

Hydrangeas

There are over seventy kinds of hydrangeas grown throughout the world. Most homeowners are familiar with hydrangeas as deciduous shrubs that come in a variety of sizes and flower colors, but there are also tree and climbing forms.

Hydrangeas that are typically grown in the United States are:

Latin Name	Common Name	Flower color	Mature Height (ft)	Native Plant
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	Bigleaf, Mophead or Lacecap Hydrangea	Blue, Pink or White	3-5	No
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i>	Panicle Hydrangea	White to Pink	4-20	No
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Smooth Hydrangea	White Pink	3-5	Yes
<i>Hydrangea anomala petiolaris</i>	Climbing Hydrangea	White	Up to 80	No
<i>Hydrangea serrata</i>	Mountain Hydrangea	Pink to Red Blue	2-4	No
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oak Leaf Hydrangea	White to Pink	8-10	Yes

Most hydrangeas grow well in full sun to light dappled shade. Bigleaf hydrangeas prefer protection from the hot afternoon sun. Size of the plant at maturity is also a consideration since some hydrangeas can become quite large. Ensure good air circulation by not planting too close to foundations or other plants. Hydrangeas prefer moist, well-drained soil enriched with organic matter such as compost or composted manure. Adequate drainage is essential since hydrangeas do not like to sit in water. These shrubs are not drought tolerant and require about 1 in. of water per week throughout the growing season. During hot dry summers, provide 1 in. of water twice a week. Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses to prevent fungal foliar diseases.

Rutgers Fact Sheet FS1152 "Hydrangeas in the Garden" is a very useful resource. It contains general information on each type of hydrangea, describes the selections available and notes best practices for pruning.

Checklist for April

Flower Gardens

- ✓ Divide and transplant overcrowded perennials such as chrysanthemums, delphiniums and daylilies.
- ✓ Plant hardy annual seeds in the ground. Thin out as they sprout.
- ✓ Plant pansies at the same depth that they were in their purchased pots.
- ✓ Deadhead wilting tulip or daffodil flowers. Leave green foliage until it turns brown. ["Spring Flowering Bulbs" FS1220](#)

Vegetable Garden

- ✓ Clear and clean planting area of weeds 2 weeks before planting time.
 - ✓ Plant lettuce, spinach, beets, radishes and carrots outdoors. <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs129/>
- ✓ Plant yarrow, dill or catnip to attract pollinators and beneficial insects.

Indoor Plants

- ✓ Pinch back house plants to generate new and fuller growth as they react to the longer days and brighter light.

Trees, Shrubs and Lawn

- ✓ Plant large trees and shrubs by May 1st. Wait 1 year to fertilize new woody plantings.
- ✓ Sharpen lawnmower blade and set it at 2.5-3 in. above grass.
- ✓ Mow after grass is 4 in. high. Leave clippings on lawn. ["Your Lawn and Its Care" FS102](#)
 - ✓ Reseed bare spots on lawn. <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs584/>