

PRUNING GUIDELINES FOR HYDRANGEAS

Note: In general, young plants should not be pruned in their first few years of growth. All like rich, moist soil with afternoon shade, especially in southern regions.

Climbing Hydrangea (*H. anomala* subspecies *petiolaris*)

Blooms on second year growth

Prune old wood after flowering in late June or July to control size

Can be grown as a vine, shrub or ground cover

Oakleaf Hydrangea (*H. quercifolia*)

Blooms on second year growth

Prune old wood after flowering in late summer

Never cut back more than one-third at a time

Attractive fall foliage, native in the southeast

Examples: 'Snow Queen', 'Munchkin' (dwarf)

Mountain Hydrangea (*H. serrata*)

Blooms on first and second year growth

Cut back to one foot or less in spring

Some varieties are lacecaps with both sterile and fertile flowers

Cousins of Bigleaf Hydrangeas (*H. Macrophylla*)

Thirsty plants, especially newly planted

Examples: 'Tuff Stuff', 'Preziosa'

Panicled Hydrangea (*H. paniculata*)

Blooms on new growth

Cut back by one-third to one-half in early spring (skip pruning for larger plants)

Wide range of types from dwarf to tree form

Examples: *H. paniculata* 'Grandiflora' (pee gee Hydrangea), 'Phantom'

Smooth Hydrangea (*H. arborescens*)

Blooms on new growth

Cut back to one-third or less in spring

Some varieties are lacecaps

Examples: 'Annabelle', 'Incrediball', 'Haas' Halo' (lacecap)

*Bigleaf Hydrangea (*H. Macrophylla*)

Blooms on both first and second year growth depending on variety

Wait to see extent of winter damage in May

Then either allow growth to mature or cut back to ground

Thin out one-third of oldest growth each spring on older plants

To encourage and protect flower buds, wrap in burlap in the fall

Examples: 'Nikko Blue', 'Endless Summer', 'Lanarth White'