

Friends of
Laurelwood Arboretum
Connecting People with Nature



Hydrangea cultivars

H. arborescens: 'Annabelle', 'Grandiflora', 'Incrediball', 'Haas Halo' (lacecap), 'Eco Pink Puff' (pink), 'Invincibelle Ruby' (pink)

H. paniculata: 'Grandiflora' (PG), 'Pee Wee', 'Limelight', 'Tardiva', 'Vanilla Strawberry'

H. quercifolia: 'Alice', 'Gatsby Gal', 'Gatsby Moon', 'Ruby Slippers', 'Pee Wee', 'Snowflake'

H. serrata: 'Blue Billow', 'Blue Deckle' – R, 'Tuff Stuff' – R, 'Geisha Girl' – white

H. macrophylla: 'Nikko Blue', 'Blue Wave', 'White Wave', 'Variegata'

Remontant: 'Endless Summer' (1998), 'Blushing Bride' (white), 'Wedding Gown' (double white lacecap), 'Double Delights Star Gazer' (double lacecap), 'Everlasting Revolution', 'Mini Penny', 'Pistachio', 'Twist-n-Shout' (lacecap)

Pruning

Flowers on new wood (current season's growth)

H. a. petiolaris, *H. arborescens*, *H. paniculata*

Cut stems down to 12 inches in spring, when dormant. Prune out thin stems (no more than 1/3 of total growth)

Flowers on old wood (last season's growth)

H. macrophylla, *H. quercifolia*, *H. serrata*

Pruning best avoided. Deadhead in autumn. Remove dead branches in spring

Soil pH

Aluminum sulfate will lower the pH to 5.0-5.5 and produces BLUE flowers on *H. macrophylla* and *H. serrata*. One tablespoon/gallon of water on plants at least 2 years old.

Dolomitic limestone will raise the pH to 6.0-6.5 and produce PINK flowers (same species). Work into top 2 inches of soil.

White flowers will not change to blue or pink (*H. arborescens*, *paniculata*, *petiolaris*, *quercifolia*).

Drying and dyeing

Allow to dry naturally on the plant (best)

Cut stems, strip leaves, stand upright in vase, w/ or w/o water

Flower heads covered with silica gel or 60:40 mix of white cornmeal:borax in a large plastic container.

Cover and keep dark. Pour out the mixture after 4 days (silica gel) or 2 weeks (cornmeal:borax)

Mail sources:

White Flower Farm, Monrovia, Wayside Gardens, Jackson and Perkins, Proven Winners, American Hydrangea Society, Hydrangeas Plus, Nantucket Hydrangea

Elaine Fogerty, Executive Director

September 17, 2017