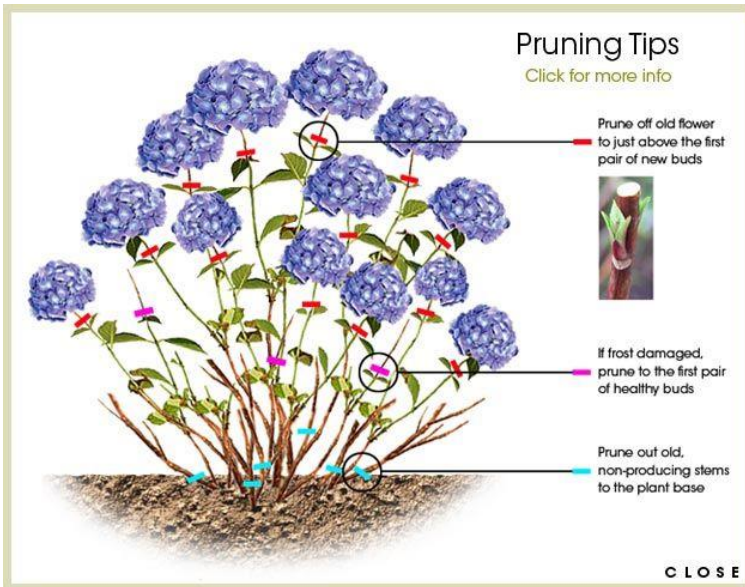
Oakleaf Hydrangea* (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) * - buds set on **old wood**; **can be** pruned after they bloom

LOOSE CAP:

Climbing Hydrangea & Japanese (false) Hydrangea vine - All climbing hydrangeas can be pruned after they bloom; buds set on **old wood**.

All Repeat Blooming (reblooming) Hydrangeas - buds set on both **old & new wood**; does not need pruning - unless they are very old & too dense & have crossing branches or canes that rub.

PRUNING SUMMARY



1. Most hydrangeas do not need pruning!
2. Prune **ONLY** for size or shape.
3. Prune for size only periodically, if too big, then move it & replace with a smaller cultivar.
4. When cutting for flowers or deadheading or pruning always cut to right above a leaf pair.
5. **DON'T** 'shear' hydrangeas, cut individual canes or branches.
6. Use **ONLY** hand pruners or small hand saw
7. If you prune, only cut 1/3-1/2 down the branch or cane to keep some wood.
8. Can remove dead flowers, any time.
9. Cut out dead branch or cane to the crown anytime.
10. Cut below any damage, anytime.

11. Cut blooms for flower arranging anytime, cut down to above a leaf pair.
12. **DON'T** prune October thru February
13. Remove only 1/3 of wood in one season to rejuvenate
14. If blooms on **OLD WOOD**, buds set in early fall, then prune after blooming. **BUT NOT MORE THAN 1/3 DOWN THE WOOD TO KEEP THE WOODY STRUCTURE.**
13. If blooms on **NEW WOOD**, buds form in spring, can prune 1/2 down in late winter/early spring before budding
14. Blooms on **BOTH OLD & NEW WOOD** – is a **REPEAT BLOOMER** - do **NOT** prune at all.
15. **REMEMBER:** Don't cut off buds on old wood cultivars in the fall !!

PRUNING INSTRUCTIONS FOR EACH TYPE

ALL TYES: "MUST DO" PRUNING

1. Removing damaged or dead canes is the only pruning that must be done for the health of the plant; remove them at any time.
2. When shrub is very old, sometimes canes get crowded. Remove no more than, 1/3 of the canes or branches to the crown in a season.
3. Dead blooms can be removed at any time, but don't have to be removed.

DON'T FORGET TO WATER!!!!

All hydrangea cultivars need to be watered regularly. Setting up drip/soaker hoses is recommended. The rich, deep and wide soil recommended for hydrangeas will help keep roots from drying out between watering.

MANAGING HYDRANGEA COLOR

NOTE: Color can be changed **only** on some hydrangea cultivars. Some bigleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea Macrophylla*) cultivars, both mop head and lace cap varieties and some mountain hydrangea (*Hydrangea Serrata*) which are lace cap, can be turned pink to purple to blue or blue to purple to pink. No true white hydrangeas can be turned pink blue or purple. No true white hydrangea can be turned pink, blue or purple. Not easy to change soil PH, best done in the spring at the plant base, easier when plant is kept in a pot.

HOW TO MANAGE COLOR:

BLUE (easier) - **SOUR**

ACID SOIL - PH 5.5 and below

Add **ORGANIC MATTER:** compost, used coffee grounds, crushed, eggs, ground citrus peels, pine needles, pine bark, (rusty iron nails).

OR add **ALUMINUM SULFATE:** 1 TB/1 gallon water

OR add **FERTILIZER** for acid loving plants (ie. **"HOLLYTONE"**)

PINK - **SWEET**

ALKALINE SOIL - PH 6.5 and above

Add **WOOD ASH**

OR Add **DOLOMITIC LIME**

OR Add **FERTILIZER** with high phosphorus (blocks Aluminum) 25/10/10

PURPLE – NEUTRAL - PH 5.5-6.

HOW TO TEST SOIL FOR ACIDITY:

- In jar with 1/4 cup of **soil** add **distilled water** to make mud
- Start sprinkling **baking soda** on mixture
- If the mixture bubbles, then your soil is **acidic**
- **If no bubbles then**
- In another jar with 1/4 cup of **soil** add **distilled water** to make mud
- Start adding **white vinegar** to mixture
- If the mixture bubbles, then your soil is **alkaline**
- If no bubbles in either case, your soil is **neutral**



NOTES: