



Climbing Hydrangea



'Annabelle' Smooth H.



Endless Summer H.



PeeGee Hydrangea



Oakleaf Hydrangea



Shrubs & Vines
Deciduous

Map #88

Hydrangea
(*Hydrangea spp.*)
Family: *Hydrangeaceae*

Species & Cultivars:

Climbing H. (*H. anomala* var. *petiolaris*) - true, climbing vine with root-like holdfasts, climbs trees, covers structures, a "3-D" vine; Leaves: simple broad oval, 2—4" long coming to a point, dark green, lustrous, held green late; Buds: opposite, shingled with 2 overlapping scales; Stems: brown, shaggy, peeling; Flowers: white, late June to early July for 2 weeks, 6-10" diam. clusters, outer flowers large & sterile, inner small & fertile, sweetly fragrant, dry on the vine and are attractive brown in winter; Fruit: not important; Culture: rich, well-drained, moist soil in full sun or shade, east or northern exposure, slow to establish.

Smooth H. (*H. arborescens* 'Annabelle') - 3—4' suckering shrub fills large area over time; Leaves: elongated oval up to 8" long, heart-shaped at base, serrated, may turn pale yellow in some falls; Buds: opposite, 4—6 scales, held at angle to stem, ; Stems: stout, gray-tan-brown and shiny when young, peeling with age; Flowers: in late June or early July through September, flowering on new wood; go from white to green to brown in winter —'Annabelle' - large cluster up to 1' across, mostly white, showy, sterile flowers, heads erect and symmetrical; 'Grandiflora' (also called Hills of Snow) - flower clusters 6—8" but looser heads that become four sectioned and floppy; Fruit: not important; Culture: rich, moist, well-drained soil in full sun or shade, prune to ground in late winter.

Bigleaf H. (*H. macrophylla*) - rounded shrub of upright, unbranched stems, 3' tall and wide; Leaves: fleshy texture and "greasy" like cabbage leaves with no real fall color. This is the florists, potted flowering hydrangea. Flowers: over 500 cultivars offering a variety of forms and colors. Two main flower forms: *hortensias* or *mopheads* with many sterile, showy flowers of white, pink, red, blue or purple, sometimes heavy and causing stems to bend and break; and *lacecaps* which have clusters of small, fertile flowers often ringed by showy, sterile ones in pinwheel fashion or sterile ones mixed in with fertile. Lacecaps are less even less flowerbud hardy. Flower color usually depends on soil pH which controls available aluminum resulting in pink flowers on alkaline soils and blue on acid soils. Treatments with aluminum sulfate provide relatively good response. Adding sulfur to the soil will also lower pH but is slower and less reliable. Flowers mostly on previous season's growth (except some cultivars) so prune immediately after flowering and just below the flowers. Flower clusters do not fade to brown and dry as well as the others. Flowerbuds not hardy in Zone 5 (except some cultivars) therefore, often winter killed, plant may also die to the ground some winters.

Cultivars: *Hortensias* or *mopheads* —'Nikko Blue' - an old standard but flowerbuds are tender and requires careful siting for success. 'All Summer Beauty' - an early cultivar that flowers on both old and new wood prolonging flowering period. Flowers may be pink, mauve, purple and purplish blue all on the same plant. **Endless Summer** ('Bailmer') introduced in 2004 flowers on both old and new wood. If dead-headed regularly, it will bloom from late June through the first frost. In fact, cutting the emerging growth back to half before it starts to bloom will significantly increase the number of flower clusters. **Endless Summer** 'Blushing Bride' pure white, semi double florets which take on a blush of pink as they mature.

Panicled H. (*H. paniculata*) - 10-20' tall and wide large shrub can be pruned to treeform; flowers white changing to purplish pink as they mature, mid—July to September in pyramidal clusters up to 6—8" long, mostly sterile with some fertile mixed in; flower on new wood. Culture: cold hardy, prefers loamy, moist, well-drained soil, sun or partial shade; prune off flowers in late fall or early spring. Cultivars—many! 'Grandiflora' called PeeGee is old and most common, large clusters of mostly sterile flowers with a few fertile mixed in. 'Tardiva' - 6" clusters with sterile and fertile mixed; flowers late. 'Unique' has pure white sterile flowers, 2" across each completely covering clusters which can be 16" long by 10" wide. 'White Moth' - 6-7' plant produces new flowers intermingled with faded ones, cluster are irregular spheres; green in autumn.

Oakleaf H. (*H. quercifolia*) - 4' tall and slightly wider shrub with leaves resembling red oak, green on top but white to brown fuzzy beneath with good burgundy fall color; peeling cinnamon colored bark interesting in winter; flowerbuds may not be hardy in zone 5, flowers mid-June through late July, white becoming a lovely purplish pink and then brown and persistent through winter; moist, fertile soil in sun to half shade, mulch rootzone, prune after flowering; may be grown for foliage only; many cultivars available. 'Snowflake' has doubled, sterile flowers.



Climbing Hydrangea



'Annabelle' Smooth Hydrangea



'Grandiflora' Smooth H. = Hills of Snow



Endless Summer Hydrangea



Endless Summer 'Blushing Bride'



PeeGee Treeform



'Tardiva' Panicle Hydrangea



Oakleaf Hydrangea fall color



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