



WHY ISN'T MY HYDRANGEA BLOOMING?



Which hydrangea do you grow?
(see reverse to identify)

Smooth

(*H. arborescens*)
or **Panicle**
(*H. paniculata*)



How long ago
did you plant it?

< 2 years

Needs more
time to
develop a
root system.
Mulch and
keep well
watered;
it will bloom
in time.

2+ years

How much
light does it
get?

4+
hours

Did you
cut it
back?

Yes

When?

Fall

Deer
damage
or low
light

< 4
hours

Needs
more
sun

No

Deer
damage
or low
light

Late
spring/
summer

Buds removed -
blooming may be
delayed or not occur.
Prune in late winter or
early spring.

Bigleaf

(*H. macrophylla*)
or **Mountain**
(*H. serrata*)



Did you cut it back?

Yes

Oops!
You cut off
the flower
buds. Avoid
pruning.

No

Do you live
in a cold
climate?

Yes

Flower buds
were killed by
cold. Move to a
more protected
spot; protect
plant on spring
nights when
frost or freeze
threatens.

No

Too
much
shade
or deer
damage

But it's a reblooming
hydrangea!

Not all reblooming
hydrangeas are equal
- some need to reach
a certain height to set
new wood buds. Let's
Dance® reblooming
hydrangeas were
developed to bloom
sooner.

Climbing

(*H. petiolaris*)
or **Oakleaf**
(*H. quercifolia*)



How old is the plant?

< 5 years

These plants
tend to need
to be more
mature to
flower well.
Give them
more time.

5+ years

Did you cut
it back?

Yes

Oops!
You cut off
the flower
buds. Avoid
pruning.

No

Deer
damage
or low
light

Still have questions about
hydrangeas or other Proven
Winners ColorChoice Shrubs?
We're here to help you be
successful in the garden! Visit
[www.provenwinners.com/
feedback](http://www.provenwinners.com/feedback).

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COLOR CHOICE
FLOWERING SHRUBS



HYDRANGEAS DEMYSTIFIED

Which hydrangea do you grow?

There are six main types of hydrangeas commonly grown in North American gardens.

Hydrangea Fun Fact There are about 49 species of hydrangeas. Four species are native to North America, including smooth hydrangea and oakleaf hydrangea.

CITYLINE® Rio Hydrangea



Bigleaf

(also known as florist's hydrangea, hortensia, mophead, or lacecap)
Hydrangea macrophylla

- Hardy to USDA zone 5
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune, may benefit from winter protection

Proven Winners® varieties:
ABRACADABRA® series,
CITYLINE® series, EDGY® Hearts,
LET'S DANCE® series, PARAPLU®

BOBO® Hydrangea



Panicle

(also known as peegee hydrangea)
Hydrangea paniculata

- Hardy to USDA zone 3
- Bloom on new wood: prune in late winter/early spring

Proven Winners® varieties:
BOBO®, FIRE LIGHT®, 'Limelight',
LITTLE LIME®, 'Little Lamb',
PINKY WINKY®, QUICK FIRE®,
LITTLE QUICK FIRE®, ZINFIN DOLL™

INCREDIBALL® Hydrangea



Smooth

(also known as Annabelle hydrangea)
Hydrangea arborescens

- Hardy to USDA zone 3
- Bloom on new wood: prune in late winter/early spring

Proven Winners® varieties:
INCREDIBALL® series,
INVINCIBELLE® series, LIME RICKEY®

Hydrangea petiolaris



Climbing

Hydrangea petiolaris

- Hardy to USDA zone 4
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune

TUFF STUFF™ Hydrangea



Mountain

Hydrangea serrata

- Hardy to USDA zone 5
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune

Proven Winners® varieties:
TUFF STUFF™ series

GATSBY MOON™ Hydrangea



Oakleaf

Hydrangea quercifolia

- Hardy to USDA zone 5
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune, may benefit from winter protection

Proven Winners® varieties:
GATSBY™ series

Color

All hydrangeas undergo some color change as their flowers age, but only bigleaf and mountain hydrangeas can change their color in a predictable, controllable way. It is not solely the pH of the soil that is responsible for this change – it is actually the presence of aluminum in the soil.

- Certain varieties of bigleaf hydrangeas cannot change color. The rich red blooms of CITYLINE® Paris hydrangea are a good example. Similarly, white varieties of bigleaf hydrangea will not change color.
- It is easier to change a hydrangea from pink to blue than from blue to pink, but both endeavors involve making chemical application in specific amounts at specific times. A soil test is necessary to determine the best course of action. If you decide to try to change the flower color, shop for products carefully and read all directions.
- Pennies, nails, aluminum foil, or coffee grounds in the soil will not change the color!

Growing Tips for Success

- Plant in moist but well-drained soil (hydrangeas will not tolerate wet feet – ever!)
- Some sun each day is ideal. Most people think of hydrangeas as shade plants, but they look and flower best with at least four hours of sun, ideally in the morning. Panicle hydrangeas are the most sun tolerant, and can take full sun in northern climates.
- Plenty of water, especially as they are getting established. Hydrangeas have shallow roots, so they dry out quickly. A two to three inch layer of shredded bark mulch is a useful addition to any hydrangea planting.

Hydrangea Fun Fact Hydrangeas are notoriously water-needy, but the "hydra" part of their name actually refers to the seed capsules' resemblance to ancient Greek water-carrying vessels.