



Hydrangeas are Hot!

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Reviewed 6/2026

General information on hydrangeas:

- Most species have white flowers (pinks, greens and blues do exist).
- Individual flowers are either sterile (showy) or fertile (not showy).
- Flower clusters are large, often a mix of sterile and fertile flowers.
- Fall color varies from species to species.

General culture:

- Although often thought of as shade plants, most species can tolerate a fair amount of sun.
- Rich, well drained, but moist soils are preferred.
- Most species are pH adaptable, but chlorosis in high pH soils is a possibility.

Pruning:

- This varies by species and is based on flowering habits.
- Some species flower on old wood (stems that were present on the plant last year) and some flower on new wood (stems produced in the current year). Some newer cultivars will bloom on new or old wood.
- If the plant flowers on new wood: prune in fall or late winter/early spring. It is ok to prune extensively as you will want mostly new wood. The old wood you leave is only there to produce new wood, not flowers.
- If the plant flowers on old wood: prune after flowering. Prune less heavily as the old wood will be the source of flowers next year.

Species	Flower color	Flowers on	Fall color	Culture
<i>Hydrangea anomala</i> subsp. <i>petiolaris</i> (Climbing Hydrangea)	White	Old wood	Sometimes yellow	Full sun to shade; rich, moist, well drained soil; pH adaptable.
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> (Smooth Hydrangea)	Green, changing to white. (Pink cultivars now).	New wood	Sometimes yellow	Best is partial shade; but tolerates sun well; rich, moist, well drained soil; pH adaptable.
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i> (Bigleaf Hydrangea)	Pink or blue depending on soil pH.	Old wood (new cultivars on new and old wood)	Some red tones in certain years.	Full sun to partial shade; rich, moist well drained soil.
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> (Panicked Hydrangea)	White changing to pink	New wood	Usually very little	Full sun to partial shade; rich, moist well drained soil; pH adaptable.
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> (Oakleaf Hydrangea)	White changing to pink	Old wood	Purple, red, russet	Best in partial shade, but can tolerate sun; rich, moist, well drained soils; slightly acidic soil best.