

# HYDRANGEA IN NEBRASKA

There are four main species of hydrangea that can be cultivated in the Omaha and surrounding area of the state. They are arborescens (smooth), paniculate (grandiflora), quercifolia (oakleaf), and macrophylla (bigleaf) hydrangeas.

## Arborescens or Smooth Hydrangea

Annabelle matures into an impressive, dense, mounded specimen. The dark green leaves compliment apple green to white rounded whorls of blooms often 4-6" across. The plant is well adapted to full sun or shade. Use in masses or groups. Grows 3-5' tall and wide. Cut to 6-8" from the ground in the late fall. This is the lowest maintenance hydrangea to grow in the Omaha area. It almost always blooms prolifically on new wood. Invincible Spirit is a pink flowering arborescence. The blooms are smaller (baseball size) but numerous on a sturdy 4-5' tall and wide shrub. A portion of every sale goes to breast cancer research. The third cultivar of arborescence we offer is Incrediball. It is a huge bloom resembling Annabelle. The heads are stupendously large, white blooms that sometimes grow to as much as 10-12" across and are supported on sturdy stems that do not flop. They make a great cut flower. Easily grown in most organically amended sites.

## Paniculata or Grandiflora Hydrangea

Quick Fire (6-8' tall and wide), PeeGee (10-15'), Pinky Winky (6-8' tall and wide), BoBo (3-4' tall and wide), Limelight (6-8' tall and 5-6' wide), Little Lamb (4-6' tall and 4-5' wide), Little Lime (3-5' tall and wide), and Little Quick Fire (3-5' tall and 4-5' wide) are some of our more popular varieties. The nursery market continues to expand the inventory of Paniculata Hydrangea with new introductions on a yearly basis. Paniculata hydrangeas will grow and bloom with ease in the metro area. It performs best if it is grown in partial or full sun. All Paniculata hydrangea are tolerant of



pruning. You can prune them at any time except when they begin forming bloom heads in the summer. This is the only hydrangea that can be pruned into a tree form or purchased as a grafted small tree for a focal point in the landscape.

## Hydrangea Quercifolia (Oakleaf Hydrangea)

This beautiful hydrangea makes a dramatic show if grown in light shade. It is hardy through zone 5 (Omaha). It produces large dark green 8" long leaves that turn a rich burgundy in the fall. Magnificent large white flowers are often tinged in pink in the late summer. The bark peels off in papery, light brown to cinnamon-brown strips. This hydrangea requires well-drained acidic, organic-laden soils in a sunny site. It absolutely will not survive in heavy wet soils. Pruning is not required unless you want to control the size or direct the shape of the shrub. The best time to prune is after the flowers fade in late fall.

(Macrophylla or Bigleaf Hydrangea are addressed under their own care sheet because they are much more demanding to achieve blooming and vigor. Please refer to the Lanoha Nurseries guide entitled Hydrangea Macrophylla (Bigleaf Hydrangea) for this information.)